
WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 OCTOBER 2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on 18 October 2007, commencing at 10.00am

1 PRESENT

Roy Dench - Chairperson

Waipa District Councillor Diane Sharpe
David Findlay – Whitehall and Te Miro District
Bill Garland – Roto-o-rangi and Karapiro District
Ted Tauroa – Arapuni and Wharepapa District
Laurie Hoverd - Kakepuku and Te Awamutu District
Pieter van Dongen - Koromatua and Rukuhia District
Martin Watson – Kaipaki and Cambridge District
Dr Bruce Burns – Landcare Research representative
Kevin Christie – EcoFX Pest Solution representative

In Attendance

Project Manager – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning – T Roxburgh, Secretary – C Shaw

Public

2 APOLOGIES

Alan Livingston, Hazel Barnes and Alan Hall.

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of meeting held on 16 August 2007.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 16 August 2007 be received.

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6 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

6.1 Councillor Diane Sharpe

Cr Sharpe reported that the Rukuhia School Centenary delegates were being encouraged to do walks around Lake Kariotahe and see the improvements that had been done. The lake is looking particularly nice at present.

6.2 Laurie Hoverd

Laurie reminded everyone that the "Seven Summits" was underway with a view to getting people around the different places. A lot of work had gone into this project.

6.3 Ted Tauroa

Ted reported that he had been approached by members of the Waikato River Trails Trust - looking for the possibility of linking a walkway through one or two farms along the Waikiti Stream to the meet up with the track on the side of the Mountain. Discussion was held with regard to the necessary permissions, where in the fence would link to, best probability would be that the track meet at the carpark in the long term but was probably a track outside the fence at the moment. Was a work in progress and a lot more investigation would be done.

Ted also reported that the Art Exhibition would be housed at the Waikato Museum when it comes back into the country.

6.4 Bill Garland

Bill reported on activities that had been going on at his farm and in particular the transplanting of mistletoe fruit inside the fence from seeds that he had germinated at his place. He reflected that it was a real buzz finding things on his land that he did not know was there and this has come about from a better awareness. It was his view that Council had a part to play in helping people to understand what went on around the District and the signs to look for.

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6.5 David Findlay

David advised the group that Waikato University had approached him and trialled a survey from Maungatautari to Te Miro of natives in private farms, flight paths for native birds, etc but the survey was in a trapped area. David asked what progress had been made with Farmers Nickle and others as the whole heritage protection, transferable developments and other related matters was gaining quite a momentum.

6.6 Martin Watson

To follow on from this Martin reported that there was a lot of interest out in the Te Miro/French Pass Road area but also a lot of misconception.

It was agreed that a workshop be held in February with David/Bill and Roy fronting this. A flyer to be sent to those people in the area and more information provided at the workshop.

6.7 Pieter van Dongen

Mangohia claim in the system. Had a visit with Environment Waikato field staff who wanted to put their thoughts forward on getting rid of the willow, probably by aerial assault. There is funding available and the title is all go.

6.8 Roy Dench

Roy asked what are our landscape values – on driving around the District there is a lot of vegetation that if not noxious was a pest, the most prolific of which appears like Japanese honeysuckle. Everyone was in agreeance but unsure of what can be done.

6.9 Dr Bruce Burns

Bruce asked advice from members as he had been approached by a Masters student with the subject of swamp maire. Suggestions of clusters of swamp maire around the Waikato were given to Bruce to pass onto the student.

Bruce advised that the Kahikatea project he was working on was coming to an end and was likely to be finished at the end of the year and he was trying to see how to move forward with the land owners and perhaps apply for funding in groups. Need to look and document where Biodiversity occurs within the District and how to value it. There is a database or recording facility with the Biodiversity Recovery Network and he would bring more information to the next meeting.

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6.10 Kevin Christie

Reported on the extension of the HALO programme at Karamu and advised that rat monitoring showed 60% since the first crop and they have now done another 250-300 core block for the first phase of the control. 75m spacing of bait stations.

The Pirongia Te Aroaro Restoration Society in Pirongia have twice filled bait stations within the 240ha control area and are considering extending the treatment area south.

Recent monitoring at Kakepuku, revealed a very high incidence of rats. Treatment is underway there also.

Kevin also mentioned that Alan Hall had been running Heritage Tours around Pirongia and these were proving very worthwhile. He encouraged anyone who had a couple of hours to spend to have a trip around. He thought the cost was \$20.00.

7 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

Report of Project Manger – Heritage Development and Reserves Planning dated 12 October 2007

RESOLVED

That the officer's report dated 12 October 2007 be received.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Biodiversity Projects

Considerable discussion was held with regard to the Biodiversity Projects including the fact that it had been established that Yarndley's Bush and the Mystery Creek Walkway were to be progressed.

Tony reported that Cr Sharpe had produced a map showing the identified path of the walkway to the field days site which had been established back in the County days. After more considerable discussion it was decided that information should be sought from the South Waikato Walkway Trust and perhaps they could give the group some advice or attend a future meeting.

Discussion was then held with regard to the neglect of Yarndley's Bush and the fact that considerable investigatory work needed to be done to determine the real extent of the problems and what would be required action to take to rectify the area. It was decided that prior to the next meeting, a site visit be held to do this work.

8.11 Meeting Format

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It was agreed that the meeting format is posing difficulties in progressing some matters and a change, which will see a greater focus on priority issues would be a better use of members time and expertise. It was suggested that the Project Manager could provide members with more direction on issues that Council would like to see addressed or require information on. Tony Roxburgh undertook to re-format the agenda and to provide a greater degree of direction.

9 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 Cathy Shaw) or phoning her on 07 872 0072 or emailing her on csha@waipadc.govt.nz

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council will be held once the site visit had been held, in the Committee Room, Council offices, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10.00am.