
WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 21 MAY 2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in Committee Room 2, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu on Thursday 21 May 2009 commencing at 10.01am.

1 PRESENT

Roy Dench – Chairperson

Waipa District Councillor Bruce Thomas

His Worship the Mayor Alan Livingston - Te Pahu and Karamu District

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

David Findlay [from 10.06am] – Whitehall and Te Miro District

Bill Garland – Rotorangi and Karapiro District

Laurie Hoverd - Kakepuku and Te Awamutu District

Pieter van Dongen - Koromatua and Rukuhia District

In attendance

Project Manager – Heritage Development & Reserves Planning; T Roxburgh; Committee Secretary, S King.

2 APOLOGIES

AGREED

That the apologies for non attendance from Hazel Barnes, Ted Tauroa & Martin Watson are received.

Van Dongen

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

4 CONFIRMATION OF ORDER OF MEETING

AGREED

That the order of the meeting be confirmed.

Dench

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of meeting held on 19 March 2009 were included in the agenda.

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 19 March 2009 be received.

Garland / van Dongen

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Matters Arising

Chairperson Dench brought up the 'ACRE' field trip and members agreed to discuss this report at the July meeting.

6 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

Chairperson Dench queried if the Biodiversity Council should provide written support to the National Wetland Trust and T Roxburgh said that it adds weight to any application for money that the Trust might make in association with the proposal.

Mayor Livingston joined the meeting at 10.24am.

Chairperson Dench said that he would raise the matter with the Advisory Committee for the Waikato Regional Council in an attempt to get their endorsement for the Trust as well.

Action Point

T Roxburgh to send a letter to the National Wetland Trust on behalf of the Waipa Biodiversity Council in support of a proposed national wetlands showcase.

Agreed

That the information be received.

van Dongen / Findlay

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 Councillor Bruce Thomas

Councillor Thomas said the recent presentation to Council on the possibility of a National Wetland Centre at Lake Serpentine generated excitement amongst councillors.

7.2 Mayor Alan Livingston

Mayor Livingston commented on the presentation to Council by Environment Waikato and the subsequent submission by Council to their 10-year Plan.

He said that it was important that the recent recipients of heritage awards were recognised in the local media.

7.3 Laurie Hoverd

L Hoverd said that he represented Council at a workshop in Te Pahu for voluntary groups with speakers from Environment Waikato who provided a lot of information to attendees. He then commented on the falcons and their hunting tendencies.

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7.4 Ted Tauroa

T Tauroa was not in attendance.

7.5 Bill Garland

B Garland commented on the birdlife in the vicinity of the fence at Maungatautari as well as the rodent population.

He also commented on the Environment Waikato proposal to decrease TB funding and the impact of such a decision to the farming industry. He similarly commented on the Clean Streams subsidy which is identified for a reduction in funding also.

7.6 David Findlay

D Findlay said that quite a few phone calls had been received since he won the award, with farmers waiting for the QE II representative to visit and initiate proceedings.

7.7 Martin Watson

M Watson was not in attendance.

7.8 Pieter van Dongen

P van Dongen commented on the affects of the drought and the economic climate. He said that the first plants had arrived for the Mangahia project with more pending and the Lake Milicich property has been placed on the market for sale. He then commented on the need for legal protection for all biodiversity sites.

7.9 Roy Dench

R Dench commented on the species planted in the past where the plants were not sensitive to the environment.

7.10 Alan Hall

Members discussed the use of 1080 and broadificum poisons within the District.

7.11 Kevin Christie

K Christie was not in attendance.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence sent or received.

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9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Review of Biodiversity Outcomes & Waipa Biodiversity Council membership.

Members discussed the biodiversity gains made over the previous year and the involvement level of members, both within the community and the Biodiversity Council. Mayor Livingston said the role of the Council was to consult and communicate with the Biodiversity Council an integral part acting as advocates within the community.

Members suggested that the objectives needed more definition, such as raising the profile of Waipa's current initiatives and in addition that if a member was not present for three meetings in a row without apology then they would be removed from the Biodiversity Council. Members would give consideration of these and other defined objectives before discussion 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 on Thursday 20 August 2009 in the Council Chambers, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10am.

Please note that the next meeting is a joint meeting with the Waipa Heritage Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.19am.