

Meeting Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group held in the Committee Room at Marlborough District Council on Monday 26 February 2018 at 9.30 am

Present

Clr Taylor, Steve Ulrich, Ross Withell, Rob Schuckard, Monyeen Wedge, Jonathan Large, Debbie Stone, Tim Greenhough, Linda Booth, Ken Roush, Rachel Drake, Aaron Robinson, Vic Koller, Dave Hayes and Eric Jorgensen

Guest Speakers

Dan Lees (Ministry for Primary Industries)

MDC Staff

Steve Ulrich, Pere Hawes (10.00 am), Gina Ferguson (10.00 am), Jono Underwood (1.45 pm)
Jane Tito (2.00 pm)

In Attendance

Rebecca Waldron (Council Secretary)

Apologies

Clr Hook, Clr Oddie, Judy Hellstrom, Alan Johnson

Welcome

Clr Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lynley Perkins (Kristen Gerard's replacement) to the group. Lynley is representing Kenepuru and Pelorus.

Tim noted that the new security measures have stopped one of the fire exits in the Committee Room being able to be used by non-staff. Nadine is going to look into this matter.

1. Actions from the Previous Meeting (18 September 2017)

- Check if there is information on sea level rises available for the Marlborough Sounds -Steve Ulrich
There are tsunami maps available from GNS, but Steve was unable to find any material for sea level rise or coastal inundation. This work is required under the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and this was raised at the Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) Hearing on Climate Change last week. There was guidance released by the Government last year. DOC has also released guidance on coastal hazards. Steve thinks that staff will be directed to undertake this work in the near future.
- Liaise with Glyn Waters to organise a communication on Marlborough Roads contractor availability – Steve Murrin
A newsletter has been sent to the members and positive feedback was received.
- Forward design of slip retaining wall on the Archers Road to Linda Booth – Steve Murrin
Memo received by Rebecca and forwarded to the members on 4 October 2017
- Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works – Alan Johnson
This item is deferred to the next meeting as Alan is on leave
- Provide information to the group on an app for freedom campers – Linda Craighead
Jane is going to attend the meeting to discuss this action point in the afternoon

2. Policy Update on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise – Pere Hawes

- Central Government provides guidance to all councils on planning for coastal hazards associated with climate change including sea level rise. The notified MEP relied on information from the relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) available at the time.
- There has since been another IPCC report. Guidance was released in December 2017.
- The MEP Hearing on Climate Change took place in the week beginning 19 February. An addendum taking into consideration the new guidance, was provided to the section 42A report. (The report had been written before the new guidance had been made available in December).
- This information and the information presented by the Climate Karanga is publicly available via the Council's MEP hearings portal. (Link below).
<https://eservices.marlborough.govt.nz/programmes/ListProgrammeEvents?id=705555>
- The guidance material is available on the Mfe website (link below)
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/coastal-hazards-and-climate-change-guidance-local-government>
- The guidance material sets out advice that councils need to plan for the medium to long term and include community engagement.
- New development is separated from existing development.
- Minister Shaw has stated that councils need to plan for the worst case scenario (H+) when planning for new development.

3. MFA Update – Jonathan Large

- Jonathan made a presentation to the group on their Environmental Programme. (Appendix 1)
- There is a downloadable form available from the MFA website which can be completed and sent back to the MFA (link below):
<http://assets.marinefarming.co.nz/Beach%20Debris%20Report%20Form.pdf>
- Please let MFA know (use the 0800 number below) when there is any debris which they need to pick up, this includes mussel floats which you may have collected off a beach yourself. This information will be added to MFA statistics.
MFA ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE
0800 433 2747
0800 4DEBRIS
- MFA would like to link their environmental programme in with the wider community.
 - It was noted that the timing of the Big Day Out beach clean needs to take into consideration nesting of threatened shore birds.
 - Linda noted that it would be beneficial to other companies to have a similar environmental programme. The MFA is happy to share the programme if other companies would like to use it to develop their own.
- Vic noted the damage being done to the foreshore by mussel boats. Jonathan noted that MFA continue to put the message out to operators to go slower in high tides. This topic will also be discussed at the MFA workshop in August. Vic is going to try to film the wake and will pass it on to Jonathan.
- The trial of the method of attaching mussel floats without lashings was discussed. This is not proving very successful and another system involving bolts is being investigated.

4. Aquaculture Week – Debbie Stone

- Debbie passed around the flyer for the Aquaculture Week which ties in with the Havelock Mussel and Seafood Festival (this was circulated to the group by email after the meeting).

5. King Salmon Relocation Report – Dan Lees (MPI)

- The work done on this project by Eric, Judy and Rob was acknowledged by Dan and Nadine.
- Dan made a PowerPoint presentation to the group (Appendix 2).
- A meeting is going to take place with the Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Conservation and Council in the near future.
- MPI is going to model the hydrodynamic effects of the farm swap scenarios recommended by the Independent Advisory Panel (IAP).
- The sites that have been recommended will be monitored for two years before salmon farms are shifted, and it has been recommended that there is three years between each stage.
- Dan was asked by Rob if he regarded the Sounds as a place where government had to intervene using the powers under section 360 of the Resource Management Act (the Act) because industry and Council were unable to plan for the future of aquaculture in Marlborough? Rob noted that the Environmental Protection Authority's Board of Inquiry (BOI) process had recently finished, and that this 2012 process had led to the biggest expansion of salmon farming.
 - Dan noted that there was a genuine desire to find better locations for the environmentally poorly performing farms. This is an issue that surfaced after the BOI process. Section 360 of the Act is a faster process than a normal plan change. There have been questions raised by different groups on whether it was the correct way to do it, Nevertheless it is part of the legal framework and can be used.
 - Dan clarified the differences between the section 360 and the plan change process in Schedule 1 of the Act. (Shorter submission times, no right of appeal through the Environment Court and the Minister makes the final decision).
- Dan was also asked by Rob if the process was consistent with Part 2 of the Act and if equal participation of the community through using section 360 was fulfilled?
 - Dan noted that the IAP assessed this and considered that it was consistent with the Act and that the process run gave the community opportunity to have their say.
 - Discussion on funding of experts and the lack of the ability to cross examine experts followed, with Dan and Rob holding different points of view.
- Dan posed a question to the group. "What do members think of the outcome and how it should be progressed".
 - Pere clarified that the Marine Farming Provisions were removed from the notified MEP and instead a process similar to the Salmon Working Group process is being used to advise Council on spatial allocation and operational requirements for marine farming. The community will be consulted in terms of the outcome. Allocation of space for salmon farming is outside of the scope of the current aquaculture review for now.
 - Ken is concerned with the use of the s360 process instead of following the usual procedures.
 - Eric noted that the working group was not given enough scope to consider new technologies. The process to advise the Minister was thorough. Eric noted that it would be better to look at fin fish farming generically when planning, and include all aquaculture provisions and the effect of all the activities on the broader environment.

- Rob disagreed with Dan’s comment that the process has been taken to make salmon farming management better when the process was actually undertaken to increase production and to grow salmon farming. He noted that the process started almost straight after the Supreme Court ruling to grow salmon farming by 15000 tonne and that the best practice guidelines were not published at the time of beginning the section 360 process.
- Ross noted that data on environmental effects on Kopaua had only just begun when this process was started and asked Dan what is happening now with the rising water temperatures.
 - Dan noted that the site at Tio Point has cooler water temperatures but that Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere is warmer. MPI have not been able to find suitable sites outside of Marlborough. The technology to move off shore is not available yet.

Pere withdrew from the meeting at 11.30 am.

6. Compliance Monitoring Update – Gina Ferguson (Compliance Manager – MDC)

- Gina presented an excel spreadsheet showing the NZKS salmon farm sites (including the proposed relocation sites); how they are measuring against their consent conditions and how they would measure against best management practises.
- The Best Management Practice Guidelines (BMPG) parameters identified are benthic enrichment and copper and zinc. A benthic environment enrichment stage of 5 is the limit farms do not want to exceed. If this stage is exceeded there are alert stages until 5.6 (de-stocking).
- Gina noted that as the consents have all been granted at different times, they all have slightly different consent conditions. The earliest ones have no conditions and the latest include the BMPG in their conditions. Only conditions that form part of the consent can be taken into account when deciding if the farm is compliant.
- Gina noted that of the three sites not highlighted by the Panel for possible relocation; Forsyth Bay has a high benthic enrichment and has been fallowed and the other two have alert responses.
- Gina is going to investigate the notification process followed for the change of Ruakaka Bay from shellfish to fin fish and inform Monyeen of the details.
- BMPG is used as a tool by the Compliance team to help assess enrichment. Link to the guidelines below:
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Meetings/2014/Environment%202014%20List/Item_6_27_November_2014_Best_Practice_Guidelines_for_Salmon_Farm_Management.pdf
- Gina also shared information on the farms consents in comparison to BMPG copper and zinc parameters. She noted that older consents do not have these parameters as part of their consents, but that if they did, four out of the five older consents have levels high enough that a management response would be needed to reduce their zinc or copper deposits. She noted that copper comes from the anti-fouling agent (which is not used anymore) and zinc from the feed. Three sites have very low levels of the metals.
- Dan noted that recovering the waste from the sea bed and waste capture before it reaches the sea floor, is being researched.
- Steve noted that Version 2 of the Best Practice Guidelines will shortly be published. Gina clarified that consents which refer to Version 1 in their conditions will continue be monitored against that version.
- **Gina and Dan withdrew from the meeting at lunch.**

7. DOC Update – Dave Hayes

- Dave gave an update to the group. (Appendix 3).
- A myrtle rust information sheet has been attached (Appendix 4) and was also circulated to the group after the meeting.
- Dave was asked about the discontinued Perano Whaling Station whale spotting programme. He noted that a large amount of data has now been collected and is being analysed.
- The change in government may mean that DOC will attend more resource management hearings in the future.
- DOC has received an application for a life size model of a whale to be installed at Perano Whaling Station.

8. Marinas Berthage Fee Rise – Kristen Gerard

- Deferred to the next meeting.

9. Forestry Update – Aaron Robinson

- The recent cyclones have caused some damage especially in the Northbank area.
- National Environmental Standards for Planation Forestry (NES – PF) will come into effect on 1 May 2018. A workshop by MPI is being held on 22 March.
- Aaron has noticed improvements in harvesting systems. A tethered type machine is being used more often especially in smaller private forests, this is improving safety and production and reducing tracking.
- Aaron noted that a lot of forests will be coming into maturity in a few years, but doesn't think it will mean there will be more harvested each year.
- Aaron was asked if he knew anything about the barge site at Waitaria, but clarified that he had no new information.

10. Off-site Meeting – Monyeen Wedge

- Discussion took place on a suitable venue for the off-site meeting. Suggestions included French Pass and Central Kenepuru. More discussion by staff with communities will be held to decide where the off-site meeting should be held.
- It was suggested that it may be timely to visit the question of what the role of SAG is. After some discussion it was decided to put this question on to the agenda of the next meeting.

11. Marine Futures Update – Eric Jorgensen

- When the Ministers from MPI come to Marlborough, they will be meeting with the Marine Futures Association and Council to discuss the collaborative integrated process.
- Discussion on what the direction of the Marine Futures organisation should be, took place.

Jonathan Large and Debbie Stone withdrew from the meeting.

12. General Business

Mooring consents – Judy Hellstrom – deferred to next meeting.

Rabbit Pest Control in the Sounds – Vic Koller

- Vic noted that there is a large problem of rabbits in Double and Moetapu Bays. Jono Underwood was able to clarify methods that can be used for rabbit control but noted that not all methods would be suitable for the area which Vic needs to control which is grassy with bush margins:
 - Spotlight shooting (dependent on location and may not always be safe).
 - Fumigation can be used if the rabbits are using warrens, which probably won't apply in a situation where the rabbits are sheltering in bush.
 - A new strain of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Virus Disease (RHDV1-K5) is likely to be introduced to New Zealand; however this will probably be trialled in more open farm areas and may not be that successful in high rainfall areas such as the Marlborough Sounds.
 - Toxins (Pindone) can be used, depending on community support and also rabbit numbers. The toxin is able to be purchased off the shelf. The idea is to pre-feed in bait stations to get the rabbits used to the stations before introducing the poison for six or seven days. The poison is a slow release anti-coagulant which builds up over time killing the rabbit. Carcasses are not usually seen.

Jono didn't have data on whether weka have been killed by the poison but noted that they would have to feed on the gut contents/organs for a long period of time before being affected. He suggested setting up the bait stations so that weka are not able to access them. He noted that Pindone has been implicated in some secondary kills of harrier hawks in the South Island high country. There is an antidote available if an animal is accidentally poisoned. The Pindone guidance rules are available on Council's website. (Link below).

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Biosecurity/Feral%20Rabbit%20list/UserGuidelineForRabbitControlWithPindonePelletsInMarlborough.pdf>

- Jono clarified that there has been an early stage research project for the control of rabbits with second generation anti-coagulants coumatetralyl and coumatyl (or sometimes called C+C).
- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) has been notified. Submissions close on 23 March. It includes a proposed new programme for the control of Mediterranean fan worm. (Link to the RPMP proposal below):
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity/regional-pest-management-strategy-review>
- Jono noted that the RPMP does not cover everything that Council does, but is a tool to help with highest priority programmes. Jono has hard copies of the document available on request. Contact Jono on 520 7400 or Jono.Underwood@marlborough.govt.nz

Progress on Roadman Proposal – Vic Koller

- Nadine read out an email from Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads) confirming that a Sounds road crew will be trialled from the end of March 2018 until June 2019. This crew will cover the whole of the Sounds.
- The group would like Steve to attend a meeting soon to provide a roading update.
- The Sounds Councillors have pushed for a permanent increase in the roading budget through the Long Term Plan (LTP) process. Submissions are open for the LTP from 6 April to 11 May 2018. See link below for information on the process:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/news?item=id:217hblzu17q9shthya>

Aaron Robinson withdrew from the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Response of Freedom Camping Action Point (Sept 2017) - Jane Tito (Reserves and Amenities Manager – MDC

- Jane clarified that it has not been practical to introduce an app as not all freedom campers are using online systems. However Council is looking at other options and investigating the possibility of showing what areas are available for freedom camping on its website and making booking on-line available.
- The Council Rangers have done a great job over the summer and have moved on people when necessary. There has been an approximate 35% increase in freedom campers this year but there have been less complaints. There have been fewer infringements issued this year than in previous years.
- Councillor Sloan will be attending a meeting on freedom camping with the new Minister for Tourism Kelvin Davis. Jane agreed to come and give an update on results at the next meeting.
- Ross noted that more no-camping signs at Portage would be helpful. Jane is going to investigate this.

Jane and Dave Hayes withdrew from the meeting at 2.30 pm.

Future Agenda Item: Salmon Relocation Process – role and basis of SAG members input - Rob Schuckard

- This item will be rolled over to the next meeting.

Feedback on Sounds Advice Newsletter

- There was disappointment that the newsletter arrived by email on 22 December, it would be preferred if the newsletter was distributed in the first week of December.
- Information on what to do in an earthquake would have been useful. Linda noted that her community set up a scenario with the help of Civil Defence; who made a booklet with information including the Tsunami inundation map, and fire and emergency information. The Community Co-ordinator for Civil Defence is Catherine Coates. Catherine.Coates@marlborough.govt.nz
- Other than that the newsletter was informative. Hard copies of the newsletter are available. Please contact Rebecca.waldron@marlborough.govt.nz

13. Other Matters

Next meeting agenda items:

- Climate change data
- Marlborough Roads update
- Tōtaranui 250

Sedimentation of Mahau Sound

- Vic commented that after a rainfall Mahau Sound is coloured brown with sedimentation. Steve noted that sedimentation rates have risen by 5-20% since pre-European times and that the main contributor is the Pelorus/Te Hoiere and Kaituna Rivers. Sedimentation coring has been undertaken in the Mahau Sound and the Havelock Estuary to fingerprint what is contributing to the sedimentation. Results will be available in March 2019.
- Steve is advocating for an integrated approach including bigger setbacks and a replanting management plan which takes into account retiring steep erosion-prone faces and gullies.
- Steve suggested that a concept similar to the West Coast Development Trust might work in Marlborough for the blocks that would become uneconomic because of a replanting management plan. This topic was discussed further and it was decided to put on the next agenda.

Ex-cyclone Gita Media Release

- Linda noted that the media release by Stuff suggesting residents evacuate the Marlborough Sounds was too extreme. Cllr Taylor apologised on behalf of Council for this mistake and is going to provide feedback on the group's behalf.

14. Actions from the Meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Check out legality of door to the rear of Committee Room being labelled as an exit when it is not accessible for non-staff	Cllr Taylor
2. Provide clarification to the group on resource consents concerning river/land water works	Alan Johnson
3. Investigate resource consent notification process for Ruakaka Bay	Gina Ferguson
4. Investigate the no camping signage at Portage	Jane Tito
5. Provide feedback on behalf of SAG on the Stuff press release to evacuate the Sounds (ex-Cyclone Gita)	Cllr Taylor

The next meeting date has not yet been decided and will be held off site.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

Record No: 1857489