

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group, held at the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 14 March 2016 at 9.00 am

Present: Clr Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Aaron Robinson, Ken Roush, Kristen Gerard, Linda Booth, Monyeen Wedge, Poneke Rene, David Hayes, Ross Withel, Tim Greenhough, Vic Holler, Clr Barsanti (arrived 10.10am) and Clr Jerram (arrived 9.40am)

MDC Staff: Steve Urlich and Alan Johnson

In Attendance: Yvette Johnson (MDC Secretary)

Welcome

Trevor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Clr Oddie, Graeme Coates, Ian Mitchell, Judy Hellstrom, Rachel Drake, Raymond Smith and Eric Jorgensen

2. Action Points from Previous Meeting

A letter to be written to Joe Heberley thanking him for his contribution to the Sounds Advisory Group Alan Johnson

The letter of recognition was sent in December 2015 and was read to the group.

A temporary replacement for Rob Schuckard will be John Webber who will represent the French Pass area. John is to be invited to the first meeting in the new year. Alan Johnson

A couple of attempts to contact John Webber through various emails were made but, as yet, no contact from John has been received. Linda offered to get in touch with John, as she knows him, and to obtain his contact details.

A link to the 2PP website once completed to be uploaded to the MDC website. Alan Johnson

Brian informed us he was no longer a Trust member and any contact regarding the project is to be made to The Board of the Charitable Trust. We were informed that the website is complete. The Charitable Trust is waiting for some final changes to be made before it goes online. A link to the website will be forwarded to us and then placed on the MDC website.

3. Regional Pest Management Strategy Review – Sarah Edmonds

Background

- The 2007 strategy needed to be reviewed in 2012 and this coincided with changes being made to the Biosecurity Act by Central Government.
- Council decided to 'roll over' the 2007 strategy with some very minor changes and created the 2012 strategy to give Government time to put amendments in place.
- The 2012 strategy is due to expire at the end of 2017.

Changes to the Biosecurity Act

- The changes to the Biosecurity Act have happened and a significant change was the replacement of Part 5 which is what drove the development of the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

The purpose of part 5 is to provide for the eradication or effective management of harmful organisms that are present in New Zealand by providing for the development of effective and efficient instruments and measures that prevent, reduce, or eliminate the adverse effects of harmful organisms on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health, enjoyment of the natural environment, and the relationship between Maori, their culture, and their traditions and their ancestral land, waters, sites, wahi tapu, and taonga.

- A new requirement was for the Minister to write a National Policy Direction (NPD) which was adopted at the end of 2015.
- The NPD has specific directions for setting objectives, programme description, analysing benefits and costs and good neighbour rules (to manage pests spilling across boundaries).

The new requirements

- The new requirements are that the documents developed under the Act will be called Regional Pest Management Plans.
- The programmes are quite specific and there is certain criteria that has to be met. Only pests that need regulatory management will essentially be in the new Regional Pest Management Plan.
- Other pests and biosecurity activities will continue. Council is preparing a document that will document those activities.

Where the review is at

- Council intends to make a Regional Pest Management Plan and is required under the Act to prepare and publicly notify a Proposal. Before we do this, we have decided to consult with the community.
- A discussion document has been prepared and was released on 10 March 2016 - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biosecurity/RPMS-Review/Stage-1-Discussion-Document.aspx>.
- The intention of the material in the discussion document is to inform the community and stakeholders of the changes and to continue the conversation with the community about what their thoughts are on biosecurity in Marlborough.

Discussion Document

- The discussion document explains why council is reviewing the strategy and it provides details of the changes to the Act and has information about the feedback and review processes.
- New programme names and descriptions are listed on page 4 – Exclusion Programme, Eradication Programme, Progressive Containment Programme, Sustained Control Programme and Site-led Programme.
- This discussion document is in four sections:
 - Section 1 – describes in detail the significant issues and options for the proposed future management for Chilean needle grass, nassella tussock and wilding conifers.
 - Section 2 – gives reasons for including two new proposed pest programmes for pest fish and wallabies.
 - Section 3 – gives reasons why the existing surveillance pests, nodding thistle and ragwort won't be included in the Plan.

- Section 4 – recommends a proposed programme for all of the other current 2012 pest programmes. A supplementary booklet provides details of their history, current situation and recommendation for their further management - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biosecurity/RPMS-Review/Stage-1-Discussion-Document.aspx>.
- The proposed life of the new plan is 10 years rather than what used to be five years for the previous strategies. Therefore any programmes that are developed and any objectives that are made, need to be met within that timeframe. If there is a pest that may be eradicated in fifty years, objectives need to be set for the first 10 years in terms of what is going to be achieved in that time frame.

Feedback

- Feedback is welcome and an online feedback system has been created – <https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/online-services/new/PestMgmtReview/step/1>
- If the online system is not convenient, a PDF form is available - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Environment/Biosecurity/RPMS-Review/Have-Your-Say.aspx> This will need to be printed, filled out, scanned and emailed to Sarah at Sarah.Edmonds@marlborough.govt.nz or post – Attention Sarah Edmonds, Marlborough District Council, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240
- This is not a formal process, but it is about collecting comments and feedback. All feedback collected from this process will help Council biosecurity staff and Councillors make some decisions around what the new Pest Management Plan will contain. Feedback is to be provided by 5pm, 29 April 2016.
- No formal workshops or meetings have been set up. If a community group has scheduled meetings, the team is more than happy to come along to talk about pest management and biosecurity issues. Please contact Sarah for further information.
- The next step is for the feedback to be considered and an analysis of the proposed pests will be undertaken along with benefits and costs for each individual pest and programme.

Look out for ...

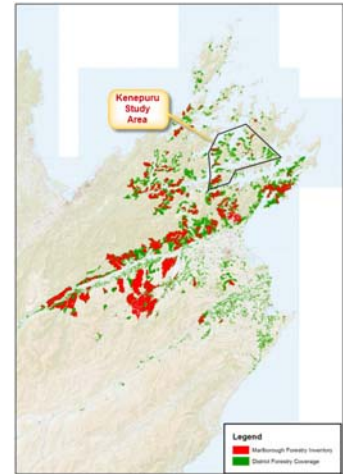
- The Council will notify the document and will be called either a Proposal or Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan.

4. Forestry and Roding – Review of Policy and Plans – Jon Cunliffe

- It is a district wide issue given the amount of forestry in the district, mostly there is only one option - is to get out by road.
- Council wants to understand how forestry activity and harvesting cycles impact on other road users, and also the strength of the roading infrastructure.
- Council commenced a district wide analysis in 2014 to develop policies and management to address these issues. .
- The image to the right shows the green area as commercial forestry. This does not include indigenous forests.



- The red area in the image, shows the data supplied by forest owners on forest ages. The gaps in our knowledge are the remaining green areas. Given that we did not gather sufficient information across the district, we decided to use a pilot approach.
- The Kenepuru (study area noted on the image) was selected for the pilot. There are current issues with logging traffic in this area.
- There were other “high” interest areas which we will turn our attention to after the Kenepuru - Queen Charlotte/Port Underwood, Taylor Pass, Waihopai Valley and Kennington Road.
- The situation in the Kenepuru is that there is an expectation that the road can be used, but there are issues around that.
- In summary – the project gathered information to provide a credible harvest profile in the Kenepuru study area; assessed the existing road form and structure; and investigated the viability of additional transport options, particularly in this instance, barging sites.
- 26 May 2015 - the first workshop was held with local people that were involved with the establishment and management of the forests.
- 19 Oct 2015 - data capture was completed and the areas were formalised for the purpose of this pilot.
- Council staff worked with the forestry industry, and Adrian Harvey, Clova Bay resident. Adrian provided local context and useful information, particularly with the history of some of the sites.
- The project group identified the following:
 - It is estimated 35,000 truck movements (1st harvest cycle) will use Kenepuru Road.
 - Extensive work will need to be carried out on road upgrades for strength, form and structure.
 - The safety factor for all road users is an issue
 - Potential barging sites identified – although only a few were suitable. The economics of establishing a barge site were assessed against the transport options and infrastructure costs.
 - Assessment of transport options – costs (capital upgrades and maintenance); safety (road users and community); environmental (nuisance, noise, aesthetics) and economics of transport options (benefit/cost).
 - In February 2016, a budget paper went to Council to seek funding of \$430K for a possible barging site in Waitaria Bay area. Council has decided to put this in the draft annual plan. Additional funding will be sourced from NZTA as it is an extension of the transport network.
 - Next steps are to complete Kenepuru pilot – continue liaison with the resident’s association and engage landowners. Firm up possible barging sites.
 - Complete a district wide picture, decide the next “chunk” and seek and secure resources.



5. Marlborough Environment Plan Update – Pere Hawes

- A draft plan was presented to Councillors at the end of November 2015.
- Councillors requested that the draft be road tested which occurred over December 2015 and January 2016. Various scenarios were run through to make sure that provisions operated as intended and as a result, it has created an editing task. The editing is still being undertaken, with the intention of completing this by the end of April.

- A discussion with the Chair and other Councillors will take place regarding the time frames for notification and it is still the intent of the Councillors that the submission period is longer than the minimum in recognition that being an integrated document it will be necessary to look at a whole range of provisions in terms of the content.
- The notification date is to be confirmed.
- In response to a question on the Plantation Forestry NES, it was identified that the review of the forestry provisions were put on hold due to the possible regulations but the notification of the MEP will now occur before the new release of the National Environmental Standards. If the NES is introduced it will supersede rules in the MEP.
- One of the points highlighted in Council's submission as the current proposal stands, and as it is being worked on, forestry in the Marlborough Sounds is a permitted activity. There is in excess of 40 years of land use planning for forestry in Marlborough Sounds and there has been a consent requirement since 1977.

6. MDC Coastal Programme Update – Steve Urlich

State of the Environment Report

- “State of the Environment Report 2015 – Our Land, Our Water, Our Place” was submitted to the Environment Committee on 24 March 2016.
 - The report characterises the state of our region and its resources, along with pressures and Council and community responses.
 - The report is structured in five domains: land, air, water, coastal water, freshwater and our infrastructure.
 - It also sets out changes in our economy, demographics of our people, the infrastructure required to make Marlborough a better place, and importantly how the environment has responded to our collective influence since 2008.
 - The 2015 State of the Environment Marlborough report has been structured into an integrated document that foreshadows the last eight years of environment monitoring in the district and coincides with the preparation and review of the Marlborough Environment Plan.
 - A hard copy will be sent to all members when available.

Marine Protected Areas Act

- The Government published a consultation document in January on its proposals to reform the marine protected areas legislation.
- Why a new Marine Protected Areas Act? The current 1971 Marine Reserves legislation is not delivering effective marine protection. Council agreed that the current process for creating marine reserves is complex and inflexible.
- The responsibilities of different government agencies are not integrated as well as they could be with Council in our 725,000 hectare coastal marine area. The Marlborough Marine Futures was set up by the community to get better integration with government agencies and also between land and sea.
- There are a number of reform objectives set out in the consultation document:
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/marine/new-marine-protected-areas-act-consultation-document>
- Council support these with the addition of a clearer link to biodiversity outcomes.
- There are four main tools proposed to be used in an integrated way: marine reserves; species-specific sanctuaries; seabed protected areas' and recreational fishing parks.

- There are relatively few of these tools currently within our coastal marine area. These are:
 - Marine Reserves
 - Long Island is the only marine reserve – 619 ha (0.1% of our coastal area)
 - Blue cod 3x as abundant, crayfish 11x
 - Species spill-over from marine reserves into fished areas as the reserve fills up.
 - Cable zone “de facto” marine reserve
 - Species-specific sanctuaries
 - Protection tailored to each species needs
 - Only one in Marlborough – Clifford & Cloudy Bay – ban on seismic testing to protect dolphins and whales (cetaceans)
 - Council has identified other sites significant for cetaceans, and also seabirds
 - Seabed protected areas
 - Protect from bottom trawling, dredging and mining
 - MfE to manage seabed reserves
 - Council has identified many sites needing protection from bottom trawling, dredging and anchoring
 - Recreational Fishing Parks
 - Can be done under existing legislation
 - MPI continue to manage (Fisheries Act)
 - No commercial take of main recreational fish
 - Paua, scallops and crayfish allowed
 - Marine reserves not allowed within
- Marlborough Sounds Recreational Fishing Park
 - Council supports the Park but does not support its creation upon enactment.
 - Council wants a community process to run and has no view on the proposed Park boundaries.
 - Marine reserves to be possible within the Park and Council wishes to be involved in the Park management at governance and technical level.
 - Council wants MPAs to come with adequate resources for management, science and compliance.
 - Council supports a concession regime
- The Environment Committee Agenda and Information Package for 24 March 2016 can now be viewed online, which contains the Council submission - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings/2016-Council-Meetings/Environment-24-Mar.aspx>.
- **Since the 24 March meeting** - the submission on Marine Protected Areas Act Consultation Document, the Cawthron report titled “Picton Bays Environmental Information and Health Assessment” and the report titled “Queen Charlotte Sound Benthic Review by NIWA 2016” is now available on the MDC website for viewing - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings/2016-Council-Meetings/Environment-24-Mar.aspx>.

Marlborough Sounds Story Book

- Funding is now available to interview long term residents of the Sounds.
- This is part of an Integrated Programme to explore and better understand environmental changes.
- Literature reviews have been carried out – Pelorus was completed early last year, Queen Charlotte is going to the Environment Committee on 24 March and an evaluation of how Picton Bays has changed.
- Literature reviews have been carried out – Pelorus was completed early last year, Queen Charlotte is going to the Environment Committee on 24 March along with a report on the state of the Picton Bays.
- A public meeting will be held In Picton following the Environment Committee, to share this knowledge.
- The team of Friends of the Library have been scrolling through all the books and finding many local stories.
- If anyone can suggest people in your own community who have a long term memory and would think would be good to be interviewed, please forward names and details to Steve – Steve.Urlich@marlborough.govt.nz.

General Roundup

- This report has now been published 'Mitigating Fine Sediment from Forestry in Coastal Waters of the Marlborough Sounds'. It is on the MDC website and has gone to the Environment Committee. Steve has been invited to the Marlborough Forest Industries Association executive committee meeting on 23 March 2016, to talk through this document. Please view the document through MDC website (Item 7) - <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings/2015-Council-Meetings/Environment-26-Nov.aspx>
- A retired road engineer, David Miller, who was responsible for repairing and remediating slips through the Sounds in the 1980s-2000s, has written a report on the slips he remembers and the quantities and material that came down in these slips. These slips were connected to the coastal marine area that had a significant local impact in the Sounds.
- A significant marine site survey off the eastern side of D'Urville Island is being undertaken including Croisilles Harbour this summer. The results will be available mid-year about the state of these areas and presented through the Council's Environment Committee.

7. DOC Update – David Hayes

- Robin Cox retires on 27 May 2016.

Recreation and Historic

- Volunteer camp ground hosts have been in place at the most popular sites and Nydia Lodge for most of the summer. This has resulted in a higher level of compliance and fewer problems.
- Upgrading the Queen Charlotte Track for the current year is underway. The work is from Furneaux to beyond the head of Endeavour Inlet.
- Work is underway to define an improved line for the Queen Charlotte Track from Ship Cove to the saddle. Specialist departmental staff in historic and ecology will check the proposed track line to ensure conservation values are not lost.
- Renewed coastal permits have been received for a 15 year term for five DOC owned jetties. The Motuara jetty does not need a renewal at this time. Those renewed were: Jacobs Bay, Maud

Island, Nydia Lodge, Ship Cove and Ruakaka Bay. These structures require constant maintenance as some users have a tendency to use and abuse.

- A start has been made to meet the official requirements when water is supplied to others. At this stage this appears to apply to French Pass and Momorangi only.
- The Captain Cook Monument at Ship Cove has been repainted with a two pot paint. Ship Cove will be a key location for the National 250th celebrations of Captain Cook's discovery of New Zealand.
- The French Pass Community is planning to place a monument on the French Pass Reserve. The indications are that this is supported by Ngati Koata.
- Two cycle counters have been installed on the Queen Charlotte Track. These are placed as near as physically possible to a counter for walkers. They are located near Anikiwa and Torea.
- Wasp control is being undertaken at the more popular recreational sites. These include Ship Cove, Davies Bay, Momorangi, Ratamira and Kumototo. Pelorus Bridge is also having wasp control undertaken but the main reason for this is to protect the bat protection work being undertaken by Forest and Bird.
- Work has started to replace the sub-standard steps at the end of Karaka Point. It is anticipated that by Easter the steps will be completed and resurfaced.

Biodiversity

- The annual work to control Spartina is winding down for 2016. Five people have been employed since early January to search for and eradicate this weed found in estuarine areas. Fewer plants have been found this year than last year for a similar input. This year's work will finish towards the end of March.
- Surveys at this time indicate less beech seed than in 2014. A decision about a poison operation in the Tennyson to counter a possible increase in rat numbers is still to be made.
- No mice have been caught on Maud Island since September 2014. The Takahe that were transferred from Maud have not yet been returned, but 2 chicks have been produced on their temporary island home.
- The stoat numbers on D'Urville Island appear to be down according to the community trapping results. The rat numbers on D'Urville also seem to be down according to the monitoring undertaken by DOC.
- The last of 3 phased transfers of Fairy Prion to Mana Island has now been completed. On the latest transfer about 100 birds were relocated to Mana.
- The translocated population of Yellowheads on the Chetwodes is now producing young.
- A great deal of effort is being spent on the protection of the pest free closed islands from reinvasion. This not only includes quarantine checks to staff and volunteers going to these islands. The open island such as Motuara, Blumine and Long are more difficult and relies largely on advocacy with the boat operators and concessionaires
- Departmental staff, often in association with Council staff, has been involved in the control of weeds identified in the Regional Plant Management Strategy.
- The young Rowi kiwi are being brought to the Sounds predator free islands for protection from predating stoats while they are under 1kg. When over this weight they will be returned to W South Westland.

Community Involvement

- On the 1 March the first species transfer to Kaipupu Mainland Island occurred. 24 South Island Robin were transferred from Long Island with due cultural formality provided by Te Atiawa. The transfer was the culmination of a great deal of effort over 10 years by this well organised and well led volunteer group. The trapping results by the volunteers have shown a steady decline of rats and mice being caught over the last 12 months. No stoats or possums have been caught since March 2015.

- The Link Pathway is making steady progress with about half the distance between Havelock and Picton formed. They have acquired plant to form and maintain the track. The use of Outward Bound and the Student Army from Christchurch is used extensively for the finishing touches.
- Sections of track that are formed but are still to get the finishing touches are:
 - Kaituna River to Cullens Point.
 - Anikiwa to Queen Charlotte Drive.
 - Linkwater School to the Grove.
 - Ngakuta Bay to the Wedge.
 - Work is underway on other sections.
 - Link Pathway will receive Conservation Funding in the 2016/17 year.
- Untouched World Foundation sponsored another week long trip to Motuara Island late in 2015. Over a dozen students selected from mainly Canterbury and Marlborough schools, supervised by a DOC staff member and student teachers, spent a week camping under canvas undertaking conservation tasks.
- During the summer an activity program was organised jointly by the Picton and Renwick offices of DOC. This involved 38 activities at various sites between Kaikoura and Tennyson Inlet. Thirteen of these activities were to take place in the Sounds of which 2 were cancelled and 1 is still to happen. For the events that have occurred 411 people have participated.
- Forest and Bird continue to protect the bat population at Pelorus Bridge with an intensive trapping program. They have recently obtained a wildlife permit that will allow them to catch, handle and place tracking devices on the bats. It appears that bats are found in surrounding pine forest and are known to be in the Ronga Reserve. This group has received funding from the Conservation Fund for this work.
- The D'Urville Island Community continues with its predator control program. They are undertaking a feasibility study for the eradication of stoats using funds provided by the Conservation Fund.
- The Sounds Restoration Trust has received Conservation funding to investigate the eradication of pines around the northern entrance of the Queen Charlotte Sound. Thanks to the SRT chemical has been supplied to other areas of the Sounds for residents to undertake pine control in their environs. A good place to see the results of the SRT is Ngakuta Bay where there is a mixture of pines ranging from; not poisoned, recently poisoned and poisoned years ago with only the stems remaining.
- The Ngakuta Bay is to be admired for what they have achieved. After their new jetty was built they then created a high standard walkway around the bay which will be part of the Link Pathway. They have also contributed to the pine control in their bay.
- The Tennyson Community has been very active in improving the Matai Bay Hut and has received approval for a mooring so users can have assurance that their boat is safe. They have started predator control in their environs and are planning to undertake wasp control this season.
- Mistletoe Bay Trust has had a successful summer and the new managers Casey and Sharon, handled the busy season well. School camps are in full swing now and wasps are reported to be a problem.
- The Kathmandu sponsorship at Momorangi is nearing its end. The interpretation walk and signs are in place. Tents have been obtained for school camps. The preparation of educational material and a teacher's Training day are being organised.
- The provision of interpretation by Yealands Wines is making steady progress. Draft signs have been produced but still requires final acceptance from landowners, Iwi and the sponsor.
- Councillor Barsanti commented that work has been progressing on construction of the Cullen Point to Moenui Bay section of the Link Pathway. The completed path from Havelock to Cullen Point, was laid with 50 tonne of crushed mussel shell, supplied by a local Havelock farmer Bill Brownlee. The Moenui Bay to Belvue Bay section of the track is nearly completed. It will create over 7km of continuous pathway when finished.

8. General Discussion (Other items)

- The Australian navy vessels that visit the Sounds do not have to follow the NZ speed limits. Councillor Hook commented that it was a general policy for all armed forces that they do not need to abide by speed limits and it was a central government ruling. As this issue has been raised, the Harbour Master will be invited to the next meeting for an update.
- Linda expressed concern over an article in the Marlborough Express on 29 February 2016 regarding the MDC asking the question of “who pays for water?” They would like all rate payers to contribute to Renwick and Havelock safe drinking water. Councillor Hook suggested:
 - Submit through the annual plan process because that is a question put out in that process. It was a philosophical question and it was looked at sewerage throughout the region and thought that as far as townships were concerned when you provided sewerage, that it was for the regional interest to have good sewerage systems, therefore the sewerage is spread throughout the region. Everybody contributes in some way to the sewerage systems. When water was looked at and the cost of upgrading water, particularly in the smaller townships such as Havelock, Renwick and Seddon (to a degree), it was going to be \$2,500 extra per household in rates. The same philosophy was to be used as sewerage and it would be looked at spreading it/weighted wise throughout the region. This was put through the annual plan and this is what MDC want feedback on.

Positive Feedback

- Vic Holler congratulated Council with the progress that has been made over the last 2 years in terms of information that is now available. Steve is doing a fantastic job and there is always people in the background, which make it happen and in this particular case, it is the Environment Committee who drives this.
- Tim Greenhough made comment regarding the public meeting held at Okiwi Bay last year. The resident’s feedback was how often these meetings are held, when the next one is and how they thoroughly enjoyed it and it should be done more often.

Next Meeting - Speakers

- Luke Grogan, Harbour Master update (vessel speed in the sounds and ballast water).
- Steve Murrin, Marlborough Roads (wilding pine).
- Alistair Bramley or Duncan Kaye – Zero Invasive Pests.
- Jamie Sigmund, MDC (smart maps combined with the cruise guide).

The next meeting is to be at MDC in the Committee Room on Monday, 13 June 2016.

The November meeting will be held at Tennyson.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm

**Agenda items should be sent to
Yvette Johnson (e-mail Yvette.Johnson@marlborough.govt.nz)
by Friday 27 May 2016**

| Action | Responsibility |
|--|----------------|
| A hard copy of the State of the Environment report is to be sent to the group when available. | Steve Urlich |
| NIWA report to be sent to the group when available. | Steve Urlich |
| Invite Luke Grogan to next meeting for Harbour Masters update (including vessel speed in the sounds and ballast water. | Alan Johnson |
| Invite Steve Murrin to next meeting for a Marlborough Roads update (including wilding pines) | Alan Johnson |
| Invite Al Bramley or Duncan Kaye – Zero Invasive Pests (obtain contact details from Dave Hayes) | Alan Johnson |
| Invite Jamie Sigmund to next meeting for a show and tell on the new smart maps and cruising guide. | Alan Johnson |
| Email SAG members address list to the group. | Yvette Johnson |

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