

## **Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group, held at Mistletoe Bay on Monday 10 November 2014 commencing at 9.45 am**

**Present:** Councillor Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Robin Cox, Joe Heberley, Victor Koller, Monyeen Wedge, Ken Roush, Graeme Coates, Rob Schuckard, Tim Greenhough, Rachel Drake, Eric Jorgensen, Linda Booth, Judy Hellstrom, Ross Withell and Councillor Graeme Barsanti

Andrew King (resident) sat in on the meeting in order to hear the presentation by Steve Urlich

**MDC Staff:** Alan Johnson, Steve Urlich and Kay Leach (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Kristen Gerard, David Hayes, Ron Sutherland, Ian Mitchell, Poneke Rene, Councillors David Oddie, Jenny Andrews and Jessica Bagge

### **Regional Policy Update**

Pere Hawes and Linda Craighead were unable to attend the meeting. Alan Johnson advised the draft provisions are available on Council's website:

<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents>

Summary of submissions and feedback on marine farming and proposed coastal occupancy charges are also available to view:

<http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents/Review-Process-So-Far.aspx#Process> (need to scroll down the page)

Trevor Hook advised there would be another opportunity for input once the Plan is notified. Councillors are at present considering the current feedback.

Coastal occupancy charges would be utilised for Marlborough Sounds responsibilities, i.e. science, monitoring, compliance, policy, marine biosecurity, etc. Coastal occupancy is not ownership, but lease. It is a right of occupation of a particular space, hence exclusive use. There is a need for a balance between private and public benefit of resources.

Trevor noted it is important for the Group to understand and be familiar with the reasons why coastal occupancy charges are to be considered, their implications and the expected results of coastal occupancy charges. Our communities will be talking about this with us. Trevor hoped a check sheet or similar would be available to help when questions were raised.

Judy Hellstrom queried how are community jetties designated as all jetties have right of access? Trevor noted further debate may be required where people only had boat access to their properties and their requirement for a jetty.

Alan Johnson spoke on the policy chapters drafted. Those still to be drafted are townships, small settlements, use of rural environment and climate. These will be considered by Council in the next year. This is alongside a range of rules being drafted. Once those rules have been through the Committee they will come back to the Sounds Advisory Group, probably in the New Year.

Council staff made recommendations to Councillors on notification timeframes. The Committee are considering July 2015. The submission period would probably be 80 days. Trevor advised it is hoped the hearing process would start about March 2016, therefore the Plan should be completed by September 2016. The notification process provides everyone in the community and stakeholders an opportunity to submit.

## **MDC Coastal Monitoring (Hydrodynamic Model)**

Steve Ulrich gave a presentation on hydrodynamic modelling in Queen Charlotte Sound. Marlborough District Council has commissioned NIWA to undertake this modelling. This is to enable an understanding of water currents, tides and salinity, how they interact to provide the patterns we see in the Sounds.

A copy of the powerpoint presentation is **attached**.

The current modelling is concentrating on the Queen Charlotte Sound. The draft report on hydrodynamic modelling would be presented to the Sounds Advisory Group towards the end of March. Alan advised industry would possibly be included in the same workshop. Modelling of the Pelorus Sound, including Kenepuru Sound, is expected to be complete by 20 March, workshopping 31 March 2015.

Andrew King asked if the Pelorus Sound model would be on the same level as the Queen Charlotte Sound. Steve advised NIWA had older data which could be used to calibrate. The models are a work in progress. They are about giving the community some assurance that the system could handle cumulative effects on the water column. Alan advised the broad scale issues would be looked at first and then fine tuned down to the bay issues.

Graeme Coates advised a lot of work had been undertaken by industry. NIWA and Cawthron have that data which is available to Council. One of the reasons industry is not opposing coastal occupation charges vigorously is because they see the funding would support this work, which is incredibly important, and support this modelling.

The next steps are to consider recommendations for further model development, develop a public summary for the Council website and, when the Pelorus model is complete, hold workshops to discuss both models.

Trevor Hook advised the Group to read and digest the report when available. Steve hoped to have the report on the website shortly.

Monyeen Wedge queried, while monitoring is occurring over the summer period, could discussion be had with moored vessels about discharge of sewerage into the coastal marine area. Vessels should have on board containment and discharge to a facility. Alan Johnson advised information kits are available on the Council website. He advised Council has a new Compliance Manager with the retirement of Garth Congdon, being Gina Ferguson. Gina is preparing compliance monitoring programmes, one being discharge into the Sounds. Gina will provide a presentation to the Sounds Advisory Group at the next meeting.

## **Integrated Management Programme**

Peter Lawless from Phoenix Facilitation attended the meeting. Peter has been engaged by the Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust to provide expertise and guidance through the next steps of the integrated management programme. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is **attached**.

Peter and his team will facilitate the Trust to:

- Get the mandate October/November 2014
- Secure the resources December 2014 to June 2015
- Form a governance group December 2014
- Excite interest December 2014 to February 2015
- Form a stakeholder working group March 2015
- Gather information and refine the issues 2015
- Draft strategic plan early 2016
- Consultation and revision 2016
- Final by end of 2016

Peter advised there is a discussion paper by Ministers to be released at the end of the month which changes the Marine Protected Areas legislation and combines aspects of the Marine Reserves Act, Marine Mammals Protection Act, Wildlife Act and aspects of the Fisheries Act. This is still under review by Ministers so we do not know the final form, but we know it will change things. Possibly this could come through 2015/16. There could be a point where there are different sorts of marine protected areas that can be utilised in a more coherent framework.

### **Potential Change to RMA**

Rob Schuckard queried the potential changes to the Resource Management Act and how these would impact the Plan development. He felt this is interlinked with aquaculture. Trevor Hook advised there is no direction or directive from Central Government as to what they are going to do. The Plan development would continue to be based on the Resource Management Act as it is now. Council has had discussions with the Marine Farming Association around space, surety and their aspirations of the new generation plan. Trevor emphasised the importance of communication, sifting issues out and keep communicating on them.

Eric Jorgensen noted the need for conversations to occur between Central Government, communities and the Council so Central Government may be informed. Trevor agreed we should inform Central Government of the desires and expectations from the Marlborough community.

### **Wilding Pines on Road Reserve**

Victor Koller felt road reserve should be native bush. There should be preventative maintenance so pines on road reserve do not get too large. Trevor Hook advised that now when replanting forestry, the setback areas are more stringent within the consent conditions than they had been before. In the new Plan there are proposals to increase those setbacks and riparian margins. Victor felt the roading budget should cover pine removal by roadmen, or for the forestry industry to accept maintenance. Robin Cox felt Marlborough Roads could be more proactive to make it easier for different groups or forestry owners to remove small wilding pines by having an off the shelf safety plan and providing high viz vests, hand tools, signs, etc.

Trevor suggested a residents association put a proposal forward through Council. Graeme Barsanti advised this had been trialled in the past, but if the proposal went through the Assets & Services Committee, Council could get Marlborough Roads to consider this.

**Moved:** Robin Cox

**Seconded:** Victor Koller

It is requested that Marlborough Roads, through Council, facilitate the ability for community groups to remove young wilding pines off road reserve, by providing a road management plan, high viz vests, hand saws and whatever signs are required.

### **Setback Distance from Sounds Foreshore Reserve**

Ken Roush advised periodically people seek relief from having an 8 metre setback. There is concern in allowing a dwelling to be close to foreshore reserve in relation to the visual amenity of the coastline and a perception that the foreshore has become privatised. Another issue is the fire hazard. There is concern that Council has the setback rule and then makes allowances. What is requested to be achieved is an advisement to the Department of Conservation and Council planners that there is concern in the community when people seek relief from the 8 metre setback, and for the planners to have forethought of the implications a structure right on the foreshore might have. It is felt it may be appropriate for the relief from setbacks to be a publicly notified resource consent as opposed to limited notification. Ken has communicated these concerns to Pere Hawes for consideration in Plan development.

Monyeen Wedge supported Ken's proposal, particularly concerns raised to her regarding setback areas being used for helicopter pads.

Alan Johnson advised that, in the next generation plan, there is a chapter on the 8 metre setback and some new policies. Alan suggested the Group look at Policies 13.2.5 and 13.2.6 and give feedback.

Robin Cox advised most setbacks in the Sounds would be Sounds Foreshore Reserve and the Department of Conservation is the affected party. Robin advised his criteria is largely based on archaeological information. From a Department of Conservation perspective, wastewater created is disposed of on your own land.

## **Water Ski Lanes**

Ross Withell queried the procedure for designating a water ski lane. He is only aware of one water ski lane, at Te Mahia, but other areas are being used, which destroys peace and quiet. Alan Johnson had spoken with the Harbour Master who is happy, if a community proposal is put forward, to look at consultation to achieve that outcome. Robin Cox noted if a water ski lane is proposed near Sounds Foreshore Reserve, the Department of Conservation would require consultation.

## **Variability of Consent Times**

Judy Hellstrom advised many jetties in her bay have come up for renewal this year. She discovered that one jetty is a community jetty and not on a property file, being 22 property owners using the jetty. Judy questions the criteria about why a jetty would become a community jetty. Judy also discussed the various lengths of consent times allowed for jetties and a lack of policy on the length of consents. Trevor Hook advised there are gaps in the existing Plan. Consistency would be dealt with in the new Plan giving clear guidance to the consent decisionmaking.

Victor Koller queried the process of a group application for moorings. Trevor Hook advised if moorings are due then a group application is the most cost effective way to proceed. It is good for the community to work together.

## **DOC Update**

Robin Cox presented a Department of Conservation update:

### **Staff**

Roy Grose has been acting Service Director based at Hokitika since early September. Jo Gould, a volunteer coordinator based in the Nelson Office, has been acting Service Manager Picton for the same time. Many staff have been taking leave in anticipation of the busy summer season fast approaching.

### **Weeds**

Some locations have restarted wilding control in their environs. Chemical and in some cases motorized drills have been given to groups in Nydia, Erie and Umuwheke Bays.

A private land owner is intending pine spraying adjacent to Mt Shewell Reserve. Sounds Restoration Trust has found funding to treat the wilding pines on the open reserve land adjacent.

Sounds Restoration Trust is intending to spray the hakae on the southern end of D'Urville Island using the funding allocated from the Community Conservation Funds in the near future. However most of the work on pine control this summer will be in East and Tawa Bays in Endeavour Inlet.

The annual DOC/MDC boneseed eradication program has been completed for this year. This year's operations were undertaken in Tory Channel and Ruakaka Bay.

Staff have spent some time spraying gorse and felling pines on the Sounds Foreshore Reserve at Titirangi. A work team from DOC Motueka have carried out gorse control on Attempt Hill, D'Urville Island.

### **Predator Control**

The two stage aerial poisoning on Maud Island for mice has now been completed. During monitoring two live mice were caught in late September, but none caught since. This monitoring will continue until Christmas.

The Battle for our Birds poison operation covering over 4000 hectares between Tennyson Inlet and Nydia Bay has started. On 10 October the pre feed was applied at the rate of 1 kilogram per hectare. For this operation the following was applied for the pre feed and will apply to the toxic application as well:

1. The Nydia Track will be closed until manually checked and cleared by DOC staff.
2. Bait laying set back will be increased to between 70 and 200 metres by straight lining the set back line.
3. Set back around the coast will be 65 metres.
4. DOC will probably have to monitor one water supply, Brownlees, as this is a Ministry of Health requirement.
5. Pelorus Protection Inc will undertake monitoring on matters they think important using money saved from the water monitoring agreed between PPI and DOC.

A weather window looks possible on Friday 7 November and it is hoped that the work will be completed then.

No more possums have been caught on Blumine Island during the monthly monitoring. An increased level of trapping is being carried out as a result of rats being caught on Pickersgill Island, without any success.

The national trial to check the exclusion of predators at the 400 hectare Bottle Rock site continues. 1080 has been spread by hand and trials are being undertaken using various toxins in bait stations to slow down or prevent the re infestation from the surrounding area. This management system is seen as a possible alternative to very expensive predator fences.

Forest and Bird predator control to protect the bats at Pelorus Bridge has resulted in a significant increase in rat kills over the last few months compared with previous years. In the months of July, August, September and October 2013, 113 rats were caught compared with 829 for the same months in 2014. To help in the battle against rats, bait stations have been installed and preparations made to use toxins.

## Endangered Species

Most of the young Rowi Kiwi have been removed from Motuara Island and returned to the West Coast. On the way through Picton some lucky members of the public got to see the birds close up. Talks are still underway with the owner of Te Kopi in the outer Pelorus Sounds as to whether his land can be used as a Rowi Kiwi and/or a Takahe sanctuary.

Numerous research projects are either underway or the process to get permits for the work underway. Iwi support for the work is a pre requisite and so far the following projects have gone through the full process:

1. Blood samples from Robins on Motuara, Allports and Chetwode Islands. This involved approvals from Te Atiawa and Ngati Kuia.
2. Counting Orange Fronted Parakeeks on Blumine and Maud Islands. Ngati Kuia and Te Atiawa have been consulted over this work.
3. Penguin research on Long Island has been supported by Te Atiawa.
4. As part of a national survey of marine reserves, Long Island was considered as an example and approval received from the committee which has Te Atiawa representation on it.

In addition, an initial application has been made to undertake research on bats on D'Urville Island to establish the location and numbers of this vulnerable population. This will involve sanction from Ngati Koata.

## Community Involvement

Mistletoe Bay has commenced the building of a new managers house. Unfortunately the army is not able to help on this building project, but on the positive, some volunteers are helping. Most of the ground work is now complete thanks to the contractor who has the Marlborough Roads contract for the Sounds roads, HEBS.

Several pine eradication projects are underway in various parts of the Sounds by different groups and individuals. These have been covered separately.

Tui Nature Reserve is running two public trips in the New Year in an effort to gain greater public recognition.

The predator control by Forest and Bird at Pelorus Bridge continues and their recording is the best seen to date. Animals caught by species and volunteer days are recorded by month.

The support by OMV for the rehabilitation of the Moawhiti wetlands has now been concluded. No work has yet been undertaken by Ngati Koata to improve the habitat of Tuna (eels).

The Link Pathway is in the process of obtaining a resource consent to create the pathway. The initial stage will be between Ngakuta Bay and Wedge Point and this will be started as soon as resource consent is received.

The Ngakuta Bay residents have completed the three boardwalks along the waterfront at Ngakuta Bay. They have now started the track formation and this will become part of the Link Pathway.

A community group is being formed to undertake pest control in Tennyson Inlet. They have had an initial meeting and are now working on their rules.

## Marine Mammals

Five very successful marine mammal training courses have been organized to date, three in Picton and two in Kaikoura. 55 operators from 16 companies attended and the feedback was very supportive. It is intended to run the same course for private boat operators as well as run it in following years for new skippers.

## Recreation

The various animal control operations have absorbed a lot of recreational staff time over the last few months. However some good developments have been achieved in spite of other priorities.

The redevelopment of the Momorangi Campground is behind schedule by a couple of weeks, but when completed the campers will appreciate the new facilities. The undergrounding of the power lines will improve the vista from the campground seaward.

The airfield at Moawhiti has been mown by DOC staff. The volunteer that used to do this work, Chris Brown, has sold his plane so is not able to continue to do the magnificent job he did previously.

The track between the camp site in Home Bay and the Ministry of Works Campsite on Blumine Island has had the steep section eased thanks to the contribution from Blacks Fasteners. This company paid for the cost of the initial track and also for the relocation of yellowheads to this island.

Preparation is underway for the 2014/15 upgrade of the Queen Charlotte Track. This year it will be between The Pines and the head of Endeavour Inlet.

Initial planning is underway to upgrade the Whatamango Campsite and Karaka Point.

A start has been made on vegetation clearance on the Queen Charlotte Track at the Anikiwa end and above Bay of Many Coves. Spraying on this track has yet to start.

## Visit of Minister

The Association Minister of Conservation is visiting on 15 November for the official opening of the Whale Centre in Picton.

## Environment Awards

Bev Doole advised there are not many applications as yet for the Environment Awards so there is a need for further applications, which close 10 November, but extensions of time are possible.

## Marine Protected Areas – Recreational Fishing

Ken Roush advised the community is interested in the discussion paper that is coming up. Notification is not always received and Ken requested Council to notify the Group when that discussion paper is available. Alan Johnson would let the Group know if the discussion paper is received by Council.

The Group broke for lunch at 12.45 pm. Graeme Coates left the meeting following lunch.

## Burning of Vegetation

Tim Greenhough spoke on the situation where residents in a community stockpiled vegetation ready for burning. This is used as a fire fighting exercise as well. In his community the area used is partially on Council reserve. A fire permit was sought but, because the vegetation was brought from off the property, the Council rejected the application. Graeme Barsanti advised Council has a rule that a community fire cannot be held on a Council reserve without resource consent. Tim advised this is an issue for many communities. Robin Cox saw the logical area would be the intertidal area. He also advised that the person who lit the fire is responsible if the fire got away. Tim advised his community association has insurance.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 16 February 2015.

The meeting closed at 1.30 pm

**Agenda items should be sent to  
Kay Leach (e-mail [Kay.Leach@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:Kay.Leach@marlborough.govt.nz))  
by Friday 30 January 2015**

Action	Responsibility
Gina Ferguson to provide a presentation to the Sounds Advisory Group at the next meeting on compliance monitoring programmes.	Alan Johnson
That resident associations propose community led wilding pine programmes for road reserve through the Assets & Services Committee and seek Marlborough Roads support to facilitate permissions by providing a road management plan, safety processes and equipment and whatever signs are required.	Residents Associations
Advisement to Council planners that there is concern in the community when people seek relief from the 8 metre setback, and for the planners to have forethought of the implications a structure right on the foreshore might have. Public notified resource consent as opposed to limited notification.	Alan Johnson
Advise Group if Marine Protected Areas discussion paper is received by Council.	Alan Johnson

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