

## **Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held at Port Underwood on Monday 18 March 2019 at 10.00 am**

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### **Present**

Clr Hook (Chair), Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Monyeen Wedge, ,Rob Schuckard, Eric Jorgensen, Jodi Milne, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Judy Hellstrom, Rick Osbourne, Vic Koller, Lynley Perkins, Emma Hopkinson, Rick Osbourne (10.10 am).

### **MDC Staff**

Alan Johnson, Oliver Wade

### **In Attendance**

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

### **Apologies**

Poneke Rene, Ross Withell, Dave Hayes, Steve Murrin

### **1. Welcome**

- Clr Hook thanked Sarah and Ken for providing their home and acting as hosts for both of the day's meetings.
- Clr Hook welcomed Emma to the meeting. Emma is going to replace Rachel Drake who has resigned from SAG. She will continue to represent Outer Pelorus/Te Hoiere. He also thanked Jodi for coming over from Nelson and introduced Oliver Wade, Council's new Coastal Scientist to the group.

### **2. Actions from the previous meeting**

<b>Action</b>		<b>Person Responsible</b>
1.	Contact Jodi Milne regarding flounder stocks, geoducks and sea cucumber update	Alan
Completed – Agenda item 4		
2.	SLTF Terms of Reference for the next meeting	Judy/Alan
Completed – Agenda item 5		
3.	Look into whether the wetland at Endeavour Inlet is included in the MEP	Alan
The wetland is scheduled in the MEP – Alan will continue to investigate what can be done about the issue of people driving over it - tbc		
4.	Organise for Civil Defence and FENZ to do a presentation on small community preparedness	Alan
To be scheduled for the next meeting held at Council - completed		

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Action	Person Responsible
5.	Check whether a complaint about the effluent on Opouri Road has been lodged with Compliance.
Alan	
A complaint has been received and is currently being worked through by Compliance – completed	
Roading complaints should be fed directly to Marlborough Roads, if the issue is RMA related, email the Compliance team directly at <a href="mailto:compliance@marlborough.govt.nz">compliance@marlborough.govt.nz</a>	
6.	Check with the Compliance Team on how dog signs were distributed in Duncan Bay
Alan	
Three dogs on leash signs were given to a resident to put up to resolve the issue of people coming into the Bay by boat with their dogs. There may also have been signs put up which are not Council signs, Alan suggested the Residents Association try to resolve the issue - completed	

- (From Point 3 above) Linda noted there is a large amount of logging going on in the Opouri Road area at present and it was suggested that Jon Cunliffe be invited to speak to the group about the work he is doing mapping the exotic forests throughout the Sounds to determine when the different forests will be harvested.
  - Rick noted that at a well attended meeting organised by Jon Cunliffe at Havelock it was accepted by most land owners that Kenepuru Road is not suitable for logging trucks. Two landowners are going to implement their own barge sites.
  - Rob asked if Council has a role to identify issues and do trials to create better outcomes with regard to harvesting forestry. The Councillors noted that Marlborough Forests is run at arm's length from Council and they are not aware of any trials. There are staff conversations being carried out on incorporating buffering in Marlborough Forests properties. Rick noted that there has been work carried out on additives for road surfaces which is something Marlborough Roads could consider.
  - Rob noted that Council should be discussing making their forestry practices more sustainable in order to lead the rest of the industry in the area for the benefit of the environment. The Councillors agreed to take this point to MDC Holdings. Cllr Oddie noted that forest owners may not be open to trying new techniques when they are already operating in a location that is already only marginally viable such as in parts of the Sounds.
  - Rick commented that costs of the barge sites are relatively small but the real cost is in handling of the logs on either side of the barge site.
  - Eric noted that we should be looking at how forestry will look like in 100 years' time rather than the way it is being managed now.
- **Other points:**
  - Judy: that risk assessment on how the trees are harvested is not taken into consideration at the present time.
  - Cllr Hook: that the integrated management process should take care of this.
  - Alan: the NES – Plantation Forestry has a range of permitted activities around the requirement for forestry. Continued within planting and harvesting plans, risk management is included.

### 3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes

The following issues were raised from the previous minutes.

#### Roading Crew

- Vic noted that Moetapu Bay road has not had a visit from the Roothing Crew for some time. Clr Hook confirmed that the Roothing Crew is going to be included in the next contract round and processes are being followed to make sure the delivery of the service is more suitable.
- This matter was discussed further with Clr Taylor noting that the communities concerns have been raised with Steve Murrin and he is going to include an auditing regime in the new contract which should take care of some of these issues.

#### Endeavour Inlet Unformed Legal Road

- Judy noted that the problem of vehicles using the unformed road at Endeavour Inlet is escalating with a 60 year old Kohekohe tree being chopped down in February to make the track wider for vehicles. It was agreed at the previous meeting that DOC would look into this matter. Alan is going to check with Dave Hayes on if there has been any progress towards a solution to this problem.

### 4. MPI (Fisheries New Zealand) Update – (Jodi Milne)

- Jodi asked for feedback on what the group would like from her at the meetings.
- Consultation is taking place at the moment on commercial fisheries (Your Fish Your Say) and Blue cod regulations.
- Scallop 7 Working Group has released a draft strategy which will go in front of the Minister in the next few weeks. It will be possible to submit on this when it goes to consultation.
- April Sustainability decisions are due (including Sea cucumber). The Minister's decision is expected this week.
- The prioritisation process for October Sustainability rounds is being carried out at the moment. Stocks to be looked at will be finalised in May.

#### Questions/Answers

- Rob asked if Jodi and the Councillors have any knowledge of a proposal for a salmon farm in the middle of the Waitata Reach and if this is so; how it can be reconciled with the public consultation that took place where the middle farm was ruled out and where the Panel decided not to recommend the location to the Minister. Judy confirmed that she has also heard of the proposal through reliable sources.
  - Jodi confirmed that she hasn't heard about the proposal and noted that the aquaculture part of MPI is a part of a different team. She agreed to look into the matter and report back to the group.
  - The Councillors confirmed that they have no knowledge of the proposal..
- Jodi is going to check on whether the flounder hatchery proposal for the Mahau Sounds is going ahead. *(An update on this was forwarded to members after the meeting).*

#### Geoduck update

- Jodi confirmed that there has been a lack of knowledge around the harvest method and effect on benthos. The industry was issued a special permit eight years ago to undertake biomass research. The majority of the research was undertaken in Golden/Tasman Bay. Because of this research the industry is seeking a TAC increase to harvest what is naturally there. Geoducks have been flagged for the October Sustainability Rounds although it hasn't been determined if it will become a priority stock yet.
- Stakeholders in the Marlborough Sounds have been spoken to by the industry.

- Jodi confirmed that the research undergoes a peer review process.
- The Cawthron Institute has been doing research on farming Geoducks.

### *Sea cucumbers*

- The Minister has not made a decision on the Sea cucumber quota yet.

### *Scallops*

- The Scallop Working Group is looking at habitat quality as part of their draft strategy. Jodi agreed to check if there are any studies on the environment before and after harvesting where scallops occur and forward it to the group if possible.

### *Future Updates*

It was requested that Jodi provide the group with information on the following either by email or at the next meeting:

- How Fisheries NZ are meeting the Minister's commitment to implement an ecosystem based fisheries management regime.
- Up to date information on sea temperatures.
- Alan noted that if there are items that the members want Jodi to talk about it would be appreciated if advance notice could be given before the meeting.

## **5. Sustainable land Transfer Fund (SLTF) Update – Judy Hellstrom and Eric Jorgensen**

*The updated Terms of Reference (ToR) was circulated to the group before the meeting.*

- Discussion took place on how to move the SLTF proposal forward.
  - It was clarified that the Provincial Growth Fund will not fund more than 50% of a feasibility study so it will be necessary to find the other 50% from Council or other stakeholders and that the funds from the Provincial Growth Fund may be a loan not a grant.
  - Cllr Hook noted that from a Council point of view the SLTF feasibility study funding would need to go through the Annual Plan process as it wasn't included in the Long Term Plan process last year. It would be possible for SAG to put a request to the Annual Plan process to look at funding for the feasibility study.
  - Eric noted that it was agreed initially that forestry would be the main focus of the SLTF, however the ToR have been amended to acknowledge the other sources of siltation in the Sounds.
- Cllr Hook noted that the ToR could also be used in the integrated management of the coastal environment.
- The SLTF would require a direct contribution of \$50,000 and \$25,000 work of in-kind support from Council for the feasibility study. It would help if other stakeholders were putting money into the study as well.
- Cllr Hook asked the members individually for feedback on whether to apply to the Annual Plan for funding as below:
  - All members were in agreement that it was worthwhile trying to get the funding for the study.
  - Ken noted that SAG would not be able to shoulder the responsibility of the project alone and that there doesn't seem to be other groups offering to help.
  - Rob noted that the carbon sequestration difference between natives and exotics is important. He also commented that the ToR should reference other reports such as the one that the picture on the front page comes from as it could be misleading otherwise. Eric noted the document would be too long if all the reports Rob mentioned were included.

- Discussion on how to package the submission took place. It was noted that submissions to the Annual Plan open on 5 April and close on 5 May.
- It was agreed that SAG would like to progress the SLTF.
- The subcommittee agreed to continue to work on the SLTF proposal and would be in touch with the rest of the group before the next meeting as there won't be a meeting before submissions close. It is possible that the timeframes will be too tight for the ToR feasibility study funding proposal to make it into this year's Annual Plan. Alan agreed to help as a liaison with government agencies. It was noted that the subcommittee would appreciate more help.

## 6. Other Business

- The MDC Update was carried over to the public meeting in the afternoon due to time constraints.

## 7. Actions from the meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Organise for Civil Defence and FENZ to do a presentation on small community preparedness - completed	Rebecca
2. Invite Jon Cunliffe to the next meeting to talk about forestry forecasting in the Sounds	Alan
3. Get an update before the next meeting from DOC on progress of Unformed Legal Road issue at Endeavour Inlet	Alan
4. Check whether there is a plan for a salmon farm in the middle of the Waitata Reach	Jodi/
5. Ask MDC Holdings about plans to implement better environmental forestry practices	Councillors
6. Forward any information available on scallop studies to the group	Jodi

The meeting finished at 12.30 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20 May 2019.



## Appendix 1

### DOC Update

- Wasps have been treated with Vespex. Wasps have been less of a problem than usual and some sites have only just reached the threshold for the bait to be used. Karaka Point was treated for the first time this year, other areas included Governors Bay, Momorangi, Davies Bay and Pelorus Bridge. Other landowners are also using Vespex bait. Sanfords have also been laying bait in the Pelorus/Te Hoiere area.
- Queen Charlotte Track (QCT) is one of the top three tracks being considered for Great Walk status. In-depth analysis of each site is being undertaken. More information can be found on the DOC website.  
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/selecting-new-great-walks/>
  - One concern regarding Queen Charlotte Track is the private land ownership of 24% of the track.
- Work is continuing on the upgrade of the track between Schoolhouse Bay and Ship Cove/Meretoto. 25% of the work is completed and the upgrade should be finished by winter.
- Endangered Orange-fronted parakeets are flourishing on Blumine Island but have died out on Maud Island. Their last natural habitat is Hurunui where they are declining. Work is being carried out to find out the triggers which have led to Blumine Island being a successful habitat while Maud Island is not.
- Fire Risk on QCT is managed using drought code fire indices and considering the forecast. The track was redirected from Kenepuru Saddle to the Torea Saddle for a period during the dry spell. The track has now been reopened due to the rainfall that the area has received recently.
- Monitoring assessments are being carried out on the Long Island Marine Reserve. The Reserve has the longest running data set of any reserve in New Zealand. There is a big contrast between the amount of marine life within the Reserve compared to outside of it.
- Dave noted that fire permits are managed by FENZ.
- Funding to manage responsible camping received from central government was used to employ roving rangers in the Kenepuru area over the summer to help manage the campsites. This has resulted in higher compliance and more income. Campsites have reported an increase in the shoulder seasons.