

New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

12 & 13 October 2011 meeting

121st meeting held at Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington

Confirmed minutes

(Recorded in order taken at the meeting)

Present:

Kay Booth, Chairperson
Jo Breese
Ian Buchanan
Sandra Cook
Mick Clout
Waana Davis
Judy Hellstrom
Gerry McSweeney
Warren Parker from 11.55am 12 October
Yvonne Sharp
Brian Stephenson
John Thorburn
Hally Toia

In attendance:

Catherine Tudhope, Manager Statutory Bodies Unit, Department of Conservation (DOC)
Katrina Edwards, Senior Statutory Bodies Officer, DOC
For agenda item 1, 2, 3 & 11: Doris Johnston, Deputy Director-General Policy, DOC
For agenda item 4: Jonty Somers, Chief Legal Advisor, DOC
For agenda item 5.1, 5.2 & part 5.3: Marie Long, Senior Planner, DOC
For agenda item 5.2 & 5.3: Sarah Bagnall, Senior Planner, DOC
For agenda item 6: Anne Bogle, Senior Solicitor, DOC
For agenda item 10: Al Morrison, Director-General, DOC
For agenda item 13: Kevin O'Connor, Deputy Director-General Research and Development, DOC, and Geoff Hicks, Chief Scientist, DOC

Agenda item 1. Chairperson's introduction and welcome

Kay Booth opened the meeting at 10am and welcomed the members of the Authority for the 2011-2014 term.

Agenda item 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Warren Parker for lateness due to travel disruption.

Agenda item 3. Introductions

Members of the Authority introduced themselves.

Agenda item 4. The New Zealand Conservation Authority

Jonty Somers, DOC's Chief Legal Advisor, gave a presentation on the role and functions of the NZCA¹.

Warren Parker joined the meeting.

There was discussion on various aspects.

Agenda item 5.1 Statutory planning overview

Marie Long, DOC Senior Planner, gave a presentation on management planning and the role of the NZCA².

Agenda item 5.2 Management planning bi-monthly update

Marie Long explained the purpose of providing this agenda paper for each meeting and the paper was taken as read. The timing of the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS review for the heli-hunting policies was not given and in response to a query Marie advised the proposals will be notified in May 2012 at the same time as the other CMSs undergoing review are notified.

Agenda item 5.3 Draft national approaches to specific activities for inclusion in conservation management strategies (CMSs)

There was discussion on national issues generally, including how national issues were selected, the CMS model, business and management planning and how they relate to each other. This was followed by questions and comments on the draft approaches to management planning for motorised vehicles, filming, gazetted wilderness areas, aircraft and wild animal recovery (control) on public conservation land and waters.

Agenda item 5.4 Rakiura National Park Management Plan amendment

The Authority considered the recommendation from the Southland Conservation Board to amend the Rakiura National Park Management Plan to remove an inconsistency between the Rakiura/Stewart Island CMS and the Rakiura National Park Management Plan. Hally Toia advised that the Board had explained to the Authority's Rakiura Committee the reason for the change to the CMS as a result of public submissions and this amendment is consistent with that explanation.

The Authority resolved to approve the amendments to the Rakiura National Park Management Plan subject to any comments by the Minister and to refer the proposed amendment to her for that purpose.

Hally Toia/Sandra Cook/carried
(Jo Breese not in attendance for this item)

Agenda item 5.5 Tongariro National Park Management Plan partial review

Brian Stephenson gave background on the Tongariro National Park Management Plan partial review and the proposed amendments. In response to questions members were advised that the Tukino skifield is outside the gift area, and Tuwharetoa had raised concerns that providing for over-snow passenger transport would increase the number of visitors on the mountain. The Department had previously advised the Authority that was not the intention.

¹ DOCDM-836146

² DOCDM-835477

The Authority resolved to approve the amendments to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan.

Brian Stephenson/ Waana Davis/Carried
(Jo Breese not in attendance for this item)

Agenda item 6. Conflicts of interest

Anne Bogle, DOC Senior Solicitor, gave a presentation on conflicts of interests³ specifically relating to public bodies. There was discussion about conflicts of interest, the register of interests, and the potential development of an Authority policy on conflicts of interest.

Agenda item 7. NZCA modus operandi and administration

Kay Booth advised members how she would chair the Authority and Catherine Tudhope explained various administrative practices. These could all be reviewed in 2012 once new members had had a chance to become familiar with the role and assess what worked and did not work for them as a team.

Agenda item 8.1 Investigation of proposal to establish a national park centred on the Waipoua Kauri Forest Park, Northland

The progress report was noted.

Agenda item 8.2 Past NZCA practice national park investigations

Catherine Tudhope advised that the Authority did not have an adopted procedure for national park investigations; probably because they were rare and circumstances varied. Previously, once the Authority has received the investigation report it had established a Committee and the Chair and the Committee has gone to the location, met with tangata whenua and the conservation board and held public meetings to hear views on the proposal. The various elements of the recommendation get worked through one by one.

Undoubtedly there will be issues raised that are not for the Authority to decide. The establishment of a national park is a judicially reviewable process and the Authority should seek legal advice to ensure it follows correct process.

Agenda item 9.1 NZCA rivers discussion paper

Kay Booth advised that about 18 months ago the Authority, under its matters of national importance and educational functions (section 6B(1) (d) and (g)), decided to provide an information paper on protecting New Zealand's rivers to add to the public discussions around freshwater management. The paper is currently with the editor.

Agenda item 9.2 Annual report on deer

There was discussion on the annual report on deer. Members asked that next year's report include information on measures being taken to prevent the expansion of the feral range of species, and the consequences of increasing deer numbers (the assumption made that deer numbers are increasing given low level of control) and expansion of range (if not prevented).

Agenda item 10. Director-General of Conservation

Al Morrison, Director-General of Conservation, spoke about the Rena disaster, the recently signed Genesis Energy Whio Recovery partnership, and the departmental restructuring. There was discussion on how the Authority and the Director-General

³ DOCDM-328000

are going to interact. The Authority asked the Director-General to identify three big issues to which the Authority could add value by providing strategic advice.

Agenda item 13. Science in DOC

Kevin O'Connor, Deputy Director-General Research and Development, and Geoff Hicks, Chief Scientist, DOC, gave a presentation on science priorities in DOC⁴. Members asked for a separate briefing on the Natural Heritage Management System and the Destination Management Framework and their contributions to the Statement of Intent and management planning.

Agenda item 9.3 Game Animal Council Bill

Catherine Tudhope advised that the Game Animal Council Bill is to be introduced on Tuesday the 18th of October 2011. When a new Government is formed it reviews all the legislation before the House (which will include this Bill), and considers any new legislation it wishes to introduce, and then decides what priority will be accorded to each.

Agenda item 11. Deputy Director-General, Policy

Doris Johnston, Deputy Director-General, Policy, gave a presentation on the current Policy Group and the new Conservation Advice Group which comes into effect on 1 February 2012⁵. She advised that the Authority is serviced by staff within the Group. She then identified the expected policy focus for the next five years, some of which would be led by the Department and some by other agencies.

Sandra Cook left the meeting.

Agenda item 12. Section 4 Conservation Act

Kay Booth advised that the Authority has a section 4 procedure – the Section 4 Template in the agenda papers. Section 4 is the responsibility of all members and the Authority evaluates its performance once a year.

Agenda item 14. Meeting schedule for new term of the NZCA

The Authority resolved to adopt the meeting schedule set out in the agenda paper.
Ian Buchanan/Hally Toia/Carried

Agenda item 15. NZCA indicative work programme 2011 – 2014

The workplan was noted. More items are to be included in the work programme once dates are known (e.g. timing of input into DOC's statement of intent, and meetings with the Minister).

Agenda item 16. NZCA principles, policies and procedures

The current set of the Authority's principles, policies and procedures had been provided for noting and reference. It was noted that the Authority may develop a procedure for conflicts of interest.

Agenda item 17.1 Liaison and representation roles

It was agreed that Kay Booth and Catherine Tudhope together meet with their Fish and Game New Zealand counterparts to discuss how the two bodies should fulfil their statutory liaison roles.

⁴ DOCDM-796436

⁵ DOCDM-836191

The Authority resolved that Waana Davis continue as its representative on the JD Stout Trust.

Kay Booth/Yvonne Sharp/Carried

The Authority resolved to approve the proposed allocation of members to liaise with conservation boards

Ian Buchanan/Brian Stephenson/Carried

The allocations are:

Northland	Yvonne Sharp
Auckland	Hally Toia
Waikato	Mick Clout
East Coast/Bay of Plenty	Warren Parker
Tongariro/Taupo	Brian Stephenson
Taranaki/Whanganui	Ian Buchanan
Wellington Hawke's Bay	Waana Davis
Nelson/Marlborough	Judy Hellstrom
West Coast Tai Poutini	Gerry McSweeney
Canterbury Aoraki	John Thorburn
Otago	Jo Breese
Southland	Sandra Cook
Chatham Islands	Kay Booth

Agenda item 18. NZCA budget

There was discussion on the budget. The Chairperson and Catherine Tudhope are to discuss how often an expenditure report is presented to the Authority.

Agenda item 19. Correspondence

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

Hally Toia/Ian Buchanan/Carried

Agenda item 20. Confirmed minutes from August 2011 meeting

Catherine Tudhope advised that Yvonne Sharp (acting Chairperson for the August 2011 meeting) and herself had approved the minutes of the August 2011 meeting as per the process for local government when there is a change of councillors.

Two editorial amendments were requested.

Agenda item 21. Status report of matters arising from previous meeting in August 2011

Kay Booth gave background on the heli-hunting matter and advised that the Authority had been provided information on 23 September associated with the long-term concession application and requested to provide any advice to the Department by 17 October. Because of the complexity of the issue and the amount of material provided, the 5 returning members of the Authority had been consulted as to the Authority's response rather than bringing it to the full Authority. The response was consistent with the previous advice of the Authority on this matter. There was agreement amongst the new members with this approach.

The meeting closed at 4:15pm