

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group Public Meeting held at Port Underwood on Monday 18 March 2019 at 1.00 pm

Present

Clr Hook (Chair), Clr Oddie, Clr Taylor, Monyeen Wedge, Rob Schuckard, Eric Jorgensen, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Sara Roush, Judy Hellstrom, Rick Osbourne (until 2.,15 pm), Vic Koller, Lynley Perkins, Emma Hopkinson, Rick Osbourne, Bruce Hearn, Jill Hearn, Maureen Joyce, Ray Joyce

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, Clr Taylor, Clr Oddie introduced themselves to the group. The rest of the SAG members and staff also introduced themselves.
- Clr Hook spoke on the role of the group which meets four times a year and has representatives from throughout the Sounds, DOC, Forestry and Marlborough Roads and feeds into the Planning, Finance and Community Committee and Council.

2. Correspondence

- Clr Hook tabled the resignation of Rachel Drake from SAG and noted that Emma Hopkinson is replacing her as the Outer Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere representative. Clr Hook has written to Rachel and thanked her for the work she has done for SAG.
- A letter has been received from Pelorus Boating Club asking to be considered for membership of SAG.
 - Alan clarified that the membership is technically for Residents Association representatives from different locations in the Sounds, some crown agency members and key industry stakeholder groups.
 - It was agreed that it wouldn't be appropriate for a club to be represented but that they should be included in the mailing list for minutes. It was also noted that some members of the boating club will live in the Sounds and can ask their SAG rep to present items for Pelorus Boating Club to SAG when required. A letter will be sent to the Pelorus Boating Club to let them know of the decision.

3. MDC Update – Alan Johnson

Annual Plan

- Annual Plan is due to go out for consultation with submissions opening on 5 April and closing on 6 May.
- Hearings will be 4-6 June.

Cemetery Fees Review

- Changes to the way fees are charged when managing Marlborough's cemeteries is being proposed. Consultation closes on 5 April.

Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP)

- The Hearings process for the MEP is nearly complete.
- The topic of water allocation has just been heard.
- Some miscellaneous hearings will occur in April and then deliberations will take place until early September.
- The separate aquaculture provisions will be ready to go to Council this year, before going out for consultation.
- Rob asked how Council would amend the Aquaculture chapter to take into account data which may come from the upcoming Multibeam project in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere. Alan noted that the data from the Multibeam would be two or three years away and any changes would probably be by making variations to the Plan.

Multibeam Project Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere

- The Multibeam Survey in Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere will commence in July this year. Council is providing \$3 million and LINZ are contributing \$2 million to the project.
- The scale of area to be surveyed is 40,000 hectares. (Croiselles Harbour, Te Aumiti/French Pass, navigational channels, and all of Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere). Depending on tenders received some cut backs on priorities may have to be made. Durville Island is not included in the survey at present. Shallow areas are not going to be surveyed.

LiDAR Project

- A joint project between LINZ and Council to map the district using LiDAR is scheduled to be carried out soon. This will map the whole province digitally. The project will benefit Council, community and industry. Council is providing \$300,000 for the project with LINZ financing the rest of the \$1.5 million project.
 - Rob noted that Tasman Bay misses out of some of the environmental projects run by Council ie; swim water analysis, biophysical model and multi beam. He wants Council to think about whether this area is considered part of the Sounds and can they justify the amount of rates that are paid by this area.
 - Alan noted that parts of the area in the multi beam scope and the LiDAR project will cover the whole district.
 - Linda supports Rob's comments as the topic comes up from her area of Tennyson Inlet as well.

D'Urville Island – Stoat Eradication Programme

- The D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication Charitable Trust (DISECT) presented their plan to Council for achieving stoat eradication on D'Urville Island recently. The Council conceptually supported the plan subject to technical issues and community agreement which will see staff work closely with the Trust and DOC to report on the feasibility for stoat eradication on the Island.

NZ Biodiversity Strategy Review

- DOC are leading a review of the NZ Biodiversity Strategy. A discussion document will be released mid-year. Alan encouraged members of the group to submit on the strategy.
- A National Policy Statement for Biodiversity is being developed. The draft document will be aligned with the NZ Biodiversity Strategy and is intended to go out for public consultation early next year.
- Council will soon be considering the adoption of the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance Strategy (“collective action for our nature”). The Strategy aims to achieve significant conservation gains by working in collaboration using the strengths of various organisations in an effective and efficient manner working on landscape scale conservation projects, with wider social, cultural and economic outcomes across the Buller, Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough region. The membership of the Alliance includes Councils, DOC and iwi.

Environmental Science Update – Oliver Wade

- The new Coastal Environmental Scientist Oliver Wade introduced himself to the group. He previously worked for 10 years as a Coastal Scientist in Hawkes Bay and noted that the community there shares the same issues as faced here.

Tipping Points Project - Sustainable Seas – National Science Challenge

- Professor Simon Thrush from Auckland University made a presentation to the March Environment Committee on the Tipping Points Project that his team carried out in outer Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui last November. The team carried out a health assessment at multiple sites in the outer Sound. There were three key findings:
 1. The health of the Sounds and ecosystems was much better inside protected areas than outside.
 2. There were more Kina barrens than expected.
 3. Some of the Significant Natural Areas that have been identified in the past were not able to be found during the project.
- The take home message is that things are not yet improving and there is work to be done. Professor Thrush asked Council to endorse that staff would be involved with Sustainable Seas moving forward to help develop a further project within the Marlborough Sounds.

Questions/Answers

- It was confirmed that cadastral boundaries on Council’s Smart Maps are provided by LINZ.

4. General Business

Logging at Whataroa – Eric Jorgensen

- Eric has not been able to find out information on the follow up on the non-compliance of the logging at Whataroa which occurred last year. Alan will follow up on this issue with the Compliance Manager and get back to the members with an update on the situation.

Maintenance Work on Sounds Roads

- It was confirmed that there is a formula for repairs to roads after a storm event and that normal maintenance on Sounds Roads is 100% funded by Council. Bruce wondered if the formula provides a disincentive to do regular maintenance. He noted that when you travel the roads regularly you see a lot of situations where some early maintenance could prevent a lot of damage when there is a rain event.
- Clr Hook noted that the roading contract is going to tender shortly, it is intended that a Sounds Maintenance Crew will be written into the new contract. It is important to let Marlborough Roads know of any issues that occur such as drop outs.

Sedimentation in Port Underwood

- Concerns was raised over trawlers operating in Port Underwood when they should be operating further out in the ocean, and the proliferation of marine farms in Port Underwood. It was noted that recreational fishing has suffered in recent years.
 - A comment was added that marine farms actually clean up some of the sedimentation in the water and don't cause it. The sediment is a consequence of land runoff.

Forestry Setbacks

- There is a problem with legacy plantations being planted up to Road Reserve. New plantings are required to have setbacks. These setbacks have only been implemented in the past few years.

Roading Issue – Ken Roush

- Ken was asked by a resident of Port Underwood to bring an issue to the meeting regarding the five cars per year for the past three years (approx.) that have come off the road between Ocean Bay and Whites Bay. The resident suggested that more roadside barriers and also the removal of very sharp bends (making them less sharp and road widening) be installed as a possible solution.
 - Steve Murrin from Marlborough Roads was unable to attend the meeting but had addressed the issue in an email to Alan, noting that Marlborough Roads have a plan to put more barriers on Port Underwood Road in the next few years.

Wilding Pines – Ken Roush

- Ken read out another issue regarding wilding pines that he was requested to bring to the meeting

“Wilding pines, the pines from forestry spread and as is known cause a large amount of pollution. The acid needles prevent anything else from growing. They are really a noxious weed and should be classed as such. I have had to pay between \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year to remove dangerous or fallen trees, and had sheds and fences damaged by falling trees as the soil cannot hold the trees when it gets wet. Those planting forests should be held responsible for the damage they are causing and a contribution for tree removal should be charged on anybody planting forests”.

Alan replied to this item:

- There are two issues noted above; safety and biodiversity. Council has invested in wilding conifer control in Marlborough through the Sounds Restoration Trust (MSRT) and the South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust, although there has not been much work carried out in Port Underwood except by DOC and private land owners.
- To regulate *Pinus radiata* as a pest species would be difficult and that most of the initiatives are non-regulatory processes of which councils and the government working together to implement priority work in catchments for the future. Most of the priorities will be directed to south Marlborough. Ken noted that workshop days are being organised for landowners in Port Underwood and the MSRT.
- The National Wilding Conifer Strategy is being reviewed and a funding bid is going to central government in May for the expansion of the programme. Marlborough would be a beneficiary of the money if the expansion were to go ahead, with most of the money being spent in south Marlborough and some on the Richmond Ranges. Some money may be available for the Sounds.

Streaming of Council Meetings – Vic Koller

- Vic raised the possibility of streaming Council meetings at meetings he attended before the last election and received unanimous support from the candidates. However he has been told that funding is what is stopping the streaming taking place. He asks if he has to submit to the Annual Plan to get streaming up and running? Vic noted that Nelson City Council live streams its meetings.
 - Councillor Taylor put a proposal forward to the Long Term Plan in 2018, (the cost to lives stream would be approx. \$60,000 pa) and the item did not reach a majority vote.
 - Vic noted that many people live more than an hour's drive away from the Council building and they should be able to have access to the Council meetings via live streaming.
 - Cllr Oddie noted that the equipment is in place for live streaming.

Freedom Camping – Maureen Joyce

- There is an ongoing problem with freedom camping in Ngakuta Bay (at the head of Port Underwood) and the mess that is often left behind by campers. RayJoyce has requested a sign to go on the other side Waikakaho Hill stipulating no freedom camping and received the answer that the road isn't used enough to warrant a sign. Clr Hook agreed to follow up putting a sign in place. Ray and Maureen take care of the Ironside Cairn and have to clean up the mess including toilet paper left by freedom campers before they can begin to mow the area.
- Clr Taylor noted that it is important to report every instance where there is an issue with freedom campers as it will help inform where the ranger will be sent.
- Ken noted that Port Underwood Road is a prohibited freedom camping area but Tumbledown Bay Road (which includes the area above) is not prohibited. There is also some confusion on whether the land being used for freedom camping is Road Reserve, DOC Reserve or Council Reserve. Tom Canes Bay is another area where there are problems and possible confusion over who's responsibility the area falls under.

Christchurch Terrorist Attack

- Clr Hook talked about the terrorist attacks on the Mosques in Christchurch which occurred on Friday. A minutes silence was held to reflect on the event.

Positive Feedback

- A thank you for the SAG Christmas newsletter which has received tremendous feedback.
- Thanks again to the hosts for the wonderful meeting venue and their generous hospitality.
- The recycling bin in Port Underwood has been working really well.

5. Action Points from the Meeting

	Action Points	Person Responsible
1.	Follow up on situation with regard to non-compliance at Whataroa	Alan
2.	Follow up an issue with a sign stipulating no freedom camping on Port Underwood Road	Alan
3.	Find out whether the reserve at Ngakuta Bay (PU) and Tom Canes Bay is Council, DOC or Roadside Reserve	Councillors

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.