



WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

Minutes of a meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held in the Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre, 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge on Thursday 17 September 2009 commencing at 10.14am.

1 PRESENT

The Committee Secretary advised that a Chair would need to be appointed for the meeting due to the non attendance of Mr R Dench. She called for nominations and one nomination was received.

RESOLVED

That Councillor LWE Hoverd be appointed Chair for the meeting as Mr R Dench was not in attendance.

Cr Thomas / M Watson

Waipa District Councillors 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 – 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

Martin Watson – Kaipaki and Cambridge District

John Gumbley – Department of Conservation

In attendance

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

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apologies for non attendance from Roy Dench, Kevin Christie & Councillor Hazel Barnes; and, for lateness from David Findlay be received.

Cr Thomas / M Watson

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.

Cr Hoverd / M Watson

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of meeting held on 16 July 2009 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Waipa Biodiversity Council held on 16 July 2009 be received, with A Hall noted as not present.

Cr Hoverd / Cr Thomas

Matters Arising –

Mr Garland commented on the differences between a QE II covenant and a Reserves Act covenant. He noted the Reserves Act covenant includes penalties while a QE II covenant has no reference to such matters. Councillor Thomas pointed out a Reserves Act covenant is perceived as being more legal.

Mr Roxburgh said Council had not compared the two documents but sought to ensure the right methodologies to engage landowners to promote the retention of sites on private land were used. He said the environmental strategy review would focus on what incentives should be used and what role Council should be taking. Currently there is potential for a cash incentive up front however, a mutually agreed longer term partnership may be more beneficial to both parties. Mr Roxburgh agreed wording was a key feature to ensure a fair outcome.

Mr Watson reiterated his statement at the last meeting regarding a move from Kaipaki/Cambridge representation to a more advisory capacity such as Mr Christie. Mr Roxburgh commented the local government elections in 2010, where Councillors are appointed to the Biodiversity Council, would be an opportunity to review membership and expressions of interest could be called for prior. He noted that iwi and youth were currently not represented on the Biodiversity Council and said a programme would be created to ensure representation was adequately addressed prior to the local government elections.



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6 WAIPA BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL - OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr Roxburgh summarised the timeline of Council's environmental strategy and noted the topic would be discussed under general business.

He advised Council had resolved to include an Environment Waikato representative on the Maungatautari Reserve Committee following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in light of each council's funding commitment to the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. He said this would ensure Environment Waikato were included in the day-to-day management of the project with robust systems and processes.

Mr Garland commented all the adjoining landowners were affected by decisions made by the Maungatautari Reserve Committee and queried the representation. Mr Roxburgh said staff were working to ensure representation on the Committee was adequately addressed prior to the local government elections in 2010.

Mr Roxburgh said the National Wetland Trust held their Annual General Meeting and decided to seriously consider Lake Serpentine as a location for their Centre. He advised Gisler Architects were finalising a draft conceptual plan and once the Trust had confirmed the concept presentations to Waipa District Council, Environment Waikato and New Zealand Transport Agency would commence. The Trust would seek confirmation the scale is appropriate to the area.

Mr Roxburgh said the resource consent for the outlet weir at Lake Ngaroto ends in October 2010 with the water management regime will to be reviewed prior to the application for renewal. Members discussed iwi and archaeological interest in the site along with the need for interpretive signage. Mr Roxburgh said the catchment could be used to test some theories to improve water quality with a number of agencies looking to invest. Mr Garland felt landowners living within a catchment should not be disadvantaged and a win/win approach was required.

Mr Roxburgh noted difficulties in drainage during large rainfall events at Ngaroto-iti and outlined alternatives that could be considered in the area.

RESOLVED

That the information is received.

P van Dongen / M Watson



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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 Hazel Barnes

Not in attendance.

Councillor Bruce Thomas

Councillor Thomas raised concerns regarding the costs to landowners to achieve restoration programmes. He updated members on the progress made to convert the six hectare gully to what may become part of a biodiversity corridor.

Mr Roxburgh said Council's view was the environment between Hamilton and Cambridge Road consisted of mostly pasture land and gullies could provide potential native areas.

7.2 Mayor Alan Livingston

Mayor Livingston commented on the significance of the environmental strategy in promoting engagement of landowners and communities. He said the Biodiversity Council has an important role in contributing to the strategy, particularly to ensure sufficient encouragement and reward are included.

7.3 Laurie Hoverd

Councillor Hoverd provided maps detailing the pest control system on Mount Kakepuku. He said the existing bait stations have been identified using a GPS system and collaboration with the Department of Conservation resulted in new bait stations being installed to cover 'gaps'. The monitoring and pest control are carried out according to the Department's protocols and standards. At the Annual General Meeting of the Kakepuku Mountain Society, people from within Te Awamutu township had shown interest.

7.4 Ted Tauroa

Not in attendance.

7.5 Bill Garland

Mr Garland advised of an accident involving a Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust volunteer vehicle with two occupants. He said the driver misunderstood his instructions. The incident raised concerns around health and safety and the responsibility of the landowner. Mr Garland advised the driver could continue onto his farm and although the driver misinterpreted the instructions this type of situation could have major implications on all landowners.



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7.6 David Findlay

Mr Findlay said monitoring has shown possum numbers have reduced to 0.4% since control measures were implemented at Te Miro and Whitehall around 12-15 years ago.

Mr Findlay said a recent driveway installation on a property on Oliver Road, Cambridge had significant scarring with a slip occurring onto the neighbours driveway. He emphasised concern around the lack of planting/grassing since the works were completed and noted the earth is now covered in black polythene and tyres.

7.7 Martin Watson

Mr Watson commented on discussions held with his neighbours who wish to tidy a gully and plant in natives. A meeting had been planned with Mr Watson, Mr Roxburgh and the neighbours to discuss options.

7.8 Pieter van Dongen

Mr van Dongen advised another planting day at Lake Mangahia would be held on 3 October. He also spoke of an encounter where his staff watched a falcon perform a mid-air kill.

7.9 Roy Dench

Not in attendance.

7.10 Alan Hall

Mr Hall spoke about a visitor to the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre who commented on Lake Ngaroto's excessive manuka plantings and Yardley's Bush invasive plants on the bush edges. The visitor said a computer email system was utilised in Hawkes Bay to advise interested parties when a small job was required. He said this worked very well and ensured that someone would be able to attend to the work as required.

7.11 Kevin Christie

Not in attendance.

7.12 John Gumbley

Mr Gumbley introduced himself to those present and updated members on his current work programme, including rudd control in Waipa peat lakes, consent applications and Ramsar sites such as Pirongia and Kakepuku. He outlined the need to maintain water levels in peat sites such as Moanatuatua and noted peat can move up to 30cms both up and down over a year.



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8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Inwards Correspondence

8.1.1 There was no inwards correspondence.

8.2 Outwards Correspondence

8.2.1 Letter to National Wetland Trust of New Zealand

A letter of support was sent to the Trust for the proposed National Wetland Centre at Lake Serpentine.

RESOLVED

That the outwards correspondence be confirmed.

Cr Hoverd / Cr Thomas

The meeting adjourned for the lunch break at 12.13pm and reconvened at 12.30pm.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

Environment Strategy

Mr Roxburgh said the purpose behind the creation of an environment strategy was to enable Council to be proactive, showing more leadership and directives on environmental issues. An implementation plan would be associated with the strategy. He said a draft strategy would be released for public consultation around April/May next year and staff were expecting formal notification in August.

Members discussed various ideas which were clarified into the following:

1. Farm Management Plans including:
 - Catchment Plans
 - Riparian Plans
2. Advice and support (land managers / skilled staff)
3. Incentives (EPL, Agreements relating to resource and expertise, costs of consent wavered).

The farm management plans, including sub-plans would utilise both incentives and legal instruments.

Mr Watson commented on the community angst surrounding sand quarry expansion and the imposition of a 500m buffer which compromises the use of the land owned by neighbouring owners.



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Mr Garland reiterated that a landowner who has assets of public value contained within their property should not be disadvantaged compared to a landowner who does not have such features.

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 19 November 2009 in Committee Room 1, Waipa District Council, 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu commencing at 10.00am.

This will be the final meeting for 2009.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.33pm.

Completed and dispatched: 18 September 2009