
WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 16 OCTOBER 2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in the Council Chambers, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on 16 October 2008, commencing at 10.09am.

1 PRESENT

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning, T Roxburgh advised that due to the non attendance of Roy Dench, a Chairperson would need to be elected for this meeting and called for nominations. Only one nomination was received.

RESOLVED

That T Roxburgh be appointed as the Chairperson for this meeting.

B Garland / M Watson

Members

Waipa District Councillors, Hazel Barnes and Bruce Thomas

His Worship the Mayor Alan Livingston - Te Pahu and Karamu District [from 11.43am]

Alan Hall – Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre/Waipā Heritage Council representative

David Findlay – Whitehall and Te Miro District

Bill Garland – Rotorangi and Karapiro District

Ted Tauroa – Arapuni and Wharepapa District

Laurie Hoverd - Kakepuku and Te Awamutu District

Martin Watson – Kaipaki and Cambridge District

Others

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning, T Roxburgh; Project Manager – District Plan Review, F Hill; Committee Secretary, S King; Heritage Council Member, S Owen; Heritage Council Member, B Dean; Heritage Council Member, J Gainsford.

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apologies for non attendance from Roy Dench, Pieter van Dongen, Kevin Christie, John Gumbley; and, the apology for lateness from His Worship the Mayor, be received.

B Garland / D Findlay

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

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4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

RESOLVED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

D Findlay / B Garland

Item 8 was taken after Item 4.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2008 was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 21 August 2008 be received.

Mayor Livingston / Cr Thomas

Matters Arising -

- The Eric Jeppesen presentation on voluntary and government regulation changes to reduce the use of artificial fertilisers to improve water quality in Denmark, has not been obtained as yet and will be forwarded to members once received.
- Dr Bruce Burns was noted as a possible expert to be contacted regarding the Yandley's Bush drainage rerouting, as the long term effects need to be established.
- Mr Roxburgh has contacted the QEII representative, Rex Webby. Members considered the appropriateness of inviting Mr Webby to attend the Biodiversity Council meetings as a member.

RESOLVED

That an invitation is extended to a representative of the QE II Trust to attend the Waipa Biodiversity Council as a Member.

Cr Barnes / Mayor Livingston

Action Point – Mr Roxburgh to extend an invitation to the QE II Trust.

Item 9 was taken at this time.

6 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

A copy of the Heritage Policy and Implementation Strategy (supplement) which focuses on securing natural sites and features within the District was included with the agenda.

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RESOLVED

That the information be received.

Cr Thomas / Cr Barnes

7 MEMBERS REPORTS

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

7.1 Councillors Hazel Barnes and Bruce Thomas

Councillor Barnes noted in response to requests for comment regarding the Growth Strategy, that water provision and availability is an important consideration when assessing the three scenarios. Councillor Thomas commented on the large size of land required to be made available for housing by 2050.

7.2 Mayor Alan Livingston

Mayor Livingston advised of the need to register Council's impartial interest to assist in the Waikato River management process. At the present time, there are three statutory committees, with only Waipa and Environment Waikato represented on all three. He noted that Dr Michael Cullen will provide more details on 29 October 2008 to the statutory bodies and interested parties.

7.3 Laurie Hoverd

Councillor Hoverd commented that the private land planting scheme at Lake Ngaroto is now completed. He noted that two important plants were found during the plantings, one being a sphagnum moss and the other a carnivorous plant. He advised that the area is now fenced which will help to preserve these plants.

7.4 Ted Tauroa

Mr Tauroa commented on Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust's successful open day. He advised that no mice have been tracked since the last poison drop which is encouraging. He also noted that the previously liberated kaka have returned to the mountain and the recent release of the kiwi chick named "Te Piringa".

7.5 Bill Garland

Mr Garland advised of landowners perceiving more benefits than disadvantages before they agree to covenanting an area. The most pressing concerns are viewed as weed control, the cost of fencing, and a perceived loss of control over the land.

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He noted that the field day at the Taylor farm highlighted the improvement to farm management/operations, when natural areas (gullies or wetlands) containing natural vegetation are fenced from stock. Mr Garland felt that the best thing Council can do, is provide support in tangible ways such as advice and pest control, rather than a cash handout.

Mr Garland commented that concerns over a perceived loss of control and a devaluing of property are very important considerations for landowners. He referred to the example provided at Simpson's Beach where Peter Simpson covenanted the open space along the foreshore, which is now considered to be worth between \$20-40 million, but cannot be subdivided.

7.6 **David Findlay**

Mr Findlay advised that the tender process for possum trapping is underway for the White Hall and Te Miro possum control schemes.

7.7 **Martin Watson**

Mr Watson commented on the discussion during the last meeting regarding the possibility of using a local journalist to provide articles of biodiversity interest. He has approached Mike Bland who has indicated his interest but requires a specific proposal before providing a cost estimate. Councillor Hoverd commented that Kingsley Field, who is well known in the Waikato, should also be approached. Jeff Needs from the Waikato Times was also mentioned as a journalist to approach.

Action Point: TROX to arrange cost comparison between current newsletter and media articles.

7.8 **Pieter van Dongen**

Mr van Dongen was absent from the meeting.

7.9 **Roy Dench**

Mr Dench was absent from the meeting.

7.10 **Alan Hall**

Mr Hall noted that the protection of biodiversity needs to be an important consideration during the Waipa 2050 project.

7.11 **Kevin Christie**

Mr Christie was absent from the meeting.

Item 5 was taken at this time.

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8 WAIPA 2050 & FUTURE PROOF (SUB-REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY)

Project Manager – District Plan Review, Fiona Hill presented an outline of the process involved in Waipa 2050, Future Proof and the LTCCP, provide information and answered question from the floor.

In response to a question regarding the educational opportunities for children, Mrs Hill advised that the Department of Education will be involved in planning from the early stages. She noted that concept plans for the urban areas would include protection of natural and built heritage features with higher levels of controls. Mr Hall commented on the lack of a Pirongia concept plan.

Mrs Hill noted that other agencies such as Environment Waikato, and political decisions such as the Tainui Rivers Claim Settlement will also determine the look of the immediate landscape. Linkages between all the parties will ensure that a consistent vision is developed. In terms of the broader economic issues, the assumptions around issues such as economics and tourism may be challenged as the environment changes. Therefore opportunities for review will be an important part of the strategy.

Members expressed concern that Waipa residents may not be aware of the importance of contributing to the Waipa 2050 project. Council presenting to community groups was seen as an important step and Mrs Hill advised that the Waipa District Youth Council are holding their meeting at the Cambridge Open Day. Further, high schools have been contacted so representatives can attend a presentation for more information.

Another area of concern is the future use of transferable development rights, as this process will encourage / promote subdivision of rural areas.

Mr Tauroa noted that the scenarios show no reference to Maori land where the owners may wish to return to their Marae to live. Mr Roxburgh indicated that these concerns should be noted during the feedback process. The timeframe for receiving the feedback forms is 10 November 2008.

Item 6 was taken at this time.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Biodiversity Projects – Yarndley’s Bush

Mr Roxburgh mentioned that the landowner is still keen to use the environmental protection lot provisions in the DP, to move the boundary of the Scenic Reserve and extend the buffer between the bush margin and the farmland. The Biodiversity Council agreed to use Yarndley’s Bush Reserve as a project site, but little progress has been made. Member registering an interest in further the project were asked to meet and progress same.

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9.2 Heritage Newsletter - Articles

Mr Roxburgh indicated that articles are still being sought for the newsletter. Members discussed the value of including an article on endangered plants or trees with an identification and educational focus.

9.3 Biodiversity Field Day - Te Pahu

Mayor Livingston advised members of a potential property and that an assessment of the suitability of the site would be conducted. The property includes eight acres of totara and kahikatea. Presently there is only a single wire fence protecting the area. Members decided that the field day would be held on a Thursday and would include a lunch time BBQ. Heritage Council members will be advised of the details once they are confirmed.

9.4 Heritage Policy & Implementation Strategy

The Heritage Policy and Implementation Strategy will be discussed at the next meeting.

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 Sharyn King) or phoning her on 07 872 0030 or emailing her on sharyn.king@waipadc.govt.nz

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council will be held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on 18 December 2008, commencing at 10am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.36pm.