

**NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NZCA)
TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA**

10, 11 February 2010

111th meeting held at Conservation House, 18 – 32 Manners St, Wellington

CONFIRMED MINUTES

(recorded in order taken at the meeting)

Present:

Kay Booth
Mike Browne
Linda Conning
Charles Crofts
Waana Davis
Bob McDowall
Basil Morrison
John Nankervis
Don Ross (Chairperson)
Louise Savage
Brian Stephenson
Hally Toia

In attendance:

Al Morrison, Director-General, Department of Conservation (DOC) (*Agenda item 7*)
Andrew Bignell, Acting General Manager Marketing Communications, DOC
Jim Nicolson, Policy Manager, DOC (*Agenda item 8*)
Catherine Tudhope, Manager Statutory Bodies Unit, DOC (*Agenda item 16.1 & 16.2*)
Allan McKenzie, Manager Nature Heritage Fund and Acting Manager Statutory Bodies Unit, DOC
Brent Beaven, National Hunting Advisor, DOC (*Agenda item 15*)
Elena Sedouch, Statutory Bodies Advisor, DOC

Paul Swain, Chief Crown Negotiator for Ngati Porou Negotiations, Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) (*Agenda item 9*)

Jane Fletcher, Manager, Policy Negotiations, OTS (*Agenda item 9*)

Kathryn Haliburton, Analyst, OTS (*Agenda item 9*)

Jeff Ensor, Tourism Industry Association (*10 February, 10am - 12.30pm*)

Agenda item 1. Welcome

H. Toia opened the meeting with a karakia at 10.05am on 10 February.

A. Bignell read the letter from N. Holmes addressed to the Authority formally advising of C. Tudhope's secondment to North York Moors National Park until August 2010. Allan McKenzie will be acting manager in her absence.

D. Ross noted that Hon K. Wilkinson has been appointed the new Minister of Conservation and Hon T. Groser will continue with his other portfolios. D. Ross said that he enjoyed interactions with T. Groser and is looking forward to working with Hon K. Wilkinson. He advised the Authority of his meeting with the new Minister at 4.30pm and invited M. Browne and J. Nankervis to attend the meeting with him.

D. Ross noted an extra item for the agenda – ratification of the NZCA submission on the Biosecurity Act and asked it to be added to the agenda.

The Authority resolved to add *ratification of the NZCA submission on the Biosecurity Act* to the February 2010 agenda.

Morrison/Conning/Carried

Agenda item 2. Apologies

The Authority resolved to receive apologies from Y. Sharp for her absence due to personal reasons, W. Davis for lateness, N. Holmes and from D. Johnston for absence from the meeting.

Nankervis/Morrison/Carried

Agenda item 3. Conflict of Interest

B. Morrison advised that he attended the Ngati Porou urgent enquiries meeting and will not be taking part in the discussion on *Treaty Settlements, agenda item 9*.

H. Toia withdrew his conflict of interest declaration on the *Proposed Kauri National Park in Northland, agenda item 16.2*

Agenda item 4. Minutes

H. Toia noted that he left the meeting at 4pm.

The Authority resolved to confirm the minutes of 10 December 2009 meeting, as amended.

Booth/Nankervis/Carried

Agenda item 7. Director-General

A. Morrison presented an update on the changes within the Department. He referred to the three key projects - *Destinations Management Plan, Nature Heritage Management System and Prioritising for the Future*, which are being implemented this year. Prioritising for the Future project has already identified five out of six priority programmes: 1. support services; 2. streamlining services; 3. procurement; and 4. planning, and 5. information technology. Work has been begun on these five streams.

A. Morrison said that a Business Unit has been established in the Department's National Office to work towards the three key objectives which are, in order of importance:

1. make the Department more business-like
2. create better partnerships
3. increase revenue

A. Morrison said that a review of the Great Barrier Island Office was announced on 9 February 2010. It is proposed that Great Barrier Island be managed from the Warkworth Area.

A. Morrison noted the new Minister of Conservation, Hon Kate Wilkinson. He acknowledged the Minister's large portfolio and all the responsibilities of this role. He welcomed the new Minister into the role and acknowledged the work done by T. Groser as the former Minister of Conservation.

A. Morrison concluded with the Prince William visit to Kapiti Island accompanied by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Conservation. The visit was very successful.

Agenda item 9. Treaty Settlements

A presentation was made by J. Fletcher, Manager Negotiations/Settlement and P. Swain, Chief Crown Negotiator for Treaty settlement negotiations with Ngati Porou. They were assisted by K. Haliburton, Analyst, Office of Treaty Settlements.

P. Swain spoke about the Crown Settlement offer to Ngati Porou and the co-governance of public conservation lands in the settlement redress. He said the Crown Settlement offer which was counter signed by Ngati Porou on 7 December 2009 provides for a co-governance arrangement over the public conservation sites within the Ngati Porou Place. Co-governance is novel redress within the current legislative framework. It is integral to Ngati Porou's Treaty settlement, is embodied in Treaty partnership and applies to relatively defined areas. The aim is to sign a Deed of Settlement in mid 2010.

J. Fletcher said that the Crown and Ngati Porou will jointly develop those parts of the East Coast/Bay of Plenty CMS which apply to the Ngati Porou Place, yet to be agreed, but within the Ngati Porou rohe. The development of the Ngati Porou Place of the strategy will be informed by the Ngati Porou Iwi Management Plan, will be subject to public consultation and will be jointly submitted to the Authority for approval. J. Fletcher noted that all public conservation sites transferred to Ngati Porou will be subject to the preservation of public access, conservation values and third party interests.

J. Fletcher concluded the presentation by saying that the details of co-governance are still to be finalised, and specific conditions for management of sites for transfer are to be negotiated and agreed on.

A question/answer session followed. The Authority acknowledged the complexity and the range of issues that came out of the presentation, particularly the details of co-governance.

B. Morrison took no part in the discussion.

The meeting adjourned from 12.45pm to 1.25pm

Agenda item 15. National Hunting Progress Report

B. Beaven presented the progress report of the National Hunting Advisor. The key part of this role is to build a good relationship between the Department and the local hunters. The report will be circulated to all conservation boards for noting.

The Authority resolved to note the progress made by, and the 2009/10 work plan for, the National Hunting Advisor.

Nankervis/Booth/Carried

The Authority resolved to strongly endorse the work of the National Hunting Advisor and support continuation of this particular role.

Browne/Savage/Carried

Agenda item 5. Correspondence

The Authority resolved to received the inwards correspondence and approve the outwards correspondence.

Conning/Booth/Carried

Agenda item 6. Status Report

The Authority resolved to receive the status report.

Stephenson/Nankervis/Carried

The meeting adjourned from 3pm to 3.15 pm

Agenda item 10. Minister of Conservation liaison

The Authority discussed the possible topics for the meeting with the Minister which is being held at 4.30pm on 10 February 2010. Key topics included the conservation board appointments, West Coast CMS, heli-hunting, statutory planning, and the Treaty Settlements. D. Ross said that he will invite the Minister to the Chairpersons' Conference.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm and re-opened on Thursday 11 February 2010 at 8.35am

Agenda item 10. Minister of Conservation liaison (continued)

M. Browne, J. Nankervis and D. Ross shared their impressions of the meeting with the Minister that took place on 10 February. They felt that the meeting was very positive and the Minister was well briefed on the topics that were discussed.

The Authority resolved to write to the Minister summarising the key points of discussion from the meeting, particularly highlighting the issues with CMSs and the conservation board appointments process.

Conning/Morrison/Carried

Agenda item 11.2. Establishment of Management Planning Committees

The Authority resolved to establish four management planning committees with the members and the convenors as identified in the schedule below:

<i>Waikato CMS</i>	<i>Stewart Island CMS/Rakiura NPMP</i>	<i>Mt Aspiring NPMP</i>	<i>Kaburangi NPMP amendment</i>
Basil Morrison (c)	Mike Browne (c)	Linda Conning (c)	Kay Booth (c)
Linda Conning	John Nankervis	Brian Stephenson	John Nankervis
Brian Stephenson	Hally Toia	Louise Savage	Waana Davis
Waana Davis	Yvonne Sharpe	Charles Crofts	Bob McDowall
	Basil Morrison		

Ross/Booth/Carried

Agenda item 8. General Manager Policy

J. Nicolson presented the Policy Group bimonthly update on behalf of D. Johnson.

1. Mining - a document was prepared by the Department on the public conservation areas that would be open for review under Crown Minerals Act. The document includes the areas that will be considered for taking off and inclusion in Schedule 4. After the document is taken to Cabinet, it will be released for public consultation during a six week period starting early March 2010.
2. CMSs review – following the CMS workshop held with the Authority in December 2009, Policy Group has been working on the CMS structure. The revised structure reduces the functions and description in the document and focuses on conciseness. Auckland CMS is being used for this work.

3. Concessions – recommendations are with the Executive Leadership Team. The recommendation document is due to be released in March 2010.
4. Freshwater – Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has developed a new programme “Land and Water Forum” that identifies issues and needs related to freshwater, such as water quality, water quantity, governance, setting and allocation.
5. Eels – there is a greater interest in protection of eels, particularly long-finned eels. The management of eels is under the Fisheries Act by the Ministry of Fisheries. There is a possibility for the Authority to explore the opportunities of its involvement in eel protection in the national parks.
6. Wildlife Schedule review – The Minister has agreed on the Department’s recommendations for all species. The decision on the status of Canada geese is still pending.
7. National Policy Statement on Biodiversity – the work has started
8. Heli-hunting – the Minister is still considering the issue

The Authority resolved to ask the department for clarification of the statutory basis for the exploitation and conservation of eels.

McDowall/Conning/Carried

Meeting adjourned from 10.20 am to 10.40am

Agenda item 9. Treaty Settlements

The Authority resolved to write to the Office of Treaty Settlements, letter copied to P. Swain inviting J. Fletcher, P. Swain and K. Haliburton to the April meeting; and in the letter raise points of interest that the Authority wishes to discuss at the next meeting.

B. Morrison took no part in the discussion.

Conning/Savage/Carried

Agenda item 11.1. Statutory Planning update

D. Ross brought the Authority’s attention to the note on page 2: “the Department will seek a collective extension of time for reviewing CMSs from the Minister during the next couple of months. This is to address timing issues around completion of the departmental review of the content of the CMSs”.

The Authority resolved to receive the statutory planning update.

Stephenson/Booth/Carried

Agenda item 11.3. West Coast CMS

K. Booth noted the progress with the West Coast CMS since the Authority meeting in December 2009. She said the NZCA West Coast committee spoke to M. Slater, West Coast Conservator, and W. Inwood, the Chair of West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board, about the heli-hunting issue. Since then the Authority wrote to the Minister about the heli-hunting issue in the West Coast CMS and is now awaiting the Minister’s response.

Agenda item 12. Chairpersons’ Conference

D. Ross read out the letter that was sent to all conservation board chairpersons about the conference. The Authority members discussed the topics for the agenda, which included

CMSs; Treaty Settlements; Understanding of boards' expectations of NZCA and vice versa; Recruitment of board members; chairing skill development; conservation board chairs' issues.

D. Ross said he will be calling each of the conservation board chairpersons to discuss agenda topics.

Agenda item 16.1 Proposed exchange of land – Abel Tasman National Park

The Authority resolved to

1. Note the support of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board for the exchange to proceed
2. Determine that the public advertising of the proposal is not necessary
3. Recommend to the Minister that the exchange proposal be approved and that the land exchanged be acquired for national park purposes and added to Abel Tasman National Park
4. Suggest to the Minister that she checks are made that the local iwi are still happy with the proposed exchange

Booth/Nankervis/Carried

Agenda item 16.2. Kauri National Park

The Authority has selected for investigation those areas that have been agreed between the Department and Te Iwi o Te Roroa, and fall within the rohe of Te Roroa.

After its December 2009 meeting the Authority wrote to Te Roroa Manawhenua Trust, Northland Conservation Board, Fish & Game Northland and affected local and regional authorities to advise them of its intention and to seek their views before a final decision was made. All parties advised their support in principle for the proposal.

The Authority noted the letter of 5 February 2010 sent by Te Kuihi claimant and spokesperson strongly objecting to the establishment of the Kauri National Park.

The Authority resolved to

1. Write to the Department of Conservation asking for an investigation of the proposed national park under section 8 of National Parks Act attaching a map with the areas proposed for the investigation and the letter of objection from Te Kuihi
2. Write to the Minister of Conservation advising of the Authority's request to the Department to investigate a proposed Kauri National Park attaching a map with the areas proposed for the investigation and the letter of objection from Te Kuihi

Booth/Conning/Carried

Agenda item 13. Statement of Intent (SOI) 2010 – 2011

The Authority resolved to note the Statement of Intent for 2010-2011.

Booth/Stephenson/Carried

Agenda item 14. NZCA liaison and representation

The Authority resolved to receive the reports from B. Morrison, M. Browne, C. Crofts and J. Nankervis as presented.

Conning/Stephenson/Carried

Agenda item 17. Schedule 4 of Crown Minerals Act

The Authority resolved to

1. form a *Schedule 4 of Crown Minerals Act committee* with the following members J. Nankervis (convenor), L. Conning, B. Stephenson, K. Booth and B. Morrison.
2. consider the discussion document that is due to be released on 20 February
3. prepare draft advice to the Minister on the proposed changes to Schedule 4 Crown Minerals Act to be circulated to members for discussion at the April meeting

Ross/Savage/Carried

Meeting closed at 3.20pm