

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Waitaria Bay Hall, Kenepuru Sound on Monday 25 June 2018 at 9.30 am

Present

Clr Hook (Chair), Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Jonathan Large, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake, Vic Koller, Shelly Sidley, Eric Jorgensen, Judy Hellstrom, Rick Osbourne, Lynley Perkins, Steve Murrin, Breaden Lobb, Hans Nielson

MDC Staff

Alan Johnson, Steve Urlich

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

Apologies

Monyeen Wedge, Pere Hawes

Correspondence

- Aaron Robinson from Marlborough Forestry Industry Association has resigned. Rick Osbourne has agreed to replace him on SAG.

1. Actions from the Previous Meeting 26 February 2018

Action	Person Responsible
1. Check out legality of door to the rear of Committee Room being labelled as an exit when it is not accessible for non-staff <i>All the security locks will unlock when there is a fire or emergency so the doors are legal – completed.</i>	Clr Taylor
2. Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works <i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>	Alan Johnson
3. Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay <i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>	Gina Ferguson
4. Investigate the no camping signage at Portage <i>Defer to the next meeting which will be held at Council</i>	Jane Tito
5. Provide feedback on behalf of SAG on the Stuff press release to evacuate the Sounds (ex-Cyclone Gita) <i>Nadine has forwarded feedback to the Civil Defence and Communications teams – completed</i>	Clr Taylor

2. DOC Update – Shelly Sidley

- Shelly presented the DOC update to the group (Appendix 1).

Questions/Answers

- Judy noted that the community in the outer Sounds doesn't feel that there has been any community consultation about the Great Walk bid for Queen Charlotte Track (the Track).

Clr Hook declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting.

- Three accommodation operators have recently closed in the Endeavour Inlet/Punga Cove areas which has resulted in a shortage of budget accommodation on the Track. There is also already a problem with not enough toilets which would get worse if the Track were to become a Great Walk.
- Discussion on the upgrade of the Meretoto/Ships Cove end of the track followed with these main points:
 - The people who live along the Track were surveyed and most did not want more bikers on the track.
 - The grant provided by the Council for the Track upgrade was discussed.
 - Shelly agreed to report the concerns raised at the meeting back to DOC.
 - The concerns raised at the meeting will be reported through Council's Planning, Finance and Community meeting via the SAG minutes.

Clr Hook resumed the Chair.

- Further information about the consultation process was provided by Shelly after the meeting (Appendix 2).
- Myrtle rust has been identified in Renwick and Havelock.
 - Judy suggested that each member identify a group of myrtle trees and keep an eye of them.
 - See the link below for more information
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/diseases/myrtle-rust/>

3. Marlborough Roads Update – Steve Murrin

- Steve introduced Braden Lobb who is the Marlborough Roads Contract Manager and is the first contact for issues regarding contractors.
- The new Government has released its Government Policy Statement on Transport (GPS) with a focus on safety, access, value for money and environment; this is a change in direction from the previous Government's focus on economic growth, development and safety.
- The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) is going to be submitted at the end of the week and has been realigned to meet the new Government's directive.
 - Big projects include: Ōpaoa Bridge replacement, realignment of Welds Pass and higher safety standards for State Highway 1 (Kiwirap Standard 4) and State Highway 6 (Kiwirap 3).
 - Extra safety initiatives are going to be put in place to reduce the road toll and the high incidence of single occupancy crashes that occur in Marlborough.
- All roads have been reclassified under the One Network Road Classification system. There is a customer level of service to be delivered on all roads dependant on its classification.
- There has been a lot of storm damage to roads following the weather over the last few weeks. It is possible that it may take up to 25 years for the ground to settle down completely after the earthquakes.
- Work on Port Underwood Road is being undertaken. French Pass Road is being graded. Work is being carried out on the seal on the Kenepuru Road. Sourcing gravel has become difficult, especially in the Kenepuru.

Questions/Answers

- The Cyclic Roding Crew for the Sounds has been up and running since March. They mainly clear branches, clean out culverts and feed information back on what work needs to be carried out by other crews. The trial will run for 12 months. Steve feels that the trial has been successful so far. Feedback on how this system is working would be welcome from the community.
Contact: steve.murrin@nzta.govt.nz
- Steve clarified that the contractors are contracted to spread a certain amount of gravel over the whole network and Marlborough Roads does not specify where it goes. There is monitoring by Marlborough Roads but due to lack of resources they rely on feedback from the community and contractors. The focus has been on southern Marlborough over the last few years but the focus has now shifted to northern Marlborough, although gravel resourcing issues in the Kenepuru means it has become very expensive to source gravel for the area.
- \$500,000 has been approved for work in the Opouri area to fix the river encroaching on the road. This work will be carried out shortly (subject to resource consent).
- It was noted that culverts in Tennyson Inlet have not been cleaned out.
- Having a specified contact from each area who liaises with Marlborough Roads works well for the communities and Marlborough Roads.
- The stated Level of Service for unsealed roads was discussed. The network will be audited to check that the Levels of Service are being met. Steve clarified that roads will still function to acceptable standards and water tables and culverts will still be taken care of.
- If a jetty is part of a road it brings the road up to the next classification level.
- If there are issues with Stop/Go people then approach HEB in the first instance and if there is no result let Marlborough Roads know of the problem.

4. Smart and Connect Aquaculture Sector – Hans Neilson

- Clr Hook gave an overview of the Smart and Connected programme. The Smart component is to do things better and Connected is to be connected regionally, nationally and internationally. Council's role is as a facilitator only.
- Trevor introduced Hans Neilson who is the Chair of the Harmony subgroup of Smart and Connected Aquaculture Sector.
- The Harmony group have been working on developing achievable outcomes. Aquaculture Week was one and having a balanced scorecard is another.
- Hans handed out two documents: A Balanced Scorecard for the Marlborough Aquaculture Sector and A Vision of Success (Appendix 3).
- The Harmony group would like community who interact with the Aquaculture Sector to have input in the process of achieving a balanced scorecard.

Comments:

- Judy noted that under the Environmental Measures column there is not much about environmental standards.
 - Hans noted that one of the challenges around having a balanced scorecard is being able to gather information and that they are trying to use sources of information that have already been gathered due to limited funds.
 - It was noted that the document is a starting point to gauge interest and feedback from communities.

- It was clarified that workshop was held with the Harmony group whose members include industry and community members.
- The outcome that the Harmony group would like to achieve by having a balanced score card is more community involvement in how the industry evolves and community pride in the industry.
- Jonathan noted that the term “make aquaculture more successful” will mean different things to different people.
- It was noted that when there are applications for marine farms there are hundreds of submissions opposing them so it is not unknown how members of the public feel about them.
- Cllr Hook noted that if the SAG members feel that their communities may want to be involved in the process then this meeting can provide the links between the two groups. The details of the next Harmony meeting will be passed out to the group via email. Contacts for Hans and Jonathan are below:

Jonathan Large: jonathan@mfml.co.nz

- Hans Neilson: hansneilson@gmail.com

5. Salmon Relocation Process – Rob Schuckard

- Rob tabled a statement that he read out to the group (Appendix 4).
- Rob read out a statement that he would like SAG to support in the form of a motion:
“As a matter of transparency, fairness and reflective of open governance, when Marlborough District Council invites members of SAG to participate in projects, workshops and committees of regional and national importance, full disclosure will be provided about Council’s past, present and intended future participation in relation to such matters.”
 - Judy supported Rob in his statements regarding transparency. She noted that they were several meetings in before it was openly stated that section 360 was underlying the process and that the Council’s involvement in 2014 had not been made clear to those on the working group.
 - Cllr Hook noted that he did not know about the situation either.
- Rob read from an MPI document that he received under the Official Information Act, part of the document is attached (Appendix 5).
 - *“Marlborough District Council staff worked with New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) for over a year on options to relocate existing farms.”*
 - Steve was able to comment on this. Andrew Besley CE at the time took the lead on the implementation of the Best Practice Guidelines as part of a senior working group also involving MPI and NZKS.
 - Steve also commented on Rob’s point about the shift from the focus on productivity to benthic effects, noting the shift came about because monitoring results were given to MPI from the Forsyth Bay and Otanerau Bay Farms that highlighted the depth of uneaten food underneath the farms and MPI decided to address that.
- Rob wants to separate the Best Practice Guidelines and the goal of the Government to expand aquaculture independently of the outcome of the Board of Inquiry and Supreme Court and feels that the community has been deluded by MPI using best practice guidelines to give effect to expansion.
 - Steve noted that this is a matter for MPI rather than Council and not something that can be addressed through SAG.

Rob tabled a motion:

“As a matter of transparency, fairness and reflective of open governance, when Marlborough District Council invites members of SAG to participate in projects, workshops and committees of regional and national importance, full disclosure will be provided about Council’s past, present and intended future participation in relation to such matters.”

Seconded: Judy Hellstrom

Motion: Carried

6. General Business

Marlborough Sounds – Sustainable Land Transition Fund – Eric Jorgensen

- A document was pre-circulated to the group via email (Appendix 6).
- Eric noted the document is still in draft and asked the group if it is something SAG would like to take forward and work on toward a goal of receiving policy and community support.
- It was suggested that a sub-committee to workshop the paper would be a good place to start.
- Members put their names forward for the workshop: Vic, Jonathan, Judy, Rob, Linda, Ross, Ken Rick, Tim, Eric and Clr Taylor. Steve agreed to be the Council liaison. (Monyeen who was not at the meeting subsequently indicated she would like to be part of the group).
- A workshop will be held with the sub-committee reporting back to the next SAG meeting.

Mooring Consents – Judy Hellstrom

Background

- Te Ātiawa is one of the bodies that are required to be consulted when applying for re-consent of a mooring in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui. Te Ātiawa insist on the condition that within 10 years the mooring is changed to a swing mooring. If there is no undertaking by the applicant to put a swing mooring in within 10 years, Te Ātiawa will not agree to the consent. .
- Judy has talked to the Council’s Consents Officer and Te Ātiawa about this issue, and asked if Te Ātiawa had a policy on the benthic state, dependent on the area and they clarified that the requirement is not a policy but is an across the board requirement.
- The only mooring provider who can put the new technology at present is Enviro. However Enviro have offered to sell the technology to other mooring providers.
- Judy noted that the condition is not enforced consistently throughout Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.
- Clr Hook commented that the resource consent will go by the Plan (Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan) and the decision can be challenged through the resource consent process.
 - Judy noted that the Plan is silent on this issue and she feels that there is a commercial agreement between Te Ātiawa and Enviro, and that to challenge the decision is more expensive than the new mooring which would cost approx. \$5000.00.
 - Clr Taylor noted that if someone submits against a resource consent then Council is required to follow a process to its completion.

7. MDC Update – Alan Johnson

- The MEP Hearings are continuing, for more information check the Council’s website:
<https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/programmes/ListProgrammeEvents?id=705555>
- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Hearings Panel has heard 20 of the 33 submitters. The RPMP goes to Council for ratification in July.

- Funding has been built in the Long Term Plan to implement the RPMP (subject to ratification) including provisions for:
 - risk pathway management with Mediterranean fan worm and marine biosecurity provisions; and
 - Partnering with DOC and the community to remove new invasive species.
- The Long Term Plan (LTP) Hearings have been completed. There were 305 submissions overall with 140 being heard. Funding decisions include:
 - a further \$250,000 investment in Science and Monitoring in the next year;
 - capital investment of \$200,000 for a partnership with LINZ for Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) dependant on the Provincial Growth Fund;
 - investment in more coastal resources. (Year 3);
 - investment in data and environmental monitoring;
 - investment in biodiversity (2019 onwards);
 - investment in land management;
 - allocation of funds for science for setting Freshwater Management Limits; and
 - allocation of funds for Air Quality Management.

8. Coastal Science & Monitoring Update – Steve Urlich

- If Coastal Occupancy Charges are implemented Council is required to be transparent about what the money is spent on. It will be used to develop coastal research strategy incorporating priorities set by community, iwi and industry.
 - The aim would be to provide knowledge on how and why the ecosystems are changing.
 - It is also hoped to spend Coastal Occupancy Charges on the mapping of the Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere sea bed.
- The public release of the information from the seabed mapping of Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui is being held on Thursday 30 August at 7.00 pm at the Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park.

9. Positive Feedback

- Cllr Hook noted that it was good to have so much discussion and to have industry sitting around the table.

10. Agenda Items for the next Meeting

- Please forward agenda items for the next meeting to Rebecca.

11. Actions from the Meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works	Alan Johnson
2.	Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay	Gina Ferguson
3.	Investigate the no camping signage at Portage	Jane Tito

The next meeting date is 24 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

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