

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday 13 December 2007 commencing at 10.00am

1 PRESENT

Members

Roy Dench	Chairperson
Bruce Thomas	Waipa District Council
Alan Hall	Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre / Waipa Heritage Council
David Findlay [from 10.21am]	Whitehall and Te Miro District
Bill Garland	Roto-o-rangi and Karapiro District
Laurie Hoverd	Takepuku and Te Awamutu District
Martin Watson	Kaipaki and Cambridge District
Dr Bruce Burns	Landcare Research

In Attendance

Tony Roxburgh	Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning
Noelene Barr	Committee Secretary

Public

Nil

2 APOLOGIES

Alan Livingston, Kevin Christie and Hazel Barnes

3 LATE ITEMS

The following to be discussed as late items –

- Submissions on peat lakes
- Yarndley's Bush Care Group
- Kelvin Hainsworth of Waikato River Trails Trust
- Field Day in March

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

Members agreed to the confirmation of the order of the meeting.

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

File: 65-09-05

Minutes of meeting held on 18 October 2007 were included in the agenda.

Members agreed to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 18 October 2007.

Matters Arising

5.1 Environment Protection Lots

Tony Roxburgh reported that there was a total of 53 hectares of forest and 60 hectares of wetlands (including Lake Maratoto) that were subject to applications from landowners indicating an interest in securing EPL's. There are approximately 300 hectares already in Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII) covenants.

5.2 Bush on Farm Land - Council Employee

Council could provide an temporary employee to assist the Biodiversity Council with organising a Field Day to give advice to farmers wishing to secure patches of bush/wetland on their farm land. There is always the possibility of something rare or uncommon to be found within the bush. Developing a relationship with landowners is important. Tony Roxburgh to contact Jeff Walls and report back to the committee regarding the methodology used in Marlborough to undertake heritage surveys.

[David Finlay from 10.21 am]

5.3 Workshop

The Committee believed a workshop is worth progressing due to interest shown by landowners. John Taylor, whose farm is adjacent to the reserve at Maungakawa / Sanatorium Hill, was suggested as the site for a Field Day. This property is a good example of a farm that has utilised clean stream funding and QE II covenants. Tony Roxburgh to progress this further.

6 DEPUTATION – WAIKATO RIVER TRAILS TRUST

Kelvin Hainsworth, Chief Executive Officer of Waikato River Trails Trust, provided a brief background to the Trust and outlined issues involved with creating trails to assist the committee when considering a walk way between Mystery Creek and Hamilton.

- First trail established in 2004 and goal is 300 kilometres by 2010;
- Mitre River Power is one of the major sponsors;

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

- Funding \$1,130,000 to end of June 2008;
- Dependant on volunteer help;
- Trail goes through private land, forestry, crown leases with written agreements in place; majority of land effected is owned by the Crown and Mighty River Power;
- Aim for the trail to be part of the New Zealand network and is built to national standard
- Potential for tourism; can be used for mountain bikers and well as walkers
- The trail provides greater access to the river which creates recreational and environmental benefits;
- Budget on 50 cents per metre of trail initially increasing to 80 cents to include maintenance;
- Would cost \$6,000,000 to complete 100 kilometres of trail including \$1.00 per metre per year for maintenance; \$1,000,000 would be required each year for maintenance purposes.

7 MEMBERS REPORTS

This item enables members to bring up issues in relation to the organisation/district they represent on the Waipa Biodiversity Council.

7.1 Bruce Thomas – Waipa District Council

Nothing to report.

7.2 Laurie Hoverd – Kakepuku and Te Awamutu District

There are two new falcons on Kakepuku with six being released in the past three years. All six birds have been periodically seen with more sightings of falcons reported in the greater Waikato area. Observations indicate few native birds are taken. Their diet is mostly introduced birds and mice. Laurie would like to know of any sightings of falcons with bands.

7.3 Bill Garland – Roto-o-rangi and Karapiro District

Rex Webby has been appointed the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII) representative for this area.

Pest surveillance has been carried out by Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (MEIT) staff with cameras in place on the fence line. During 21 nights, a total of 66 pests were recorded including mouse, rat, rabbit, hare, hedgehog, possum and cat.

Windfalls occurred due to a recent storm with 100 kilometre winds. Management of the bush margin is important. Species more tolerant of wind should be encouraged to naturalise. Weak species like *Coprosma* sp and wine berry should be taken out. The spraying of blackberry and other weeds, without follow up, would weaken the bush margin.

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

7.4 David Findlay – Whitehall and Te Miro District

Supports holding a field day on John Taylor's property on Maungakawa Road. The bush remnants on his property have been surveyed by the Waikato University, but has been little feed back.

7.5 Martin Watson – Kaipaki and Cambridge District

There was nothing new to report relating to weed control measures for Yarndley's Bush. Kahikatea can be killed by herbicide residue when spray is directed at root systems. Some residue can persist in the soil for up to three years. The type of sprays used for different pests would be a good subject for the field day.

7.6 Roy Dench

7.6.1 Yarndley's Bush

Following a visit to Yarndley's Bush, it was realised that it is an area which should be improved from a biodiversity prospective, and public use should be encouraged. A Yarndley's Bush Care Group could be established. Tony Roxburgh reported that it is a Scenic Reserve administered by Council, but there is no management plan in place. It covers an area of 14 hectares. Tony will approach the main landowner to broach the idea of a care group.

7.6.2 Peat Lakes Reserves Management Plan - Submissions

The period for public submissions closes just prior to Christmas. Roy Dench and Pieter van Dongen to discuss this with Tony Roxburgh.

7.6.3 Road Verges

Road verges are often mown by residents and kept in a tidy condition. However they often revert to an untidy state following repair work carried out by roading contractors who leave behind excess metal. Roy Dench and Bruce Burns to speak to Council's Engineering Manager regarding this.

Bruce Burns suggested that road reserves could be used for planting trees and shrubs which would enhance biodiversity and improve landscape aesthetics.

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

7.7 Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre and Waipa Heritage Council

The conservation plan for Maitakitaki is being formulated and there appears to be biodiversity opportunities with the margins adjoining the Waipa and Mangapiko rivers. Progress must wait until the Conservation Plan is approved by the Historic Placed Trust.

7.8 Dr Bruce Burns – Landcare Research

New Zealand Biodiversity Recording Network has been developed which is essentially a structure allowing people to record sightings of particular species. It is a great tool which could be publicised. It is hosted by Landcare and is free to use.

www.nzbrn.org.nz

8 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received the verbal report of Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning.

A biodiversity information sheet for members will be compiled once all the information is to hand.

Photographs were distributed of the newly hatched kiwi chick on Maungatautari and of a short jawed kokopu, a threatened fish specie, which was found in the Mangauika Stream on the south western slopes of Pirongia.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Biodiversity Projects

No discussion.

9.2 Meeting Programme

Is acceptable.

9.3 Heritage Newsletter

Julie Milne will be assisting with the next edition and members were requested to forward any articles to Tony Roxburgh.

10 ITEMS FOR NEXT WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

Items for the next meeting to be provided to the secretary 14 days before each meeting. This can be done by writing to Waipa District Council (attention Cathie Shaw) or phoning her on 07 872 0072 or emailing her on cscha@waipadc.govt.nz

WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES 13 DECEMBER 2007

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council will be held on 19 March 2008 in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge commencing at 10.00am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.33pm.