

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 19 June at 9.00 am

Present

Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Judy Hellstrom, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Monyeen Wedge, Dave Hayes, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake and Vic Koller

Guest Speakers

Carol Cairns and Warner Nicholl (Marlborough Lines)

MDC Staff

Alan Johnson, Peter Hamill, Mike Aviss, Jono Underwood, Steve Urlich, Graeme Smail (9.35 am)

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

Apologies

Clr Hook, Linda Booth, Kristen Gerard, Poneke Rene, Eric Jorgensen, Aaron Robinson

1. Resignation – Ian Mitchell

- Ian's contribution to SAG was noted. He was instrumental in establishing the group. Alan is going to organise a thank you card on behalf of the group.

2. Action from the Previous Meeting

- The notification process for Penzance Bay Jetty resource consent has been investigated and the action is now completed.

3. Freedom Campers – Vic Koller

- Vic checked the freedom camping site at Double Bay at 6.30 am every morning for three months, Dec to Feb to gain information on the situation. The site is designated for six self-contained campervans. During the period he was checking the site there were only six times when there were only the six campervans legally using the site.
- Most evenings there were approximately 8 – 10 vehicles using the site. Vic was able to observe a pattern emerging whereby the campers came off the ferry in the evening stop at Double Bay on their way to Nelson whether the site is at capacity or not. Vic knocked on these vans doors and encouraged them to move on. He noted that freedom campers will knock on local resident's doors to ask for water or to use the computer etc and driveways can be blocked by the campers parking in them. There was one incident where a water tank was drilled into by a freedom camper.
- Vic has sent feedback to the Reserves and Amenities Manager at Council to suggest that an app be developed which can be updated by a local volunteer when a campground is full. This would prevent campers from coming off the ferry at night driving to places like Double Bay which are already full and camping there anyway. He suggested trailing this in Double Bay in the coming season.
 - It was pointed out that it could be difficult to develop an app which would encompass the many sites which freedom campers use.
 - It was suggested highlighting the issues in a letter to the NZ Motor Caravan Association and providing clear information on how many freedom camping places are available at each site.
- The standards for what constitutes a self-contained vehicle are presently being reviewed by the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association.
- There are no plans by Council to review the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

- It was noted that there has been funding allocated from the Annual Plan process for a second ranger next season.
- The frustrations felt surrounding this issue were discussed.
- Alan is going to take the concerns raised to the new Reserves and Amenities Manager, Jane Tito and invite her to the next meeting to discuss the matter.

4. Marlborough Lines Vegetation Control – Carol Cairns and Werner Nicholl

- Carol Cairns (Marlborough Lines Vegetation Control) and Warner Nicholl (Network Design Manager) introduced themselves and gave a presentation on the work that Marlborough Lines do for vegetation control in the Sounds area. Appendix 1.

Questions/Answers

- Vic raised an issue for Moetapu Bay where some residents believe Marlborough Lines have cut too much vegetation out. Carol noted that written consent to fell or trim trees is gained from the nearest landowner and that if owners do not want the trees felled it is then up to them to take responsibility for that tree for its life. See the Tree Regulations for more information <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2003/0375/latest/DLM233453.html>
 - They will also chip the tree if access to the felled tree is possible.
 - It was confirmed that Marlborough Lines look for permanent solutions as they are unable to return to trim vegetation every year.
- It was clarified that plantings that have been cleared by Marlborough Lines on paper roads in places where there is no road access will not be able to be totally cleaned up as it is not possible to bring a chipper in.
- It was clarified that cleaning up of the trees that have been cleared from under power lines on people's private land is not part of Marlborough Lines responsibility.
- The issue that had been brought up in the previous minutes of the spraying of the road reserve at McLaren Bay on the French Pass Road was discussed.
 - Marlborough Lines received permission to spray 30 metres in one direction and 40 metres in the other to protect the line in the future.
 - Carol clarified that they would not use this method to take care of the lines in DOC Reserve.
 - It was noted that there was a lack of communication between Marlborough Lines and residents on this and Carol clarified that Marlborough Lines would be prepared to review how this issue was dealt with.
- Carol handed around a sheet which outlines the distances for vegetation and different voltages. Appendix 2
- Carol suggested that the members of the group remind land owners and residents in their areas to check the service lines (the part of the line which is on their own properties) as it is important to keep them free of vegetation.

5. Monitoring Buoys – Judy Hellstrom

- Judy raised the question of whether Council has the responsibility of monitoring water in the Sounds. A number of members have the view that monitoring for the effects of salmon and mussel farms should not be entirely the responsibility of industry as there is no guarantee of the information that would be received.
- Steve offered to reply to Judy's question:

- A number of sites in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and Tory Channel/Kura Te Au (red and yellow stars below) have been monitored monthly since 2011. In 2012 Council commenced monitoring in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere.

Strategy Objective: Provide water quality data



- 11 sites monthly in both Pelorus and QCS
- Nutrients (N, P, Si)
- Temperature, salinity, dissolved O₂
- Phytoplankton, Chl a,

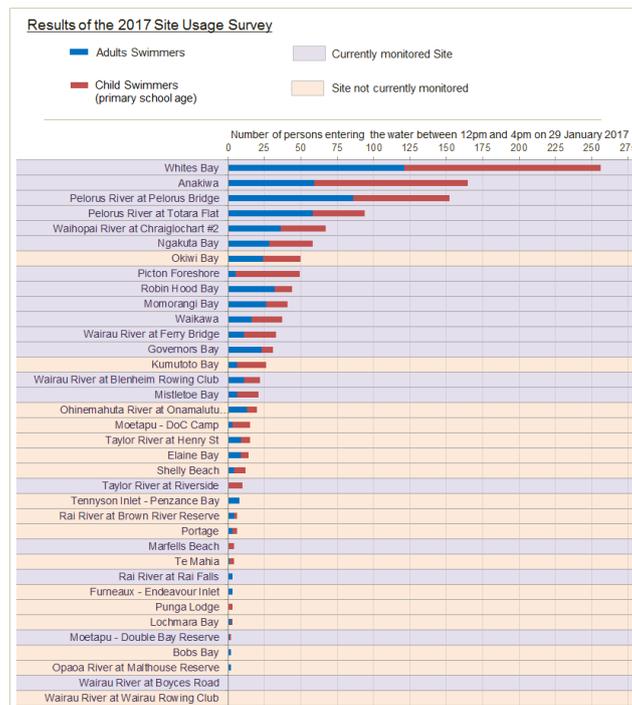


- Steve received an Envirolink grant for the Cawthron Institute to review the monitoring. The monitoring report said spatial coverage is good but that there is not good temporal coverage.
- The instrument shown below is able to take measurements in real time and telemeter the data back to Council. These buoys are likely to be worth between \$100,000 and \$200,000 each, not including mooring, calibration and maintenance. There are also internal resourcing implications as IT infrastructure and a user interface to display the data will also need to be built.
 - These instruments can measure dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and temperatures throughout the water column as well as chlorophyll and turbidity. They would have current meters and a weather station for the Harbourmaster. The data will be publicly available in real time.
 - Having these instruments would allow Council to improve its modelling and be able to better model the effects of proposed activities which will discharge nutrients, sediment or organic matter into the Sounds.
 - The monitoring buoys are up to three metres tall and instruments are attached to the mooring line down to the seabed. The Harbourmaster will be consulted on the siting and lighting of the instruments.
 - Steve will be meeting with interested parties this year to look at funding collaborations.
- Resourcing opportunities through the Long Term Plan will be looked at along with resourcing for a multi beam survey in collaboration with LINZ in the Marlborough Sounds.



6. Recreational Bathing Water Programme Review – Peter Hamill

- Pete presented a report Council's recreational bathing water quality programme.
- There are 21 coastal beaches and river sites that are currently monitored (for E-coli) as part of the Recreational Water Quality Programme. It was noted that these sites are monitored to allow the assessment of the risk to recreational users from accidental ingestions of water during swimming and other water related activities.
- The sites were originally chosen by staff and in 2012 an aerial survey was undertaken to determine the sites used for swimming.
- It was decided to survey the sites in 2017 and on 29 January 36 sites were monitored between 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm by Council staff and volunteers with the number of persons entering the water counted. It was noted that the results show that there was a large variation in the number of swimmers across the monitored sites.
- The sites were ranked according to the number of people entering the water.
- Monitoring sites with a minimum of 20 swimmers was considered the best way forward.
- Kumutoto Bay has been excluded as it is very low risk and Taylor River has been included at Riverside Park. Okiwi Bay has been included for the first time and Moetapu Bay has dropped out.



- It was noted that this survey is for recreational bathing water monitoring and does not replace other types of water monitoring which is conducted monthly for such waterways as the Rai River.

Questions/Answers

- It was clarified that there is a concentration of monitoring in some areas because they have larger populations and they are popular with visitors
- It was noted that people are not swimming at Furieux t and that people are choosing to swim at other areas in Endeavour Inlet such as the Pines.
- Some residents at Kumutoto Bay believe that the water quality is affected by the ferry wash and an unofficial jet-ski lane.

7. Torea Bay Toilets – Grahame Smail

- There has been a request for the Council to provide a toilet for Torea Bay.
- Council only owns road reserve land which stops short of the wharf area.
- DOC has undertaken to provide the Council with a lease such that a toilet can be put on their land. A suitable area has been identified. See below (in red).
- A Norski style toilet is the most likely option that could be installed.



- The cost of providing a fully accessible toilet for people who will be walking off the Queen Charlotte Track was queried.
- Grahame noted that the establishment (capital) cost for a single Norski type toilet would be \$15-\$20,000. A fully accessible Norski type toilet (similar to Ohingaroa or Double Bay), would be \$35-\$60,000.
- The operational cost of either unit would be \$15-\$20,000 per year and could be combined with the servicing regime in place for the other Council Kenepuru Road toilets.
- Grahame noted that the Council receives requests for toilets all the time. Technically it is possible to put a toilet there if Councillors and the community wanted it (subject to meeting any resource consenting requirements).
- The need for the toilet at Torea stems from the Bay being a popular exit point from the track and people can often have to wait for a couple of hours for the water taxi from Picton.
- It was suggested that numbers of users of Torea Bay could be got from the boat operators.
- DOC is concerned that there are more walkers on the track who do not use the campsites. DOC are intending to undertake social surveys on the users of the track next year. Anecdotally there is high proportion of New Zealanders using the track.
- It was suggested that signs could be put on the track to let people know how far the next toilet is.
- It was pointed out to Grahame that the Mount Stokes car park is another popular area where there are no toilet facilities.

8. Road Person for Kenepuru Road – Councillor Oddie

- A suggestion for a road person for the Kenepuru Road has come out of the Annual Plan process. The conversations surrounding this with Marlborough Roads at deliberations on the Annual Plan submissions suggested that Marlborough Roads would be better off to do preventative maintenance. Marlborough Roads are going to come back to the Council about this issue. Councillor Oddie asked Ross to keep the Council informed of the situation.

9. Biosecurity Pest Plan Review – Jono Underwood

Regional Pest Management Plan

- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) is a legislative tool and is used for outlining high priority programmes that need regulatory backing under the Biosecurity Act 1993).
- A discussion document process was run by Council in 2016 to review the existing Pest Management Review process. Jono thanked those who had provided input into this process and noted the feedback is being used to draft a proposal for the new RPMP.
- There is a target for the proposal for the new RPMP to be notified later in the year. A process will follow of submissions and hearings; to ensure Council is satisfied that it meets the requirement set within the Biosecurity Act 1993 and National Policy Direction.

Old Foes

- Jono assured the group that the old foes are not off the Council's radar but that it is looking at a broader approach which includes using the Council's biodiversity, and land and water teams more widely. Even though some pests and weeds are not in the new Regional Pest Management Plan doesn't mean they are not still on the Council's radar.
- Where there are specific programmes for a species, Council will have a biosecurity focus and where it is community led or there are projects battling more established pests, this will be covered by the biodiversity programme.

New Threats

- There is a confined infestation of woolley nightshade at Port Hardy on D'Urville Island. After some awareness work via a recent item tabled at Council's Environment Committee, small infestations in wider Marlborough (Moetapu Bay) have also been discovered. There is no formal programme for this plant but it is critical to deal with it. A letter box drop has been carried out at Mahakipawa Arm (excluding Moetapu Bay) to raise awareness. Jono is going to organise a fact sheet to be sent out to the area.
 - The RPMP with its regulatory backing may need to be used to manage the weed.
- There is a confined infestation of willow-leaved-hakea on D'Urville Island at Kapowai. The plant is also well established on mainland Marlborough (Cullens Point and other areas). The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust and the community of Kapowai applied successfully to the DOC Partnerships Fund in 2014 to tackle the infestation which is all on private land. The project has not been implemented due to land access issues.
 - The Council is considering a specific programme for willow-leaved hakea just for D'Urville Island to prevent the spread of the plant further on the island.
- The Council is looking to have discussions with the community on D'Urville on how a RPMP programme could be implemented on the Island and what an active RPMP programme would mean for the Island.
- RPMP programmes do not have to be Council led. There can be other models such as utilising the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust or developing partnerships with the communities on the front lines to implement the programmes.

- Dave Hayes noted the Islanders are in touch with threats to their island and have run a very successful project assessing the feasibility of stoat eradication. It was suggested that any programmes used must be outcomes focussed.



Picture 1 Woolley Nightshade (Tobacco Plant)



Picture 2 Willow-leaved Hakea

Questions/Answers

- It was noted that there are problem species in the Endeavour Inlet area which include Darwin's barberry, selaginella and phytophthora which is killing kawa-kawa along the Queen Charlotte Track.
 - Jono noted that Council is aware of the Darwin's barberry and is looking at a biological agent to control it which is in New Zealand but hasn't been successfully mass-reared for further release as yet.
- It was clarified that a wilding pine re-infestation at Mount Cawte Reserve (DOC) would probably have to be dealt with by aerial spraying as the land is too steep to deal with by applying chemicals to the tree bases. It was suggested that Vic contact the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust about this issue.

10. General Business

- Rob Shuckhard requested that an item on the Salmon Working Group which was previously under general business be brought forward as Judy Hellstrom would be leaving the meeting at lunch time.
 - He tabled an email that he had sent to the SAG members the previous evening. Appendix 3
 - Judy added that Rob's letter had the support of Eric and herself and others from the Sounds Advisory Group and that the general feeling is that Council was under the radar with respect to ownership of the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan (MSRMP) and particularly the Coastal Policy Statement (CPS).
 - It was noted that Mark Wheeler has received Rob's email and is going to discuss it with Councillors and a formal response would be made.
 - Judy noted that Hearings Panel have asked for an extension and are going to report on 21 July. It will then go to the Minister of Conservation. This is inside the statutory period of 8 weeks prior to an election.

11. Community Pest Control Initiatives – Monyeen Wedge

- Monyeen's community has asked her to approach the Council to provide wasp bait and gas pest traps for their volunteer programme next season.
 - It was suggested applying to the community grants that are available from Council. They open for grant applications in August.
- The weather this summer affected wasp behaviour with a large number nesting in people's roofs. The wasp baits did not travel with the wasps into the nests in roofs to destroy them.

- Due to the inclement weather the wasp bait was not successful this year and some community groups did not use their baits because there were not sufficient numbers of wasps.
- Alan noted that some input and modest funding assistance from Council and DOC can help trigger community led initiatives.
- Dave Hayes noted that to trigger help from DOC the project needs to be on a big enough scale to provide an obvious conservation gain.

12. MDC Update – Pere Hawes

Proposed National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture

- There is a two month period for submissions (close 8 August).
- The Aquaculture Review Working Group (ARWG) has asked MPI to give a briefing on the new document.
- Pere has asked MPI to address the relationship to the proposed document to Council's own process for the (ARWG).
- The discussion document covers three primary issues:
 1. Re-consenting existing farms (not new space). New space is seen as regional councils' and unitary authorities' responsibility. However if farms are in place the NES identifies their status as restricted discretionary activity. Full discretion applies to farms that are identified as being in appropriate areas.
 2. There is a proposal that there will be a requirement for all farms to have a Biosecurity Management Plan.
 3. Change in species at time of re-consenting.
- The document is able to be downloaded from the MPI website.
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/proposed-national-environmental-standard-for-marine-aquaculture/>
- Pere clarified that the Council has discretion over the period of time of a renewed consent. However under the RMA the time period is a minimum of 20 years unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Pere noted that the new NES will operate independently of Council's responsibilities under Policy 8 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. Councils are still required to identify areas appropriate for aquaculture.
- Councils have been given the ability to use controlled activity if they think it is appropriate.
- Pere noted the re-consenting for a restricted discretionary activity would be non-notifiable under the proposal.
- It was clarified that the difference between a restricted discretionary activity and a controlled activity is that a controlled consent has to be granted and that a restricted discretionary activity can only be declined using the matters over which Council has discretion.

Aquaculture Review

- Pere noted not all the details of the review are being released during the review period in order to protect the integrity of the process and maintain the trust of the participants. However there will be a public consultation phase where feedback can be provided to the community.
- The process is to give effect to Policy 8 of the NPS to find appropriate places for aquaculture. The framework provided by Council is that in areas determined to be appropriate for aquaculture, marine

farming should be a controlled activity. Anywhere outside the aquaculture management areas, it should be prohibited.

- One of the significant changes is that to encourage offshore farming, prohibition outside the enclosed area of the Marlborough Sounds is not appropriate. This will allow applications for offshore farms to be made.
- The last three meetings have been addressing cumulative effects in terms of water column. Council has put forward as part of the plan provisions - the need to have a very strong adaptive management regime. This allows changes to be made over time to new or better information.
- Pere noted that if the group had been working with a clean slate then a different spatial alignment may have been reached rather than the current ribbon development. However the level of information is not available to justify alternative layouts.
- Pere considers it very important that the draft provisions being developed go back to the working group for evaluation and that feedback is received from the group on the appropriate form of consultation when it is time to engage with the wider community.
- The group started with the Council's desire to move the existing ribbon further off shore to between 100-300 metres, which has not always been appropriate.
- Through the Working Group Council has gained access to information sharing which was not previously available to it.

MEP

- The deadline for further submissions is Friday 23 June.
- There are copies of the landscape and natural characterisation studies available at the front counter.
- The submissions made on the PMEP in opposition to the zonings, landscape and natural character overlays will be evaluated. The sec 42A reports will become public available on the date the hearings are scheduled.
- The Hearings Panel currently consists of Councillors Hook, Oddie, Arbuckle and Shenfield and Ron Crosby, Shona Kenderdine and an Iwi Commissioner (to be appointed).
 - The Hearings Panel will determine what process they will use to hear the submissions.

13. Doc Update – Dave Hayes

Dave presented an update of DOC's recent activities to the group Appendix 4

Questions/Answers

- It was clarified that a hard fix of rocks and back filling with grasses is the proposed method of dealing with the erosion at French Pass campground.
- The results have not come in from a cod survey that has been carried out at Long Island.
- The wasp bait Vespex is available to members of the public who have completed an assessment test. The training takes approximately ½ an hour and is available at the following website:
<https://www.merchento.com/training.html>
- Councillor Oddie noted that parts of the Marlborough Sounds are suffering from significant erosion. It was noted that Dunedin has been measuring its tides for 150 years and that in that time the water level has risen slightly over 200 ml with most of the rise in the last 30 years.
 - Councillor Oddie noted that the Sounds Advisory Group could initiate a discussion on the issues of erosion in the Sounds to begin to formulate a policy to deal with it. It was noted that there could be implications for the sewage infrastructure at Wairau Lagoons and Havelock.

- Monyeen suggests producing a map that indicates the areas in the Marlborough Sounds which are most likely to be affected by sea level rises. Steve is going to look into this.
- Council has policy in the PMEP to guide the provision of coastal defences but no policy on protection from coastal erosion.
- There is guidance from MfE on sea level rise and this is reflected in the Climate Change chapter in the PMEP. <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/adapting-climate-change/adapting-sea-level-rise>
- The Okiwi Bay Residents Association approached Marlborough Roads about the washing away of the road reserve but were told that nothing would be done until the tar seal has been eroded.

14. Newsletter – Alan Johnson

- Alan suggested producing a newsletter which has been done previously and asked for feedback from the group.
 - Some suggestions were; pest control initiatives, foreshore erosion, science work in the Sounds, Council Policy, septic tank reminders, DOC update. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

15. MDC Update – Steve Urlich

- Steve shared an image showing the extent of the NIWA multi-beam survey of the Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui sea bed. The image is not publicly available at present.
- A sub tidal sea grass bed has been discovered near Tory Channel/Kura Te Au , According to the ecologist who reported it, this is the only one outside of the off-shore islands. There has been 20 hectare patch of drift algae discovered at Ngaruru Bay which is sitting on the seabed and providing a habitat.
- Estuary Reports for Kaiuma and Mahikipawa are being presented to Council's Environment Committee. These are among the muddiest estuaries in New Zealand.
- Ship-wake monitoring is being reviewed and results will be presented to Council.
- Significant Marine Sites Programme continues in association with DOC.
- Envirolink Report Underwater Soundscape in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui is being presented to the Environment Committee on 20 July.
- Steve gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 1000 year seabed history of the Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere. This project co funded by the MFA and MPI. The link below takes you to the presentation given by Sean Handley to Council.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/historical-ecosystem-change>
- The complete report is available on Council's website:
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Scientific%20Investigations%20List/A_1000_year_history_of_seabed_change_in_Pelorus_Sound_Te_Hoiere.pdf
- Steve distributed a poster which summarised the presentation. Link below:
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Scientific%20Investigations%20List/Pelorus_Te_Hoiere_1000_yr_seabed_history_NIWA_Poster.pdf

Questions/Answers

- It was noted that there is going to be a National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry released soon. It is unknown whether Council would have the ability to introduce more stringency for sensitive environments.

16. Positive Feedback

- It was noted that receiving the scientific reports has been of assistance to the members of the group.
- The positive benefit of having a marine scientist was noted.

17. Other Matters

- The next meeting is 18 September 2017 at Council. Some suggestions for the agenda follow”
 - Fish passage – Peter Hamill, Trevor James
 - King shags – Rob Schuckard
 - MFA or Forestry Rep presentations
 - Salmon Working Group – Rob Schuckard
- Streaming of Council meetings; the technology is in place but there has been no decision to go ahead with it yet.
- All the Navigational By-laws are being reviewed and will be out for consultation when they have been to Council.

18. Actions from the Meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Raise concerns about freedom camping with Jane Tito, invite her to the next meeting	Alan Johnson
2.	Organise a factsheet on woolley nightshade for Mahikipawa Arm residents	Jono Underwood
3.	Check if there is information on sea level rises available on the Marlborough Sounds.	Steve Urlich

The date of the next SAG meeting is 18 September 2017.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

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