



WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 18 MARCH 2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in the Council Chambers, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday 18 March 2010 commencing at 9.05am.

1 PRESENT

Mr Roxburgh said Mr Dench had tendered an apology for non attendance. He said that Mr Dench indicated his intention to step down as Chairperson permanently. Members discussed this in-depth and decided this matter would be raised at the next meeting when more members were in attendance. Members agreed that Mr Hoverd be Chairperson for this meeting.

Members

Laurie Hoverd - Kakepuku and Te Awamutu District (Chairperson)

Waipa District Councillors, Hazel Barnes

His Worship the Mayor Alan Livingston - Te Pahu and Karamu District
[from 9.36am]

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

David Findlay – Whitehall and Te Miro District

Pieter van Dongen - Koromatua and Rukuhia District [from 9.57am]

Martin Watson – Kaipaki and Cambridge District

Others

Manager Community Facilities, T Roxburgh; Committee Secretary, S King.

2 APOLOGIES

AGREED

That the apologies for non attendance from Councillor Bruce Thomas, Mr Roy Dench, Mr Bill Garland and, the apology for lateness from His Worship the Mayor, Alan Livingston be received.

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.

Barnes / Findlay

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of meeting held on 18 September 2009.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 18 September 2009, having been circulated, be taken as a true and correct record.

Hall / Watson

6 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr Roxburgh updated members on Council's organisational structure changes following the recent review. He said the intention was to have a tighter group with a strong focus on the leadership of Council. Members noted the opportunity provided by the restructure to make more progress on the preservation of Waipa's heritage.

Action Point

Committee Secretary to send out a copy of the organisational chart with the minutes.

Mr Roxburgh said Ngati Koroki Kahukura Trust (NKKT) and Ngati Haua have lodged a claim under the Treaty of Waitangi to have Maungatautari returned to iwi. This claim is supported by Raukawa which states any money received would go back to the Maunga. A paper will be presented to Council before the next local government elections outlining the possibility of Council withdrawing their day to day administration and management of the Scenic Reserve which would then revert to the Crown. The Crown could then consider vesting day to day administration and management with a management committee that represents all stakeholder - Iwi, landowners, Council and the Crown. This would be similar to the co-governance / co-management philosophy being promoted for the Waikato River settlement.



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He said Council have agreed to restructure the Maungatautari Reserve Committee to ensure equal representation between iwi and other members following a submission by NKKT. This reflects a growing trend towards co-governance / co-management.

Mr Roxburgh confirmed the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (the Trust) have also agreed to have an equal representation structure at a governance level although this will require consideration at the MEIT's AGM.. This would see a reduction of Trust members to ten, with five iwi representatives and five other representatives. There would be the ability to co-opt further members, although these would not have voting rights. He then commented on operational aspects of the Trust, including revenue generation, pest eradication and, the potential for erosion to compromise the integrity of the fence.

He commented on the work going into the District Plan Review and the indicative timeline, noting a more proactive approach. He said Council have engaged BECA to facilitate the Review which includes the identification of natural, built, historic and cultural sites of significance. Further, he said the Biodiversity Council could provide key insights to the what level of involvement by Council in land use and management issues would be acceptable to farmers. He also said the Biodiversity Council has the potential to act as District Plan ambassadors and made a commitment to raise the profile of the Council.

Action Point

Mr Roxburgh to ensure publication of the introduction to members newsletter.

Mr Roxburgh said the landowner adjoining Yarndleys Bush was contouring the land towards the bush which will support the intention to create a buffer around the existing forest up to 30m in some areas. This will enable planting and will increase the overall ecological viability of the site. There will also be opportunities to retain water within the stand over the drier summer months.

RESOLVED

That the information be received.

Hall / Watson

7 MEMBERS REPORTS

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



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7.1 Councillors Hazel Barnes and Bruce Thomas

Cr Barnes commented on the Trust Power National Volunteer Awards held recently in Nelson. She noted the quantity of presentations by nominees in the field of preservation.

7.2 Mayor Alan Livingston

Mayor Livingston said he believed the role of the group was to have a input into the determination of the draft District Plan. He encouraged members to give thought to the biodiversity challenges such as peat lake subsidence.

7.3 Laurie Hoverd

Mr Hoverd noted the importance of getting the newsletter out.

7.4 Ted Tauroa

Mr Tauroa was not in attendance.

7.5 Bill Garland

Mr Garland was not in attendance.

7.6 David Findlay

Mr Findlay had commented on Maungatautari's revegetation and the visual appeal of the lush undergrowth.

7.7 Martin Watson

Mr Watson said he did a weed walk and mapped out the areas at Yarndeleys Bush prior to Christmas. There was a large tract of Wandering Jew at the western end which has been physically removed as much as possible. Shortly the site will be reassessed for regrowth.

7.8 Pieter van Dongen

Mr van Dongen commented on the progress at Lake Mangahia. He said Environment Waikato councillors recently visited the site and the feedback was very positive. Following the planned planting in June the site will be surveyed prior to a QE II covenant.

7.9 Roy Dench

Mr Dench was not in attendance.

7.10 Alan Hall

Mr Hall commented on the Waipa Heritage Council's input into the draft District Plan noting a common interest in viewing corridors and special landscape areas.



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He spoke on membership of the Biodiversity Council, joint meetings with the Heritage Council, the need for more interpretation throughout the District and possible Resource Management Act changes that would require more specific references to ensure protection of sites.

7.11 Kevin Christie

Mr Christie was not in attendance.

7.12 John Gumbley

Mr Gumbley was not in attendance.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Hoverd noted the Land Care Field Day at Lake Ngaroto.

Action Point

The Committee Secretary will send a copy of the flyer out to members.

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

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council will be held on 20 May 2010 in Committee Room 2, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu, commencing at 10.00am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.48am.

Completed and dispatched: 19 March 2010