

## Sounds Advisory Group

---

Please find enclosed, for your information, a copy of the notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held on Monday 18 September 2017. These notes have not been confirmed and may be subject to change.

Any issues arising from these notes may be taken to your local member as a first contact, although any member of the Sounds Advisory Group is happy to discuss any issues.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation/Area</b>
Aaron Robinson	MFIA
Eric Jorgensen	Sounds Integrated Management Group
David Oddie	Sounds Councillor
Debbie Stone	New Zealand Marine Farming Assn
Judy Hellstrom	Endeavour Inlet
Ken Roush	Port Underwood
Linda Booth	Duncan Bay
Monyeen Wedge	Queen Charlotte Sound (Inner)
Nadine Taylor	Sounds Councillor
Poneke Rene	D'Urville Island Residents Assn
Rachel Drake	Outer Pelorus
Raymond Smith	Iwi Representative
Rob Schuckard	French Pass Residents Assn
David Hayes	DOC
Ross Withell	Kenepuru & Central Sounds
Tim Greenhough	Okiwi Bay
Trevor Hook	Sounds Councillor and Chair
Victor Koller	Moetapu Residents Assn in the Mahau Sound

Please contact Rebecca Waldron at Marlborough District Council (e-mail [rebecca.waldron@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:rebecca.waldron@marlborough.govt.nz)) if you are no longer the contact person for the resident group and would like this information sent to another contact (please provide details). Also if you are receiving this information via post, you may wish to provide an e-mail address to enable this form of contact to be utilised.

A comprehensive copy of the notes will be available on the Marlborough District Council Website <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/coastal-reports-and-special-investigations>

## Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 18 September 2017 at 9.00 am

---

### Present

Clr Hook, Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Judy Hellstrom, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Monyeen Wedge, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake, Aaron Robinson, Vic Koller, Steve Murrin, Shelly Sidley and Eric Jorgensen (9.30 am) Jono Underwood (11.00 am)

### Guest Speakers

Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads)

### MDC Staff

Alan Johnson, Linda Craighead, Richard Coningham, Steve Ulrich (9.30 am), Pere Hawes (10.30 am), Jono Underwood (11.00 am)

### In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

### Apologies

Rob Schuckard, Poneke Rene, Dave Hayes, Jane Tito

### 1. Resignation – Kristen Gerard

- Due to other commitments, Kristen Gerard has resigned from the group. A letter will be sent thanking her for all the work she has done on behalf of the Sounds Advisory Group.

### 2. Actions from the Previous Meeting

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

### 3. Assets and Services Update – Richard Coningham

- Richard introduced himself and explained that he is the Council's contact person for Marlborough Roads and then passed over to Steve Murrin to give an update of the various roading projects which are taking place in the Sounds.

### Roading Update – Steve Murrin

- The biggest issue facing Marlborough Roads at the moment is contractor availability. Due to the works taking place on State Highways 1 and 63 there is a lack of contractors to carry out work in Marlborough. Jobs are being put out for tender and not receiving interest or prices are coming back between 30 – 50 % higher than what has been estimated.
- Local issues include:
  - Massive slip on Woodmans Road (D'Urville Island). This is being assessed by engineers. Contractors will be looking at it on 5-6 October. The slip is 150 m wide.
  - There is a drop-out on Archers Road at Tennyson Inlet. Work will commence soon and hopefully be completed by Labour Weekend.

- A concrete channel will be installed along the edge of Kenepuru Road to alleviate the Portage stormwater issue. Contractors are pricing the work and subject to contractor availability, this job will be completed by Christmas.
  - There is still earthquake and flood damage to be completed on the Kenepuru Road.
  - Pre works are about to commence on the Kenepuru seal extension site. A tender for the seal extension works is about to go out for pricing.
  - French Pass seal extension –5 km was completed earlier in the year. The last ½ km will hopefully be completed before Christmas.
  - Contractor availability is holding up earthquake and flood damage repairs on Okiwi Bay/Wharf Road.
- Trevor suggested that communities may not understand that there is an issue with contractor availability and the price differences between now and pre-earthquake, and that it may be beneficial for Marlborough Roads to put out some information which can be circulated to community groups and residents associations. Steve is going to speak to Glyn Walters about arranging some communication.
  - Monyeen noted that communities are always concerned about the roads which are used by Forestry and that it would be good to clarify that work is not being held up by the Forestry but by lack of contractors. It was suggested that the Marlborough Roads statement be linked to the newsletter that SAG is going to put out before Christmas.
  - A cyclic crew is being priced to maintain the roads in the Sounds. Due to Health and Safety it is not possible for a road man to work by himself.

### **Questions/Answers**

- Marlborough Roads was thanked for the work that has been carried out on the Tennyson Hill. It was noted that a large tree has fallen on the Opouri Saddle over the weekend which has been cleared but part of the road is still blocked.
- Penzance Bay residents have concerns about the design of the retaining wall which is being installed at the slip. Steve noted that it will be a driven rail iron retaining wall. He is going to forward the design to Linda to pass on to her community.
- The river on the Opouri Road at Tunapai is now approximately only one metre from the road. Steve noted that Marlborough Roads do not receive funding to do preventative work. There is a similar issue at Duncan Bay where a farmer cannot get resource consent to carry out water works to prevent a road being washed out. Alan is going to provide some information to the group to give clarity around what is required for the resource consent process for water works.
- Opus is carrying out a safety review of the Kenepuru Road. Re-marking the road and installed edge marker posts is being looked at.
- The issue of the culverts on the Titirangi Road was noted
- The Kaimiko Bridge repairs were to commence tomorrow, however because of contractor availability this has been pushed out a couple of weeks.
- Some Sounds communities are setting up a spokesperson to liaise with Marlborough Roads and this is working very well.
- Richard was asked about the new wastewater system at Havelock as the resource consent will be running out soon. Richard noted that a cultural affects assessment has been received by Ngāti Kuia and that he will provide a progress update to the Havelock Community Association.

***Richard Coningham and Steve Murrin withdrew from the meeting at 9.30 am.***

#### **4. Freedom Campers – Vic Koller**

- Vic has been evaluating the effects of freedom camping on the community at Double Bay. There are six spots available for freedom campers but there are nearly always more vehicles camped there. Vic is asking for Council to help come up with a tool to prevent campers coming to the Bay when it is already full.
  - Linda Craighead replied that Jane Tito (Reserves Manager) has been investigating an app to help with this type of situation. Linda is going to provide the information to the group.
- Trevor noted there is no central government direction to help with the situation and that there is no easy fix.
- Linda Booth noted that the Motor Caravan Association of New Zealand emphasises that people should not be camping illegally; however it is still occurring and that the public have no authority to tell people they should not be staying in places illegally. She thinks education is the best way forward.
- Judy suggested that freedom campers could be charged a fee to stay at sites overnight.
- Funding has been allocated for a freedom camping enforcement officer this summer.

#### **5. Reserves Update – Linda Craighead**

- The Tirimoana/Thompson Reserve Management Plan is nearing completion.

#### **6. DOC Update – Shelly Sidley**

- Shelly provided an update to the group (Appendix 1).

#### **Questions/Answers**

- Whale Moratorium: There is a moratorium for new commercial vessels. All existing recreational permits remain active but no new ones will be issued. Research is being carried out on the impact on the whales and at the end of one year an assessment will be carried out to determine whether questions on the impact viewing is having on whales can be answered. Information is available on appropriate behaviour around marine life (Attached with the minutes).
- DOC is due to launch online training for recreational boaties around marine life. Commercial Operators are trained to be SMART Operators (Sustainable Marine Mammal Actions in Recreation and Tourism).
- Trevor noted that having a camp host present at DOC sites has made a positive impact especially in relation to fire callouts.
  - Shelly noted that 95% people will pay their fees if a camp host is present at a site. There is no one to monitor the site at Clova Bay at present.

#### **7. Environmental Science and Monitoring Update**

##### ***Coastal Science Programme***

##### **Aquaculture Review Working Group**

- Steve co-ordinates a technical advisory group which has been providing technical advice to the Aquaculture Review Working Group.

##### **Multi Beam Seabed Habitat Mapping**

- Council's Coastal Scientist and Council's Harbourmaster are endeavouring to build a funding partnership with which to approach LINZ to get a multi-beam survey undertaken in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere. The earliest that the survey would be able to take place is July 2018 (dependent on funding). If it were to take place it would provide valuable information on the distribution of seabed habitat types and provide modern nautical charts. A number of potential funding partners have been contacted and liaison is ongoing. A survey would provide a data-rich snapshot of the Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere which would assist with the sustainable management and protection of important coastal ecosystems. It would also significantly improve the charted and non-charted hydrographic

information available for the region and directly contribute to the provision of a safe and navigable waterway for vessels of all sizes. For more information on multi-beam, please see the NIWA/DML video of the completion of field work over 43,000 hectares of Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhncdcSO1Nw&list=PLqPZqbU7SYg60STCMH4\\_w4M9zubGRQhfX&index=13](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhncdcSO1Nw&list=PLqPZqbU7SYg60STCMH4_w4M9zubGRQhfX&index=13)

- Work has been accelerated on the analysis of multi-beam data for East Bay in order to show case when canvassing potential funding partners.

### Questions/Answers

- Judy noted that the information will inform the Adaptive Management process which is going to be undertaken by the Aquaculture Working Group.
  - Steve noted that adaptive management is good when you don't have complete information but that when you have complete information (such as from a multi-beam seabed survey) then you are in a better position to make an informed decision.
- Marine Farm monitoring reports are received by Compliance. The Environmental Science and Monitoring Department's advice is sought if the Compliance Officers assess that they require it. The reports are public information. (Available via the consent no on the Council website).

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/property-files-online>

- Eric noted that there is community feeling that the latest set of monitoring reports do not show complete compliance. He noted that there has been a recent resource consent application by NZ King Salmon (NZKS) to alter conditions around monitoring allowing the Peer Review Panel to alter the monitoring conditions in their own right.
  - Steve was able to speak to this: The Peer Review Panel is appointed by NZKS under the Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond (Kopaua) consents. The Peer Review Panel requirement was put in place by the Environmental Protection Authority's Board of Inquiry in 2012 due to concern that there wasn't technical capacity within Council at the time to evaluate the reports. The alteration to consent conditions is being made to provide consistency to the consents. The Peer Review Panel comprises Dr Mark James of Aquatic Environmental Sciences; Dr Peter Longdill of Groundswell Science & Consulting, and Dr Shaun Ogilvie of Eco Research Associates Limited. Their independent advice and review of monitoring reports prepared by NZKS's science providers provides an additional assurance that the farms are not having a negative effect on the water quality of the Sounds at current levels of production. The Peer Review Panel Report is attached to the Monitoring Reports when they are submitted to Council
- Judy asked what process is followed if the Peer Review Panel doesn't think that the monitoring reports are satisfactory in terms of benthic best practice guidelines.
  - Steve answered that the Best Practice Guidelines have a compliance consequence framework set out. These must be followed where the guidelines have been incorporated into consents. Currently, Te Pangu and Clay Point have the guidelines implemented. One of the outcomes of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) salmon relocation process is to shift poorly-performing farms into areas of higher water flow, at which time the guidelines will be implemented for the relocated farms.
- It was suggested that Gina Ferguson (Compliance Manager) come to a future meeting to give an update on the consent compliance of marine farms.

## 8. Harbours Update – Luke Grogan

- The Navigation Safety Bylaws are out for consultation until 31 September.
  - Compulsory Registration of Jet skis: This is a new bylaw, Harbours think this will allow better engagement with the Jet ski community, allow targeting of educational campaigns and enable Harbours to follow up with any issues. Auckland Transport has developed a registration data base which will mean Marlborough's jet ski owners will be able to use the infrastructure that is already in place for the registration process.

There is no provision under the Maritime Transport Act to extend the registration process to all vessels.
  - The bylaw on the compulsory wearing of lifejackets in vessels under 6 metres in length is also receiving a lot of interest. Other areas in New Zealand already have this bylaw. There are exemptions to the rule such as when diving or rowing. The rule only applies when the vehicle is underway.
  - Speed bylaws are also being updated. 5 knot marker buoys have been placed in high risk areas. (Areas of high or multi use). The geography of the Sounds sometimes means that it is difficult to be clear whether the 200 m rule applies and the 5 knot marker buoys mean there is no ambiguity about where the speed rules will be enforced. A safe speed campaign targeting specific areas will be undertaken this summer.

### Questions/Answers

- Judy asked if 5 knot buoys will be placed in areas where there is not 400 m between marine farms on two sides of a bay.
  - Luke answered that are several areas like this throughout the Sounds and that the number and density of boats will need to be taken into consideration when considering whether 5 knot buoys are installed. Many of the 5 knot buoys have been placed in areas following suggestions by the community.
- The Jet ski Bylaw will not come in to effect until mid-2018. A jet ski will only need to be registered once in its lifetime and will have a unique number to identify it.
- The high risk areas where the 5 knot buoys are being placed have not been defined in the bylaws. This means there will be flexibility for changes to be made. The information will be made available on the website, the Cruise Guide and publicly displayed. Signs will also be put up in areas such as launching ramps.

<http://www.cruiseguide.co.nz/>

- Council's new mooring monitoring charge was discussed.
- Luke clarified that Harbours doesn't inspect jetties but occasionally receives reports about them and will check them out if there are issues. The public is welcome to call the Harbours office with any issues or queries.
- Subsidence of areas of the Sounds after the earthquake was discussed.

***Luke Grogan withdrew from the meeting at 11.15 am.***

## 9. MDC Policy Update – Pere Hawes

### *Process for the PME*

- The first minute from the Hearings Panel is being sent to submitters (who indicated they wish to be heard) setting out their intended procedures.
- It is possible to access a summary of the relief requested from the Council website.

<http://data.marlborough.govt.nz/EnvironmentPlanSubmissionPublic>

- Roughly 1/3 of submitters submitted in support of the provisions. 1/3 submitted in support in part and 1/3 submitted in opposition. There are approximately 17,000 submission points.
- The Hearings Panel is made up of Clrs Hook, Oddie, Shenfield and Arbuckle and three independent Hearings Commissioners: Shonagh Kenderdine (retired High Court Judge), Ron Crosby (retired local Lawyer – currently sitting on the Waitangi Tribunal) and Rawiri Faulkner (Iwi Commissioner who has been recently working for the Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- The Hearings will be heard by topic and there will be one decision made on the Plan at the end of the proceedings.
- There will be an opportunity to provide additional evidence to complement a submission before the hearing. All evidence will be pre circulated and taken as read.
- Section 42 reports will be made available three weeks prior to the date that any additional evidence needs to be circulated to the Panel.
- Hearings will start on 20 November. The Iwi Chapter is the first topic and will be heard at Ōmaka Marae. The next topics will be the Introduction and Background and Chapter Four “Use of Natural and Physical Resources”.
- It is intended that section 42A reports will be sent to submitters and they will also be available on the website.
- Hearing Block 2 which commences on 15 February 2018 will cover Natural Character and Landscape, Climate Change, Energy and Indigenous Bio-diversity.
- Submitters are restricted to 20 minutes including expert evidence; there will be extra time for questions by the Panel. All Panel members will hear all evidence.
- The Panel is mindful that there may be **extraordinary** circumstances where submitters may need to be heard out of sequence or need longer than 20 minutes.
- A hearings portal is being made on the Council website and this will have all the section 42A reports and pre-circulated evidence available. Submitters will have the ability to upload evidence to the portal.
- The Hearings Panel will be sitting four days per week using Council Chambers.
- Pere read the last paragraph of the minute to the group.

*“Finally, the MEP will set the strategic direction for the sustainable management of Marlborough’s natural and physical resources for the foreseeable future. The Panel understands the serious nature of these proceedings and our decision making role. This has been foremost in our mind when considering and determining a hearing procedure that is fair and appropriate”.*

### ***Aquaculture Review Marine Farming Provisions***

- The notified Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) didn't include provisions for enabling and managing marine farming activity.
- The review process re-commenced in March this year. Council have put up a framework and the group has been assisting Council with applying that framework. Part of the work of the group has been about spatial allocation and the group has been meeting fortnightly to review the appropriateness of marine farm space.
- Highlights have been the need to provide for an adaptive management regime and the recognition of the potential and importance of off-shore marine farming.
- Pere has been impressed by the maturity of the marine farmers' willingness to consider options that would result in environmental improvements.
- The third stage will be shaping provisions and testing them.
- The outcomes will go out for public consultation.
- The objective is to get a variation of the notified MEP before decisions are realised on the MEP.
- DOC and MPI have also been present during the review process and Judy confirmed that a good working relationship has developed between community and industry. She noted that the process addresses current farms and doesn't address future areas of marine farms.
- Cllr Oddie thanked Pere for all the hard work he has done through the process.

***Cllr Taylor and Pere Hawes withdrew for the meeting at 11.30 am***

### **10. Biosecurity Update- Jono Underwood**

- A boneseed operation is being carried out in conjunction with Picton DOC in Tory Channel/Kura Te Au and Snake Point.
- A fourth vessel has been detected with Mediterranean fanworm (MFW). The vessel has been berthed at Auckland for four months and then spent time travelling around the Sounds. The fanworms were detected by NIWA doing new to New Zealand surveillance in August.
- Council has declared a Small Scale Management Programme under the Biosecurity Act for MFW. This gives Council powers under the Biosecurity Act.
- There are proposed provisions for MFW in the review of the Pest Management Plan where, if a vessel is found to be at high risk of having the fanworms, the owner can be directed to clean the vessel. The owners of vessels infected with MFW have to pay for the cleaning. There is a mobile floating facility available but is very expensive to use. It will be looked at more when vessels are detected in remote locations and the risk of moving them through key aquaculture areas to haul-out facilities is too great.
- The Review of the Pest Management Plan is in draft stage and there will be a submission process when it has been notified. This is planned for early February 2018.
- Jono has been to D'Urville Island recently to discuss with the community two new proposed pest plant programmes that will affect the Island.
- Alongside the proposed Review of the Pest Management Plan, a strategic document outlining where the different programmes fit will be put out for public comment and feedback. *Please note: There has been a change in position on this, since the SAG meeting; with the Strategic Document now being produced and put through Council Committee for ratification rather than going out for public consultation and feedback.*



- Jono noted there is crossover between the PMEP and Biosecurity in regard to in-water cleaning of vessels. Balance between contaminant risk from anti-foul paint release and promoting regular cleaning to reduce biosecurity risk from marine pests.

***Jono withdrew from the meeting at 11.50 am.***

## **11. MDC Coastal Programme Update – Steve Ulrich**

- Council and DOC have continued the monitoring of significant marine sites. Sites off the eastern side of D'Urville, Waitui Bay, Outer Pelorus/Te Hoiere and Croisilles Harbour were surveyed by Davidson Environmental. The report has been presented to Council and can be found on Council's website:

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Significant%20Marine%20Sites/Significant\\_Marine\\_Sites\\_Monitoring\\_Report\\_2017.pdf](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Significant%20Marine%20Sites/Significant_Marine_Sites_Monitoring_Report_2017.pdf)

- The work will continue next summer with sites being monitor with sites at Fitzroy Bay, Tennyson Inlet and Beatrix Bay.

### ***Questions/Answers***

- Eric asked if the increases are in new sites and the decreases are in older sites. Steve noted that if you overlay the map of where MPI dredge and trawl over the monitored areas you can see that there has been some physical impact. It is known that soft sediment habitats are vulnerable to disturbances.
- Steve clarified that “physical disturbance” is mainly from recreational and commercial dredging and “all forms of disturbance” includes such things as anchoring.

### ***Ship Wake Monitoring***

- Steve presented a report on Ship Wake Monitoring (Appendix 2). Every six months Council employs surveyors to look at beach profiles in a range of locations in the Sounds. These have been monitored since 1995.
- Some erosion has reversed, some stabilized and in some sites the sediment will never recover.
- The recommendation by Kevin Parnell who set up the programme is that monitoring can be eased back as sites have moved into a state of equilibrium, and that some sites may be dropped. Council will continue to monitor sites every two years.
- Council also monitors the shellfish and other species in subtidal and intertidal areas throughout the ferry route.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/monitoring-and-research/ship-wake-monitoring>.

A report summarising 20 years of monitoring by Davidson Environmental was also recently submitted to Council. There has been some recovery since the fast-ferries were withdrawn and it can be plausibly put down to the slowing of ferry speeds.

### ***Estuary Monitoring***

- Monitoring that has been carried out at the Mahakipawa and Kaiuma Estuaries shows significant deterioration. Seagrass has been reduced down to 1% of each estuary and both estuaries are now among the muddiest in the country.
- Cores are being taken from the Havelock Estuary to try to reconstruct how the sedimentation rates have changed and identify the sources to better target interventions.

***Clr Taylor returned to the meeting at 12.30 pm***

## 12. Newsletter – Alan Johnson

- A Sounds Advice Newsletter will be produced before Christmas to distribute to Residents Associations.
  - Some suggestions for the newsletter are: profiles of Science and Monitoring programmes, Biosecurity, Policy update, link to Roding update, septic tank reminders, DOC link to marine mammal information, Harbours update, fire permit information and smoke alarm reminders, Marlborough Lines update

## 13. Integrated Management Trust Update – Eric Jorgensen

- The Integrated Management Trust has been invited to make a presentation to the Environmental Defence Society Annual Conference.
- The Marlborough Marine Futures provided an update to the Planning, Finance and Community Committee on 27 July. The update included the Marlborough Sounds Marine Park Public Discussion Document. Eric made a presentation to the Committee (Appendix 3). He noted that the Trust has a good relationship with the public and Council but will require support from government agencies for the project to gain traction and that Council will need to lead for this to occur. The minutes are available on the Council website:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2017/Planning%20Finance%20and%20Community%202017%20List/Planning%20Finance%26CommunityCommittee27July2017Minutes.pdf>

- Eric emphasised that the core of the Trust is about connecting and letting people find solutions for the place.
- Forums have been well attended. 80% of the responders to a survey put out by the Trust have indicated that the Marlborough Sounds could be managed better.
- There are three new trustees: Bill Foster, Kiah Greenland and Fraenzi Furigo.
- The Trust is engaged in the Bottlenecks Programme, National Blue Cod Strategy, Sustainable Seas and a Coastal Research Strategy for Marlborough.

## 14. MFA Update – Debbie Stone

- Debbie updated the group on the progress with the Smart and Connected Aquaculture working groups which were implemented last year.
  - Harmony - good progress has been made.
  - Value and Innovation – A think tank has resulted in a slurry which can be used for pet food, human consumption, protein builder and additive to pharmaceuticals. This project has gone as far as it can with the Smart and Connected group and has been parked.
  - Regulatory –The MFA has been involved in the NES and Marlborough Aquaculture Provisions processes and therefore the Regulatory Group has not been operational as it would be overlapping these processes.
- A Marine Week has been suggested by the Harmony group.
- MFA have a more open relationship with the Council following the implementation of the Smart and Connected Aquaculture group.
- MFA has met with DOC, NIWA, Council, and Rob Schuckard to discuss a King Shag Research Project. It has been agreed that it is DOC's responsibility as the king shag is an endangered species. The interested parties have offered assistance to DOC if it decides to undertake the research project.
- MPI have provided new biosecurity signs which MFA are using to replace outdate signs and put in new ones where needed. Please let Debbie know of any areas which could benefit from a sign.
- Biosecurity Management Plans (early stages of planning).

- There have been concerns from residents of Wet Inlet about a spat sight that has been reinstated. It is suspected that the spat sight was previously not correctly situated as residents were not able to see it. MFA is working with Harbours to reduce the visual impact of the site.

## 15. Forestry Update - Aaron Robinson

- Log prices are at record levels and the Government Emissions Trading Scheme is now worth \$18.00. Interest is high for investors wanting to buy forestry.
- The MPI Forestation Grant Scheme is in its third year and provides grants to turn non-forest land into forest land. (5 to 300 ha).
- Aaron has noticed improvements in forestry harvesting systems in the last two years.
- The National Environmental Standards for Forestry will be coming out in May 2018. This will result in an increase in compliance costs to both the industry and Council.
  - Steve noted that it will provide the ability for the community to put in more stringent rules than the NES in a sensitive receiving environment, such as the coastal waters of the Marlborough Sounds. A lot of the land zoned for forestry in Marlborough has a very high erosion risk (requires consent) which give the Council the opportunity to implement higher standards. This zoning is being challenged by at least one forest owner to MPI.
  - The NES states a setback of 30 metres in coastal areas for re-planting. However this will not be enough to reduce erosion in the Marlborough Sounds. There is the ability to make rules more stringent than in the NES.

## Questions/Answers

- Aaron clarified that forestry grants are made with consideration of erosion risks and wilding trees but do not take into consideration harvesting issues.
- Vic asked if the NES will stop third re-plantings of forests with thought to the sedimentation of estuaries. Staff answered that it would not stop replantings but would allow for riparian setbacks for streams greater than three metres (ten metres width) and streams less than 3 metres (5 metres width). Council is talking to the Forestry Industry to discuss opportunities, to come up with a set of guidelines for re-planting which make sense environmentally by retiring erosion prone gullies and faces and take into account efficiency and health and safety.
- Vic noted that wilding pines are a hazard on the sides of roads in the Sounds. Trevor noted that there needs to be discussions with the affected parties and industry to provide a solution for this problem.

## 16. General Business

- It was agreed that phone numbers of members would not be included on the cover page of the minutes when they are distributed to Residents Associations and iwi.
- Applications for Marlborough District Council Community Grants close on 27 October 2017.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-district-council-community-grants>

## 17. Positive Feedback

- The Forestry and MFA representatives were thanked for coming and listening to the concerns of the group.

## 18. Other Matters

- The off-site meeting will take place at the first meeting of 2018.
- Some suggestions for future agendas follow:
  - Fish passage – Peter Hamill, Trevor James
  - King shags – Rob Schuckard
  - Update on the consent compliance of marine farms. (Gina Ferguson – Compliance Manager)

## 19. Actions from the Meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Check if there is information on sea level rises available for the Marlborough Sounds.	Steve Ulrich
2. Liaise with Glyn Waters to organise a communication on Marlborough Roads contractor availability	Steve Murrin
3. Forward design of slip retaining wall on the Archers Road to Linda Booth <b>Completed</b>	Steve Murrin
4. Provide an update on the progress of the new wastewater system for Havelock to the Havelock Community Association	Richard Coningham
5. Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works	Alan Johnson
6. Provide information to the group on an app for freedom campers	Linda Craighead

The next meeting is 20 November 2017 at Council.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

Record No: 17186480