

Agenda for Meeting of the Sounds Advisory Group to be held at Marlborough District Council on Monday, 16 November 2020 commencing 9.30 am

Present: Cllr Faulls, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Oddie (from 9.40 am), Jodi Milne, Ken Roush, Monyeen Wedge, Poneke Rene, Eric Jorgensen, Ross Withell, Ned Wells, Kaja Vetter, Linda Booth, Rick Osbourne (from 9.40 am)

MDC Staff Attending: Alan Johnson, Oliver Wade, Gina Ferguson, Claire Frooms, Glyn Waters, Juliet Gibbons, Bec Waldron (Secretary)

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

Rob Schuckard, Emma Hopkinson-Young, Lynley Perkins, Tim Greenhough, Dave Hayes

Correspondence: The resignation of Judy Hellstrom has been received. Her assistance and support to SAG will be greatly missed. It was agreed that a letter to Judy should be sent thanking her for her service to SAG.

3. Confirmation of minutes 3 August 2020

- The minutes of 3 August 2020 were taken as read.

4. Actions from the previous meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Discuss with Pete Hamill and Alan Johnson re the possibility of Harbours doing water sampling in the Sounds (see below)	Cllr Faulls
2.	Follow up eradication of goats on the Ronga Saddle	Kaja Vetter DOC

Action Point 1

- Financial constraints and limited resources mean that water testing in the Sounds is not viable at this stage.
 - Council uses the Harbour's boat to carry out monthly sampling of the water quality in the Sounds.
 - Water sampling in areas where there is recreational bathing already takes place. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/rivers-and-wetlands/river-water-quality/recreational-water-quality-monitoring>
 - The marine farming industry also takes water samples and rather than duplicating this data there may be ways to make sure that results of sampling are more visible to the public.
 - It was suggested that Ned could provide an update to the members on the water sampling carried out by the marine industry at the February meeting.
 - An update on the Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Programme will also be added to the next agenda, including the information for Robin Hood Bay from 2019/2020.
 - It was noted that Robin Hood Bay had poor readings last summer.

Action Point 2

- Kaja will follow up on whether Aubrey has forwarded Rob Schuckard information on the eradication of goats on the Rai Saddle. It was also noted that DOC only have two dedicated hunters to cover the whole Marlborough region.

DOC are working on a strategy with Marlborough Deer Stalkers to get permission from private land owners to carry out culls on their land.

5. Forestry Strategy Update – Claire Frooms (MDC)

- A forestry compliance workshop was held by Council two weeks ago and was well attended by industry.
- It was noted that the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) provides more stringency due to requirements for resource consent than there is in the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF).
- Claire clarified that 40 inspections per year is the target but that last year 46 inspections were carried out. As the NES-PF requires that the plantation owner rectifies any damage done after harvesting it is considered more practical to carry out inspections after harvesting has finished so that assessments can be carried out against requirements of the NES-PF.
- The Council uses a risk based approach – monitoring of high risk areas is prioritised.
- It was noted that forestry industry are encouraged to ask for inspections before they remove their machinery so that any remediation can be carried out more quickly and cost effectively.
- SAG members suggested that Geolnsight be asked to come to the next meeting to talk to their monitoring process.
- It was noted that not all monitoring can take place with drones and that monitoring officers are also walking through sites and photos from the ground are also taken.
- It was clarified that monitoring of waterways does take place and that assessments regarding waterways take place in the planning stage.
- The effect on the seabed is considered as part of the assessment of environmental effects of the activity.
- There is a chain of responsibility for complying with resource consents which leads back to the land owner.
- Council encourages landowners to have a compliance assessment done before they receive land back after harvesting.
- Council was recently challenged through the courts on whether harvesting is considered to be land disturbance. This has now been resolved with it being upheld that harvesting does require a resource consent. (Harvesting is not covered by land disturbance – tracking).
- The Compliance traffic light system for assessment is supported by MfE.
- The 2019/20 Forestry Monitoring Report was included in the last Environment Committee. (Link below). Previous Environment Committee meeting agendas and minutes are also available on the website.

https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Environment%202020%20list/Environment_Committee_19_November_2020_Agenda.pdf

Questions/Answers

- A month is the usual timeframe for rectifying a non-compliance. However sometimes remedial work needs to be carried out straight away to avoid adverse effects.

6. Resource Consent Process – Gina Ferguson (MDC)

- It is a requirement to have a resource consent for discharge systems in the Marlborough Sounds, although under the PMP there is a provision for historical septic tanks (prior to 2005) as long as they are fit for purpose.
 - There is no renewal process for Discharge Permits for Wastewater or Coastal Permits, each expired permit requires a new application for consent.
 - Expiry dates on the consents are there in part to recognize that science and knowledge is always moving on and what was deemed acceptable 25 years ago may not be ok now.
 - Information on minimum standards that need to be included in an application can be found on Council's website.
- <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent>
- There is a requirement that if the information required is not included and the application is deemed incomplete it has to be returned. There is a lot of technical information required for a consent, not just the information on the system but also a requirement for the application to be assessed against policies and plans.
 - Recent applications for resource consent can be used for guidance.
 - A consent owner can continue with their activity after it expires only if they have an application for new consent for the activity lodged with Council.
 - Council recommends that anyone who has a septic tank operating as a Permitted Activity gets their tank cleaned regularly. Resource consents have requirements for servicing as well.
 - If there are any environmental effects discovered while monitoring in a particular bay all of the wastewater systems of properties in the area may be looked at to find the source of the problem.
 - On properties which do not have enough land to comply with wastewater requirements there needs to be an alternative system to be proposed by a wastewater engineer. This can be expensive but is required to address adverse effects.
 - Wastewater systems that were in existence prior to 2005 have existing use rights and are recognized as Permitted Activities, as long as they meet all the standards in the Plan (not failing). This may change with future plans.
 - Composting toilets are allowed in some zones. Other areas require a resource consent.
 - The issues which are occurring due to the changes in building sizes.
 - The new exemptions for some building work is creating some issues in the Sounds with people putting caravans or huts on properties which then have extra people using the wastewater system. Council has been talking to MBIE about how best to provide guidance to the Building Industry on this.
 - Moving a pre-fabricated building on to a site is not considered building work.
 - The Council needs to be made aware of any issues that are coming up in communities with extra buildings being put on sites so they can check them for compliance.
 - It was noted that this might be a good topic to discuss with Council's Communications Team as they may have ideas on how to get information out to communities on these type of issues.
 - Guidance on filling out resource consents was handed out to members. This information is also available online.

https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Services/RC%20-%20Applying%20for%20a%20RC%20-%20Application%20Forms/RAF0022_C11900_Schedule_Four_RMA_1991_AEE.pdf

https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Services/RC%20-%20Applying%20for%20a%20RC%20-%20Application%20Forms/RAF0023_C11900_Section_88_RMA_1991_Making_an_Application.pdf

7. King Salmon Compliance – Gina Ferguson (MDC)

- Gina presented the King Salmon Compliance Report to the group. This information is also available on the Council's website in the 8 October 2020 Environment Committee Agenda (link below).

https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Environment%202020%20list/Environment_Committee_8_October_2020_Agenda.pdf

Questions

- The Ruakaka Bay Salmon Farm has been fallowed. Council doesn't have any information if there is an intention to restock the farm in the future. Their consent expires in 2024 and King Salmon has the ability to apply for resource consent on the site if they choose to.

Clr Taylor withdrew from the meeting at 10.35 am.

A break was taken for morning tea with the meeting resuming at 10.50 am.

Resource Consent Process (cont'd) – Gina Ferguson (MDC)

- Expiry letters are sent out for Discharge Permits before they are due to expire. Sometimes Discharge Permits are not transferred to new landowners which can result in the letter not being received by the required person and the owner not realizing their Permit is going to expire.
- Council has sent out education on this problem to the Legal firms in the area to try to address this issue.
- The holder of the consent is responsible for it complying with conditions.

8. Sustainable Land Transition Feasibility Study – Eric Jorgensen

- Work continues to determine scope, context, interdependencies, and pathways for progressing this mahi, with a number of key themes and principles developing to support framing the project.
- While acknowledging that there are multiple activities creating sedimentation issues in the coastal environment, the priority will be addressing forestry.
- Early discussions highlight the need to consider broader forestry management issues, rather than only one – sedimentation. Adopting a whole of Council approach in sensible.
- Thus, the initial focus is in undertaking a system mapping exercise; documenting council interactions (legislation, regulation, policy, and practice) with the forestry lifecycle.
- Taking the forestry lifecycle approach, we can then append different 'layers' and 'views' to build an overall picture of the sector.
- This work will enable key decision points, and the information and drivers required to support such, to be identified.
- Through internal discussions to date it has been identified that we do not have all the knowledge and perspectives required to fully complete the analysis. Need to determine when and how to engage.
- The critical path to engaging such is dependent on first is when to engage with iwi.

Questions/Comments

- There is been an indication that MPI want to work on the group on this Project.
- There has not been contact with Forestry Owners from the SLTF group but they will need the input of forestry.
- A question was asked on the suitability of skyline forestry in the Marlborough Sounds, it was noted that this method is not appropriate for all locations especially in areas where the anchor point would need to be out in the water but that in the right locations it can make a very positive difference to how a site is harvested.
- A comment on the problems that are being faced with logging in Port Underwood due to limited road access. The community of Port Underwood have made a submission that the aspect of transport of logs should be considered in the resource consent process.

- It was noted that this issue is being looked at in the Land Transition Feasibility Study.

- An economic analysis needs to be completed which will require looking at all the connecting factors.

9. Fisheries Update – Jodi Milne (MPI)

- The new Minister for Oceans and Fisheries is Hon. David Parker.
- A new integrated coastal management team is being established – the team will comprise of three people who will work nationwide. – they will work closely with councils in managing the marine space.
- Consultation will take place over Christmas for the April Sustainability round and reviews are taking place from the October round. From mid-December the MPI will have information on the consultation process.
- There will be promotion over the summer period on the new fishing rules.
- Research planning for next year is underway.
- The Southern Scallop Strategy has been released. This is a high level document, the next level is the implementation plan which doesn't have a timeframe.
- The Blue Cod Expert Group will be meeting soon to look at the unintended consequences which have occurred from the new regulations. There may be further work required on zones, boat ramps and transitioning between areas. There has also been feedback around sizes and there is some confusion about requirements around bleeding of fish.

10. Marine Farming Association Update – Ned Wells

- The Marine Industry is expecting a warm summer.
- The Mussel Bed Restoration Project is looking to deploy mussels on to recycled shell plots in early December with a final deployment in the intertidal area in the Kenepuru Sound in February (subject to Biosecurity NZ approval). The move to an inter-tidal area is also to help mitigate the ongoing problem of starfish predation.
- The King Shag Year Two reporting is nearing completion.
- It was suggested that Mike Bell be invited to the next SAG meeting to discuss the King Shag Project.
- MFA is looking into revamping its Environment Programme to target plastic use and move towards a continuous improvement system.
- A research programme for a better mussel float attachment system is underway.

Questions

- How MFA could get information out to Residents Associations when there is a toxic algal bloom (and when it clears) as it is beneficial for communities to be notified as soon as possible. It was noted that these notices should still be coming from the DHB. Ned agreed to check out if MFA would be able to send out this type of notification.

11. DOC Update – Kaja Vetter

Recreation

- Maintenance work on Queen Charlotte Track has been completed prior to the summer season. This involved digger work on some sections.
- Camp hosts have been selected for the summer season and are being inducted. This includes hosts at Titirangi where the Shearers Quarters and campsite are open for the public.
- Recent wind and rain events have resulted in several windfalls down on tracks throughout the district. One windfall annihilated a bridge on the Nydia Track and this section of track has been closed until the bridge could be rebuilt. Work is almost completed.
- Visitor numbers at our serviced campgrounds have been high for this time of year and future bookings for the main summer period are also high.

Biodiversity

- 70 tuatara have been relocated to a couple of predator-free islands in the outer Sounds. These were from the Southland Museum where they had bred too well and needed to be put into sites that could sustain their numbers and future expansion.
- A dead minke whale was reported in Admiralty Bay recently. This was picked up and secured on a nearby beach.
- The annual Boneseed control work was completed. This is a joint programme with Council Biosecurity staff.
- We will have a staff member on Oruawairua/Blumine Island for a few weeks over Xmas and New Year to monitor visitors and to add to biosecurity compliance. This island has important wildlife which requires visitors to be careful about ensuring pests don't hitch a ride with them and that cooking equipment doesn't inadvertently start fires.
- Predator dogs have been used on several islands as part of the regular monitoring to ensure that we know that these places are predator free.
- Recruitment is under way for a replacement Ranger on Takapourewa/Stephens Island.

Community

- Work continues with the renewal of existing Sounds Foreshore Reserve permits. The target is to have these completed by the end of December. A number of unlicensed structures have been identified and these will be addressed separately.
- Recruitment is underway for a replacement Community Ranger.
- Another round of tendering will soon start for the Titirangi Farm Park lease. Interim arrangements have been put in place in the interim.

Clr Taylor returned to the meeting at 11.55 am.

Questions

- The process fee setting for Sounds Foreshore Reserves has been delayed which may result in the fee change not occurring for another year.
- Climate change issues are still being considered at a higher level by DOC. Some of the impacts will be covered by the RMA.
- There has been no instruction from DOC to disestablish any structures on the Foreshore Reserve. Some of these structures will require resource consent which triggers climate change conditions.
- A coastal analysis of the Sounds is being planned within the next few years which will provide useful information for communities.
- There is an interim process for the management of Titirangi Farm Park this year.
- There was an issue where a water taxi dropped some tourists at a closed track as no one affected was aware it had been closed. Kaja agreed to look into this sort of situation to see if there are any additional ways to get this type of information out to the public. It was noted that the areas close to the track do not have internet access to keep up with the website.
- An update on the use of vehicles on Endeavour Estuary was sought. Kaja noted that you are committing an offence if you damage a reserve.

12. MDC Update – Alan Johnson, Oli Wade

- Applications are open for grants for the Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao grant scheme. The scheme has two themes: Protecting Marlborough and Habitat Restoration in Marlborough. More information is available on the website. The starting fund is \$70,000 with it increasing to \$90,000 next year.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/working-for-naturemahi-mo-te-taiao>

**Ned Wells and Gina Ferguson withdrew from the meeting at 12.20 pm.
A break was taken for lunch with the meeting resuming at 1.00 pm.**

13. Water Addressing – Stephen Rooney (MDC)

- Stephen gave a presentation to the group on Water Addressing. Appendix A.
- He asked for feedback on how best to communicate with the community on this issue and if there is a degree of willingness and a need for addresses for water access only properties.

Jodi Milne and Stephen Rooney withdrew from the meeting at 1.25 pm.

14. Community Reps Update – SAG members

D'Urville island – Poneke Rene

- There is a new secretary for the D'Urville island community. A few members keep up to speed from the Council webpages and share the information with the wider community.
- Stoat eradication was stalled because of Covid-19 but it was noted by Kaja that the project is close to being signed off by DOC.
- The ramp at D'Urville Island is very slippery and is a health and safety issue. This has been reported to Marlborough Roads who are dealing with it and Poneke is unsure whether Council has been made aware of this problem.

Queen Charlotte Residents Association – Monyeen Wedge

- Most Queen Charlotte Sounds Residents are not permanent residents in the Sounds and a lot of the work Monyeen does is keeping these members up to date.
- The issues which interest the members most are pest control and wilding pine control and there has been an increase in people taking part in this type of control themselves.

Port Underwood Residents Association – Ken Roush

- There is also a large number of non-resident members of the Port Underwood Residents Association.
- There has been less voicing of concerns in the Port Underwood Area this year as people concentrate on concerns facing them in other areas.
- Aquaculture is a major issue in Port Underwood along with forestry, roads, rates and rubbish.
- The new roading maintenance scheme is working well in the area and it was noted that the road remained in good condition following a recent weather event.
- There is some surprise at the lack of monitoring and research that goes on in Port Underwood compared to other areas of the Sounds.
- Also noted that the Environment Plans are not user friendly and this puts people off making submissions.

Forestry Representative – Rick Osbourne

- The National Environmental Standards for Plantation (NES-PF) has set up easily readable standards for forestry, this is leading to more people thinking of where and why they are planting.
- There is a general acceptance by forestry owners in the Sounds that it will be difficult to plant there in the future.
- Noted that a forestry advisor as provided in the past would be helpful to assist owners in harvesting management.
- Noted that there was a strong theme in the Forestry Compliance workshop of more education and accuracy in the front end of the harvesting process.

Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association (KCSRA) – Ross Withell

- The Kenepuru residents have not had as good experience of the new roading maintenance scheme. The crew do not undertake jobs they come across when they are in an area unless that job is on their list for the day. Due to staff changes a meeting between Marlborough Roads and the residents to iron out some of the issues has had to be postponed.
- The road is not capable of heavy loads of logs.
- There have been a lot of holiday makers already, there is only one small jetty and this does create some issues. The floating jetty has had some damage from winds.
- Ross uses the Antenno system for keeping up to date with Council news.
- The KCSRA has its own website.
<http://kcsra.org.nz/>
- It was noted that Marlborough Matters is a weekly eNewsletter full of Council information. This is sent out to anyone who signs up for it. Follow the link below on how to sign up or for previous newsletters.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/council-enewsletter>
- It was noted that a solution to the logging trucks on the Kenepuru Road has been sought for many years and that Council is still working on this issue.
- A particularly dangerous area of the road is at an area called the Solomons. This has been brought up at the last two SAG members. Cllr Taylor followed this up with Steve Murrin from Marlborough Roads who confirmed that this part of the road will not be able to be fixed before Christmas so will be down to one lane over this period and the repair work is scheduled to take place when consent has been granted, probably in February/March. The drop out on the French Pass Road will be completed before Christmas.

Duncan Bay Residents Association – Linda Booth

- There is more being put on to local communities to control.
- Two weeks for communities to consult on the Waste Plan Strategic Direction was not long enough.
- Compliance in the Sounds is becoming a large problem.
- A frustrating issue is the lack of funding for signs for the Sounds for children playing signs.
- Water is a big issue for Sounds communities. Drinking Water standards information has not been made available to Council yet.
- Waste management is another issue for the area.
- The roading contractor has resulted in an improvement on the roads but there are still a lot of issues.

15. Communications Update Glyn Waters and Juliet Gibbons (MDC)

- Glyn noted that the Council's annual resident satisfaction survey shows similar results from the Sounds to the rest of Marlborough, with the exception of access to newspapers; in other words many Sounds residents do access Council's electronic channels – Facebook, the website and Antenno.
- Glyn asked what communication channels and what information works for individual communities.
 - It was noted that electronic communication tools such as Antenno are good for immediate issues; however hard copies are effective as they are more likely to be read in depth.
 - The Sounds Advice newsletter was discussed as being a successful way of getting information out to communities.
- In Marlborough 70% of people still receive their information from newspapers. However a significant proportion of people get Council updates from Facebook and the website.
- Mailchimp is used by some organisations to keep in touch with Council; the Council recently launched 'Marlborough Matters' e-newsletter during Covid, and this has continued; it goes out weekly on a Friday and Sounds residents should be encouraged to sign up.

- Glyn and Alan will discuss whether the content in Marlborough Matters could have more Sounds content added.
 - Some communities are still without cell phone coverage.

16. MDC Update – Alan Johnson, Oliver Wade (MDC)

MEP Variation to Aquaculture Provision

- The Environmental Policy Team has provided a report to the 26 November Planning Finance and Community Committee on the Variations to the MEP on the Aquaculture Provisions. (Link below).
[https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Planning%20Finance%20%26%20Community%202020%20list/PFC C 26 November 2020 Agenda.pdf](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Planning%20Finance%20%26%20Community%202020%20list/PFC%20C%2026%20November%202020%20Agenda.pdf)

Review of SAG

- Alan has written a report on SAG which is in draft form and will be send to be reviewed by Council. There is work being done on alignment of SAG with other groups.
- Alan is meeting with the Manager Economic, Community and Support Services to discuss the report and then will seek feedback from SAG at a meeting in the new year on the report.

17. General Discussion (other Items)

- The Interagency Management Group – research strategy and research area has been dropped from the SAG agenda. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
- It was suggested that SAG should have two offsite meetings next year. Havelock and D'Urville Island were suggested.
- A presentation on the Multi-beam survey of Te Hoiere/Pelorus Sounds is being presented at the Environment Committee to the Environment Committee on 19 November (Link below).

[https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Environment%202020%20list/Environment Committee 19 November 2020 Agenda.pdf](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2020/Environment%202020%20list/Environment%20Committee%2019%20November%202020%20Agenda.pdf)

18. Eric Jorgensen

- Young people are more concerned with how their environment will look in the future more than debt.
- The resource planning framework provides a blue print for Council and community to focus on strategic outcomes for the region. It was suggested that Pere be invited to discuss how the Plan is created, process for future reviews, why it is not possible to have a rolling plan, and what impact the new NPS's have on the Plans.

Draft dates for 2021 meetings

- 15 February (at Council)
- 17 May
- 9 August
- 15 November

The meeting finished at 3.00 pm

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Update SAG members of Marine Farming Industry's Water Monitoring Programme	Ned Wells
2.	Update SAG members on Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Programme, (including the information for Robin Hood Bay from 2019/2020)	Alan
3.	Invite Mike Bell to next SAG meeting	Ned Wells
4.	Check if MFA is able to alert Residents Associations when algal blooms occur.	Ned Wells
5.	Check if there is any way communication on track closures could be improved	Kaja Vetter
6.	Follow up with Marlborough Roads on the issue of the Roding Crew multitasking	Clr Taylor

Action	Person Responsible
7. Follow up with Marlborough Roads on the dangerous area at the Solomons on Kenepuru Road	Clr Taylor
8. Discuss adding more Sounds content to Marlborough Matters	Glyn and Alan
9. Provide information on the Review of SAG to meeting in the new year	Alan
10. Add The Interagency Management Group – research strategy and research area to the February agenda.	Bec
11. Invite Pere to meeting to present on the Aquaculture Provisions in the MEP/ discuss the impacts of the NPSFW and options for maintaining and review of the MEP.	Alan

Appendix A

What is water addressing

- Providing an address for properties with water access only
- Requirement of the LGA MDC to provide an address

How is water addressing applied



Why are water addresses needed

- Provides a location for Emergency services
- Address to be used for the Census and Electoral role (jetty number are not accepted)
- A recognised address for completing of on-line forms

LINZ & Surveyor General

- Visited and was asking that Council undertake water addressing
- Resources and capability
- They were left to investigate how they might provide the coast line mapping

Issues

- Creating the coastal line mapping - LINZ
- Consultation to accept names of the various bays
 - Duplicates
 - Maori versus local
 - Large bay versus multiple smaller bays

Question & next steps

- Q's
 - Do we need water addresses
 - Have residents been asking for addresses
- Next steps
 - Wait for LINZ
 - Note where residents are seeking an address