

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Mahinga Innovation Hub,
5449A State Highway 12, Kaikohe,
on Tuesday 27 February 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford
Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland (*Via audio-visual link. Lost connection at 11.36am*)
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Jack Craw
Peter-Lucas Jones
Amy Macdonald (*Via audio-visual link*)
Marty Robinson
Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisors (x2)
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM – Biosecurity
Translator (*Via audio-visual link*)
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Investment Consultants (*x2 Via audio-visual link*)
Finance Manager (*Via audio-visual link*)
Manager – Māori Relationships (*Via audio-visual link*)
Management Accountant (*Via audio-visual link*)
Financial Accountant (*Via audio-visual link*)
Māori Cultural Technical Advisor
Personal Assistant – Environmental Services
Governance Specialist

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Confirmation of Minutes - 12 December 2023 and 14 February 2024 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

It was further moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

That the minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 14 February 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Confirmation was provided that the recording of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14 February 2024 was now available via council's website.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Financial Report to January 2024 (Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

That the report 'Financial Report to January 2024' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 12 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *The most recent Eriksens Global report had been issued just prior to the meeting and confirmed that council's managed funds had produced a good result for both the month of January and year to date.*
- *The market risk had lowered since the correction to long term interest rates and the current financial situation was describes as 'stable'. However management had been proactive in monitoring and responding to potential risk with council's managed funds on track to meet its targets for the financial year.*
- *Clarification was provided that 'cost matching' referred to income received in advance but could only be recognised when the funds were actually spent.*

Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2023 (Item 6.2)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Robinson/Jones)

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2023' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 2 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The current rates collection was in line with last year. However, staff to maintain a watching brief with a further report to council in the next quarter.

Withdrawal of the Planned 2023-24 Annual General Funding Contribution from the Managed Fund Portfolio (Item 6.3)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Withdrawal of the Planned 2023-24 Annual General Funding Contribution from the Managed Fund Portfolio' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 8 February 2024, be received.
2. That \$1,944,953 is withdrawn in February 2024 from the fund managers recommended by EriksensGlobal and invested into Short Term Fund term deposits maturing in August 2024.

Carried

Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050 (Item 6.4)

Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free

Moved (Jones/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Craw/Blackwell)

2. That council approve carry forward commitment of \$445,000 for the purposes of funding the PF2050 Whangārei project to the 2025 financial year.

Carried

Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (Item 7.1)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

2. That council accept the Review of the Regional Policy Statement Report and approve it for public release.
3. That council confirm that no changes to the Regional Policy Statement, including compulsory changes, are progressed for the next 12 months to enable time for further direction to be received from central government.

Carried

Secretarial Note: There was general agreement that, given the level of uncertainty, it was prudent for council to await a clear direction from central government before making any changes to the Regional Policy Statement.

NRC Councillor appointment to the Northland Īnanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project (Item 7.2)

Report from Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Carr)

1. That the report 'NRC Councillor appointment to the Northland Īnanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project' by Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist and dated 25 January 2024, be received.
2. That Councillor Amy Macdonald be appointed as the Northland Regional Council representative on the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project Governance Group.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Councillor Macdonald confirmed that, with the endorsement of council, she was supportive of the appointment and would regularly report back on progress.

Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products (Item 7.3)

Report from Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships

Moved (Carr/Jones)

1. That the report 'Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products' by Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the submission as detailed in **Attachment 1** (*pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 27 February 2024 council agenda*) on the Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products.

Carried

(Councillor Robinson voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note: Confirmation was provided that NRC did not have a specific policy on the use of Brodifacoum given it was the role of the Environmental Protection Agency to set the conditions that governed its use.

Resourcing the Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations (Item 7.4)

Report from Penny Pirrit, Freshwater Farm Plan Contractor

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Resourcing the Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations' by Penny Pirrit, Freshwater Farm Plan Contractor and dated 11 December 2023, be received.
2. That up to \$250k from the Land Management Reserve is made available to be used from this financial year (2023/2024) to resource the effective and efficient delivery of Northland Regional Council's obligations under the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023.
3. That council agree in principle that, subject to a future decision at council, \$500k from the land management reserve is made available between financial years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 to resource the effective and efficient delivery of Northland Regional Council's obligations under the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023.
4. That council agree in principle that, subject to the outcome of deliberations on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, current grant funding administered by the land team be placed on hold for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years with the exception of:
 - a. Tangata Whenua and Catchment Fund grants
 - b. Grants associated with the Hill Country Erosion Fund in accordance with the contractual agreement with the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Carried

Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments (Item 7.5)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the amendments to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy as detailed in **Attachment 1** (*pertaining to Item 7.5 of the 27 February 2024 council meeting agenda*).

Carried

Secretarial Note: Concern was raised that the Chair of Council was using his personal vehicle for local authority business which required extensive travel and that this was more than likely to exceed the caps on vehicle kilometre allowance. There was general agreement to monitor the situation.

Health and Safety Report for October to December 2023 quarter (Item 8.1)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Moved (Robinson/Blackwell)

That the report 'Health and Safety Report for October to December 2023 quarter' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 12 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial: It was suggested there may be merit in the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee reviewing the appropriate level of incident reporting to governance.

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 5 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.3)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 24 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Assurance was provided that NRC would work with the Department of Conservation to revisit sites where the highly invasive sea spurge had been found to ensure there was no reinfestation.*
- *Appreciation was extended to the Maritime Team for the extra enforcement presence on Northland's waters over Summer.*
- *Concern was raised regarding the impact of feral cats on native wildlife, such as the Pāteke.*
- *Appreciation was extended to the Transport Team for the introduction of the new live tracking system for the CityLink Bus Service which provided real time data as to the location of any bus. It was anticipated this would encourage more people to use the bus service.*
- *Staff involved in the Awanui flood scheme and river works were encouraged to engage closely with the communities and people strongly connected with the surrounding lands (with particular reference made to Kareponia Road).*
- *Staff to check what level of detail could be reported in relation to current court cases without breaching the Privacy Act.*

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 11.36am due to technical issues. The meeting reconvened at 11.45am. At this time Councillor Shortland lost connection.

Legislative Compliance Half Yearly Report July-December 2023 (Item 8.4)

Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

That the report 'Legislative Compliance Half Yearly Report July-December 2023' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 7 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Staff were encouraged to be fully aware of the content within each of the Settlement Acts to ensure all interested parties were engaged and notified on all relevant matters.

Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year (Item 8.5)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 25 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee held on 4 December 2023

be received.

Carried

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

| Item No. | Item Issue | Reasons/Grounds |
|----------|--|--|
| 10.1 | Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 12 December 2023 | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting. |
| 10.2 | Quarterly People and Culture Report | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting. |
| 10.3 | The Future of Tāika Forest | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i). |
| 10.4 | Confirmation of confidential resolutions in open meeting | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting. |

3. That the Independent Tangata Whenua Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

Open Meeting

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the council resumes in open meeting.

Carried

Confirmation of confidential resolutions in open meeting (Item 10.4)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Carr)

That the following resolutions pertaining to confidential items be confirmed in open meeting:

- 10.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 12 December 2023
- 10.2 Quarterly people and culture report

Carried

Secretarial Note: The resolutions were as follows:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 12 December 2023 (Confidential Item 10.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Jones)

That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 12 December 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Quarterly People and Culture Report (Confidential Item 10.2)

Report from Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor

Moved (Blackwell/Jones)

That the report 'Quarterly People and Culture Report' by Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 1.06pm with a karakia by Councillor Jones.

Confirmed as a true and correct record 26 March 2024



Deputy Chair Tui Shortland