

**TE RUNANGA PAPA ATAWHAI O TE UPOKO O TE IKA A MAUI**

**CONFIRMED MINUTES**

**OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WELLINGTON CONSERVATION BOARD  
HELD ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
181 Thorndon Quay, Wellington.**

**PRESENT:**

Bev Abbott (Chairperson)  
Helen Algar  
Geoff Doring  
Andrew (Andy) Foster  
John Hancock  
Rob McColl  
Nicola (Nicky) Nelson  
Dennis Roberts  
Margaret (Maggy) Wassilieff  
Haami Te Whaiti

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Koro Tamarapa	Iwi Representative
Alan McKenzie	Conservator, Department of Conservation (DOC)
Bronwyn Bell	Business Services Officer –minute taker, DOC
Jeff Flavell	Community Relations Manager, DOC
Colin Miskelly	Conservation Analyst DOC
Tania Wrightson	DOC

**APOLOGIES:**

Liana Poutu  
Margaret Shields

**1. KARAKIA, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting started at 9.00am in the DOC offices, Thorndon Quay, Wellington.  
Koro Tamarapa opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Bev Abbott welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new member John Hancock. She also noted Pamela Taylor had completed her contract in the CRO Board Support position on 5 September and that the Conservancy had experienced difficulties finding someone to fill the position in the short-term.

**2. APOLOGIES**

**It was resolved:** That the apologies be accepted.

Chairperson  
**CARRIED**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**Additional item of General Business**

As the Board's Agenda and papers had been circulated on CD for the first time, before discussing the agenda, the Chair sought members' comments views on their experience of preparing for the meeting without immediate access to hard copies of papers. Helen Algar raised a further option, a fully electronic agenda where each member would use a laptop throughout the meeting to access the agenda containing embedded papers.

Members noted points for and against various options including:

- one member has no access to the Internet
- members in the southern Wairarapa can't access broadband
- DOC shifting the costs of producing paper copies from the Department to Board members (including paper, ink and time involved in printing hard copies)
- the convenience of being able to read hard copy papers anywhere, any time
- storage issues with the volume of paper generated by Board membership
- greater ease of retrieval of earlier papers and information from electronic systems than from disc or paper.

**It was agreed** that the Board would experiment with electronic versions, while still having the option of paper copies.

Helen Algar offered to assist with training for the next secretary on coding translation for electronic formats.

### Agenda

**It was resolved** that the agenda be approved with the following alteration and additions:

Item 3	Instructions about management of Conflict of Interest from Catherine Tudhope, NZCS
Item 8	Bring the Conservator's Report forward in the Agenda
Item 7.1	Tabling of paper from Bev Abbot summarising history of CMS Review process
Item 7.3	Tabling of paper from Helen Algar on Lake Wairarapa meeting for February
Item 9.4	Hutt City Council temporary sewage discharges
Item 11.9	Pukaha/Mt Bruce Report

### Management of Conflicts of Interest

Catherine Tudhope's e-mail (11 October 2007) suggested:

- the Chair include a session at the first meeting after new members are appointed which would also act as a refresher for existing members
- the conservancy solicitor could be invited to present
- the State Services Commission guidance to Crown Entities was a useful source of guidance .

DOC also provided members with copies of the Auditor General's June 2007 good practice guide for members of local authorities about the law on conflicts of interest.

Board members agree to familiarize themselves with the information.

Board agreed that, as an advisory body, management of conflicts of interest differed from that in organisations with more decision-making roles. Items where guidance from the conservancy solicitor would be useful included:

- making submissions as individuals when the Board was also making a submission
- submissions to city, district or regional councils when Board members were members or staff of these bodies.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

It was resolved the following conflicts of interest be noted:

Bev Abbott	Wellington Botanical Society
Geoff Doring	Forest & Bird
John Hancock	Decisions outside DOC estate

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 24 AUGUST 2007**

**It was resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting of 24 August 2007 be confirmed subject to the discussed changes.

Geoff Doring/Nicky Nelson

**CARRIED**

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM REVIEW OF THE ACTION SCHEDULE**

As many items on the Action Schedule were on the Agenda, discussion of these was left until the item was considered.

##### **Item 1 It was agreed:**

- The December Board meeting will be held at Pukaha/Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- The February Board meeting will be held in the southern Wairarapa with the structure and programme to be discussed as item 7.3.

**Item 2** The Chair proposed that Item 11.1, Distribution of the Annual Report, would provide a immediate way of identifying and starting to establish relationships with more community groups/and stakeholders.

Nicky Nelson reminded members of a previous discussion about creating a map of Board members' links with community groups and other stakeholders as a way of identifying communication links and gaps.

**Item 3** Alan McKenzie gave briefing on the transfer of the Kapiti Bats to Auckland. and iwi involvement with the process. Haami Te Whaiti, who went to Auckland with the bats, said the party was welcomed by an elder from Ngati Whatua. Haami described where the bats are living and how well they are being cared for. He also thanked Alan for organizing the trip.

##### The Board agreed to:

- close the action point referring to DOC advising upon iwi involvement.
- keep open the action point asking DOC to provide updates as new information about the bats as it becomes available.

**Item 4** CMS questions on Lake Wairarapa. The next Action Schedule update will reflect the decision from the discussion of Helen Algar's paper that DOC circulate relevant past material as a 'CD dump' rather than a 'paper dump'.

- Item 5** Alan McKenzie noted that a paper providing advice to the Minister on appointments to the Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee is currently in draft and that he and the Chair had discussed the matter.
- The Board agreed to close the part of the action requiring the Chair to talk to Alan McKenzie to establish if the Board can help in any way.
- Item 10** Maggy to complete.
- Item 11** Amend item to show that the paper from Rob McColl, Geoff Doring and Bev Abbott outlining initial thinking about CMS places had been circulated with the August Agenda.
- Item 12** Submission sent to Horizons to be ratified later in this meeting.
- Item 13** The location of grazing would be advised during presentation of the Concessions Report in Item 10.1.

**Break for morning tea – back 10.15am** (Andy Foster arrived at the meeting)

## **8. UPDATE FROM CONSERVATOR**

Alan McKenzie tabled and presented some notes on activity in the Wellington Conservancy:

1. Highlights of the year as presented to the Select Committee showed that the Conservancy had a very good year in terms of achievements.
2. Other activities – Main discussion points were:
  - a bid for a new ‘ecological’ ranger house on Kapiti Island. Several Board members made comments and suggestions ie. seeking sponsorship; seeing what other Conservancies have done (e.g. Nelson/Marlborough); and researching different options/companies.
  - Application from Levin Meats for ground water take. Horizons are considering this consent, and DOC had agreed to trial, but new doubt about the effects had been raised in the Horizons officer’s reports. As far as DOC is aware, the application only applies the Levin area and not the Wairarapa.
  - Ngati Toa has begun the Treaty claim process. The Port Nicholson Block Claims (Ati Awa) are already in that process and Moriori on the Chathams are also in direct negotiation with the Crown.
  - Kapiti transport concessions are up for review. Currently there are two operators and a constraint on the number of landings. The concessions are allocated as a result of a tender process. DOC is considering requiring a booking system via the internet as part of the service specification.
  - Continuing discussions on Whareroa Farm Park, including:
    - The Guardians would like to set up a ‘model farm’.
    - DOC would like to retire some of the lands, but would like Greater Wellington (GW) to take over control and management.

- There is some local concern that GW may want to plant pine trees for carbon credits
  - Replanting indigenous forest would be preferred over pines for carbon credits.
  - There is also concern about the amount of time it is taking to firm up arrangements for implementing Government's decision to keep the farm in public ownership.
  - The Board has previously commented on the importance of fencing the existing remnants as soon as possible.
  - Fencing decisions depend on reaching agreement on which areas are to be retired or farmed.
  - The Conservator anticipated that DOC will spend considerable money on weeds, fencing and building a wool shed over the summer.
  - The current lease has expired and stock will be coming off soon.
- Tuatara transfers to Matiu-Somes - Nicky Nelson involved in this.
  - Marine Reserve structures and survey: DOC is working through issues with Wellington City Council and Land Information New Zealand. The Minister has determined there will be a Marine Reserve Committee and is still in the process of deciding its composition. There will be meeting with iwi next week around some issues. The Reserve is not likely to be established until sometime in 2008. The official opening will be during Sea Week in March 2008. A Marine Reserve Ranger has recently started in Poneke Area (Hawea Tomoana), and reserve signs are currently being designed.
  - DOC was fortunate to find a person in Wellington with the skills and ability to work on the Old Government Building clock.
  - A successful Pukenga Atawhai course was held at Papawai Marae in Greytown and Haami was able to contribute.
3. Internal changes – new staff and change-overs were noted, with special mention of the appointment of a new full-time planner, Emily Greenberg.

**Questions/Comments for Conservator:**

- Geoff Doring enquired about the letter he received from a staff member in the Masterton office who has started contacting groups with an interest in Onoke Spit. The Department intends to taking some immediate action to raise public awareness and protect nest sites in the upcoming breeding season, and is also seeking community involvement in finding workable longer term solutions that will allow for continued enjoyment of the Spit's 'human-use' values whilst protecting its natural values.

Action: Bev to discuss with Alan later.

- Rob McColl sought more details about Select Committee reporting, pointing out that although the highlights were impressive, he understood the Select Committee was looking for performance reporting and wanted to see tangible outcomes (e.g. winning battles against pests), for DOC to be accountable in a general feature about what is happening. He asked if DOC has to report on that as well or if this happens in another way

Alan replied that it is done in another way. In terms of measuring how the department performs then it's a long and complex issue and in terms of outcomes reporting, the Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS) is there to assist. He said that, at the Conservancy level, DOC is not reporting on outcomes at this stage.

- Bev noted that she had used the intermediate outcome headings from the Statement of Intent to sort the Conservancy's key achievements for 2006/07 into their relevant categories. This approach provided a possible way of using information the Conservancy already compiled as part of its standard reporting processes in a way that would help the Board meet its statutory responsibility to monitor the implementation of the CMS. She provided a copy of the paper to the Conservator.

## 10 ADVICE TO DOC ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### 10.2 Priorities and Directions

**The Chair** welcomed Colin Miskelly (DOC) for a presentation on the Conservancy's priorities and directions.

In introducing the item, Alan McKenzie noted that he wants the Conservancy to achieve clarity on its directions and priorities, and to match these with the amount of money available. After the conservancy staff hui, Colin was tasked with leading the process of determining these directions and priorities. It will be a participative process with staff in working groups and the Board members with their different areas of expertise to be invited to assist. Colin has developed a methodology over time which he will now present.

Colin said that there is about 5 or 6 years of history with the conservancy questioning how to prioritise its work. Hoping NHMS would help but realistically knew that it wouldn't be a fast process, so developed a short version prioritizing model to compare outputs: for example, comparing between recreation, historic, threats and species. Colin noted that DOC applied this model for a couple years during business planning. Found that it was difficult at the time because it was easy to rank the important work but couldn't get any items off the list.

Eight different parameters had been taken from the original model:

1. significance - national, regional, local
2. potential loss – what would happen if you didn't do the work
3. potential gain – what you get if you do the work
4. urgency – whether it's an ongoing project, or could be deferred
5. time frame for investment – short-time period or ongoing investment
6. time frame for benefit - immediate return on investment, or longer term (e.g. forest recovery)
7. achievability – measure of if we had certain amount of money, would we be able to achieve what is set out for or if there is risk involved
8. synergy – looking at different projects from one site to see if they benefit each other or if one becomes a potential negative (ie restoring endangered ecosystem but have to exclude public from site)

The conservancy is revisiting this model and have enlisted staff representatives (Programme Managers/TSOs) from the various units throughout the conservancy. These people are going to capture the input from their teams. The model will then be refined and taken back out to the units for testing, using a spreadsheet with the parameters and how

they're scored, ie putting in a work task or proposal and associated scores to see how they all rank.

Staff are aware that it can be easy to rank or score familiar work or ideas; the real test being like a NHMS or global approach to locating and looking at important sites/species, is to have a comprehensive think of the way to generate ideas, and be able to identify important work we might not have thought of or realized the importance. This is where new systems come into play, like GIS with the ability to identify threatened environments, ie private land with unique ecosystem that we weren't aware of before. Thus developing a model using the underlying NHMS, GIS layers and once in place can populate the model.

This is a summary of this process we're intending to run, how and when to involve the Board in this process is the next question. Whether it's a case of DOC keeping the Board briefed in the process as it roles out or whether to involve the Board in the refinement or application of the process. Through the Chair, Colin invited comments and feedback.

### **Discussion:**

- Some Board members had understood from the last meeting that as part of preparing the interim period plan, there would be a series of working groups on different aspects of the conservancy activities and that experts from beyond the conservancy would be involved. (previous minutes, page 5)
- Alan explained that:
  - the CMS and the priority-setting model are two different but related processes
  - the priority-setting model will inform the next business plan and will then feed into the CMS.
  - the existing CMS is an important reference document for the work Colin is doing
  - he would like to have the model useable by February for the 2008/09 business planning process, and to have a formal report ready for the 2009/10 business year
- It was noted that it is largely a subjective process to rank within categories, and members asked whether there is a system for rationalizing across areas. Colin replied that each area would populate the spreadsheet with the work they do, looking at the criteria within that task and then look at a functional slot, ie get pest control teams together for ½ day to run through the combined spreadsheet, and that's the reality check about whether the other pest teams agree, like a peer review.
- Colin noted that there is also a need to compare on a higher level with the money that goes into the other areas such as historic. This will be done using DOC's nationally-accepted classification systems to identify criteria within each function, defining ie what is nationally significant or critical, creating a numbered scale to match.
- Looking at the pie chart in the business plan, it was noted that there is sometimes an expenditure allocation but no staff time – members asked how it will all be brought together. It was noted that there are constraints from Cabinet around how conservation funds are to be spent, and that through the Minister, there are opportunities to inform government of any desired changes to the funding stream that the department gets.
- Alan noted that Colin's methodology offers a way to integrate all the processes, acting as a decision support model.

- Members remarked that this work should provide the Board a better way to understand and support the conservancy in terms of focus, priorities and resources are.

Bev suggested that other conservancies may have developed models to assist with business planning, and that access to these may assist with further development of the model for Wellington.

- Regarding timing – in December/January there will be a day or two workshop with Poneke to rank existing work plan, ie looking at data on under- represented land areas in the conservancy. A Board member with geographical interest could attend these sessions.
- As to where the Board can offer their different expertise – Nicky Nelson offered help for the testing stage. Helen Algar offered her technical expertise, energy and interest around methodologies for prioritization and processes and making it fit into all the constraints mentioned.

Action: DOC to provide updates at future meetings on this. Colin is currently on secondment to RDI until the end of the month and will be away in December until mid-January, but will commit to update the Board in February.

Action: The Board agreed to develop a template for Board members to identify areas and topics where they are able to assist.

The Chair thanked Colin for the presentation

## 7. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### Lake Wairarapa

Colin Miskelly also briefed the Board on the Governance Board for the Lake Wairarapa wetland. Key points included:

- Surveying of the land is underway, prior to reviewing its status with the intent of changing it to Crown land scenic reserve
- Until this process is completed, there is the need to set up an interim Governance Board
- The new Board will consist of 6 people – 2 iwi, 2 Greater Wellington and 2 DOC representatives
- Greater Wellington has increased its involvement with a staff member on site, studies on recreation and weeds, and an update on road ends.
- At the moment the process is on hold due to local body elections.

Bev Abbott asked why an interim Governance Board was being established as opposed to a Joint Management Committee. Because the governance structure had implications for the changing role of the Minister, for statutory processes including the CMS, for the role of the Board, and the balance of conservation values in decision-making compared with GW's wider objectives, including economic, social and cultural outcomes. She urged DOC to take a precautionary approach such as using a joint management approach until the full implications are communicated to stakeholders.

Helen Algar reminded the meeting that the Board had previously requested copies of the relevant documents.

The Conservator noted the advice noted and thanked the Chair. He also advised that further work on the draft MOU was being done that afternoon.

Action: The Conservator agreed to provide the Board with copies of the draft MOU.

Colin Miskelly left meeting

### **7.1 CMS Review (history of review process)**

Bev explained that the tabled paper had been prepared for the benefit of new Board members.

### **7.2 CMS Template**

- Alan noted that the BOP draft CMS model has become the template for other CMSs. There is still no time frame for its release.
- There will be an opportunity for the Board to write a submission on BOP's draft CMS as part of the formal consultation process when the document comes out.
- Other points noted by the Board have been recorded separately for potential use when reviewing the draft and preparing a submission,

### **Lunch 12:50 – 1:25pm**

#### **Continuation of CMS discussion:**

- Last meeting Alan reported that he had provided a business case to Barbara Browne (GM) for sign-off to get the CMS process under way in the conservancy. As the Department is still waiting to hear back from the NCZA and Minister about the proposed extension to 2011, at this stage there is no go ahead to start.
- Members mentioned other consultation and planning processes where a technical support document had been prepared to provide authoritative information to stakeholders about the current state of affairs, e.g. West Coast marine protection. The Board sees this step as an important part of the business case, though there hasn't been agreement from DOC on a development of such a document .
- A technical support document of an undetermined nature would have to be agreed and costed, and funding sought. This could be evaluated as an objective in Colin's model to see how it ranks.
- Alan advised that there is money available to write a draft CMS and that DOC envisages paying for one principal drafter on contract, with contributions from technical and other staff working under Jeff Flavell.
- What the Board is really after is an accountability system that underlies the CMS in whatever form it might take; the public need to know it exists and the CMS objectives are designed to improved the situation. Currently the accountability system doesn't exist in the form we wish it to.

- The Board felt that there is potential for more than one document – one similar to the draft CMS, and a shorter, more-accessible one on the Wellington specifics (an executive summary). Together these could support whatever accountability system gets put in place.
- Further discussion of the technical document and an executive summary document could be addressed during discussions of the ‘places’.

### **CMS places:**

Alan invited the Board to determine the places, so DOC could get someone to start drafting the agreed parts. The Board agreed on the following places:

1. Islands, with the three islands nested
2. Forest Parks - with the three forest parks nested

Further discussion was needed about wetlands, coastal areas and fragmented pieces of conservation land as these were currently treated in three geographic sections.

- Questions rose on funding for protection on private land – DOC doesn’t have the resources so encourages people to go through Greater Wellington Regional Council or the QEII National Trust.
- In the Wairarapa, Kapiti and Poneke areas, a discreet group in each area called the Land Protection Forum, is convened via Greater Wellington Regional Council with the intention to reach some co-ordination about their approach to land owners and protection.

Alan advised that he intends hiring someone to start writing on Forest Parks, wetlands, marine reserves, islands and coastal, and will give the Board updates on progress and opportunity for input at the future meetings. Potential for private land to be looked at in this process also, in looking at what other conservancies are doing.

Bev noted from the Minutes of the Wanganui-Taranaki Board that the structure they are using to develop their CMS includes three hikoi groups: It was explained that a ‘hikoi’ is a journey out to talk to people.

- Following consideration of the diagram showing how the BOP Board had been involved in the development of the draft CMS, members noted the possibility of having several Board subcommittees instead of just one to deal with specific places/ sections of the CMS, to spread the work load between more Board members and provide more opportunities for engagement in process and with content.

Action: More diagrams available for next meeting with empty spaces to identify where a Board subcommittee layer and/or individual members can have input, along with terms of reference.

## **10 ADVICE TO DOC ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **10.3 Animal Health Board possum control operation**

Rob McColl introduced a discussion on the paper circulated with the following comments:

- In brief, this is an important paper which showed the difficulty was in data collection and systems not being properly documented.

- DOC needs to answer two questions:
  1. What approach/strategy does DOC have for loss of AHB money
  2. What does it intend to do to improve the information base for future possum control?
- In this case the Board could write to the NZCA, with request that they seek the answers to these questions from DOC and alert the other Boards.

**It was agreed** that Rob McColl will draft a letter to the NZCA

## 9. STATUTORY ADVOCACY

### 9.1 Horizons One Plan

**It was resolved** that the Board's submission to the Horizon's One Plan be ratified  
 Andy Foster/Helen Algar  
**CARRIED**

## 10. ADVICE TO DOC ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### 10.1 Concessions

Tania Wrightson was welcomed to the meeting. Tania gave a briefing on the grazing areas in Aorangi Forest Park:

***Te Kōpi*** - is 26.5 ha set up for grazing and is considered a fire risk if it isn't grazed and/or gorse could be a problem that the farmer would have to deal with.

***Turanganui*** - 139.4ha and is grazed by the Turanganui Stud Trust and has conditions with the regenerating gullies which the concessionaire is aware of and DOC Wairarapa staff check on from time to time.

The leases are reapplied for every 5 years; Turanganui has just been re-applied for.

The Board advised DOC to encourage any revegetation taking place to be with indigenous species. In the case of the area being grazed then the best conservation outcome at the moment until it is reviewed, is to remain being grazed.

Action: Flag in CMS, eventually removing need for grazing. Keeping in mind carbon sink opportunities.

Tania was asked about the ***Wrigley Farm*** grazing– Tania explained that it has been at Module 2 since February 2006, and is for a site in the Wairarapa. Tania reported that the land status is being researched, and meanwhile, while the existing permit has expired, the graziers are maintaining grazing and that they are making rental fee payments.

Tania was asked about the ***Meridian Energy*** concession and how long the new stream bed will be. Tania pointed out the existing and proposed areas, noting that this marginal strip has a movable boundary. An outcome of the gravel extraction is expected to be better fish passage. The timing of the work from a fish habitat point of view has been considered, and the potential effects on bird life have been assessed. The effects have been deemed acceptable.

A question was asked about the *Ohau River* gravel extraction application. Tania explained that the river is regularly flooding the farmer's property, due to a build up of gravel. The farmer has proposed to DOC and iwi to shift the build-up. Conditions of resource consent could include clearing of weeds and replacing with native species, creating riparian zone/corridor, which is happening in several areas already, and if the concession is granted it should not have any lasting adverse effects on the marginal strip.

Action: Tania will talk to the Area Office about this.

**Down Under tours** – Tania was asked whether the concessionaire has an intention to look at archaeological sites.

Action: Tania will contact the concessionaire to clarify their intentions.

The Chair thanked Tania for her report. Tania left the meeting.

## 7. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 7.3 Lake Wairarapa Meeting

Helen tabled a possible schedule for the Lake Wairarapa meeting in February after having talked to Geoff and Haami. Helen explained that the intention proposed for the meeting is:

- To familiarize the Board with the lake, the associated ecosystems, conservation values, recreation opportunities, the stakeholders groups, relevant history and current institutional arrangements.
- To engage with the stakeholders as a Board rather than from a DOC perspective, and to prepare for considering Lake Wairarapa and associated wetlands as a place in the next CMS.
- To revisit sites last inspected in 2005, and to visit additional sites that were not inspected last time.
- Haami has offered to host the meeting on the marae at Pirinoa, and to go back there for discussion at the end of the field trip. The timing would mean that the Board would have a powhiri when arriving in the morning, and the guests who came later would have a mihi as their entry protocol. Haami is open to which parts of the meeting are on the marae.
- Stakeholders – at this point the Board is engaging in discussion with key stakeholders (not public consultation which could be part of the CMS process, which comes later). The key stakeholders are: DOC, GW, iwi and Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating committee.

Discussion was held on the proposed schedule:

- Danger of getting too much information from DOC and GW, unless the Board adheres to the objective of understanding the conservation values and recreational opportunities, such that it can figure out policies, outcomes and objectives for the CMS.
- Based on the information from last time, the Board has more information now, and can have more of a focus this time. Looking at the main issues and main areas from the combination of DOC and GW, where they are heading. It's important also to know if there are any big concerns of the public.

- Field Trip – 5hrs - don't need to walk the whole spit, can see it all from the edge. Will see the Lake Ferry outflow from the accommodation (ie walk out on dusk); barrage gates will drive over; Onoke spit needs a bit more time (1/2hr); drive past wetlands, Ponui lagoon (15mins if dry enough to drive through – lunch stop possibly), Lake Domain and Boggy Pond (where Ducks Unlimited have a project).
- Based on Colin's talk earlier, site visits are a good step to take. Though Alan noted for the Board to be cautious about investing a lot of time in Lake Wairarapa because of the new governance management planning, the Board would no longer be involved.
- The board considered that it could still be seen as a place, so is still relevant to keep on track about the outcomes for which the lake is managed, and that conservation outcomes are sufficiently represented, as a place under the Reserves Act.

Nicky noted that she won't be available on the Friday.

- Getting speakers – Alan noted that it would work better to have any staff coming to present on the Friday, Tony Silbery would be able to put something together. So to have the field trip, and presentations on the Friday, and have the reflections on the Saturday morning followed by the Board meeting on the Saturday, then Nicky could be involved.
- Haami noted that the local people should have 1/2 hr to come and speak, as part of the public forum.

### **Conclusion:**

**Friday** - Powhiri, couple hours of presentations, site visits, reflect in evening.

**Saturday** - more reflections on site visits if necessary then hold Board meeting.

Bev thanked the working group led by Helen, and identified two key actions:

Action: DOC to contact GW and iwi to invite their presentations.

Action: DOC to prepare a summary of information based on the preparation mentioned in Helen's paper, to be available for everyone look at, and all members could watch the DVD of the Lower Valley Scheme (not sure it's whereabouts at the moment though).

### **New Items re Lake Wairarapa**

Jeff brought to the Boards attention that GW is processing a non notified application from the councils engineering staff on the Lower Valley Scheme. He noted that if the Board wishes to have input it should contact the Council. Board members expressed concern that the Scheme was being considered as a 'non-notified' action after clearly requesting to be involved in future consent consideration in 2005.

### **Letter from Howard Egan re Lake Wairarapa**

A joint letter for DOC, GW and Fish and Game was received by the Chair between meetings from Howard Egan, who has a long term interest in Lake Wairarapa. His letter contrasted information from a 1989 report by Dr Hugh Robinson on the Lake, with current day observations and DOC's Lake Wairarapa action plan, finding that the key wildlife values of the lake are deteriorating. It would appear that the managing bodies did not

address this when, in 2006, the concern was first raised. He is submitting the letter again, with more detail about his concerns.

Points arising from comments and general discussion:

- Dr Robinsons representation is an experts view on the issues, which highlights that DOC needs to also have equivalent expertise in order to inform the Board of crucial issues. The conservancy may not have the expert advice to articulate a view on what impact the Lower Valley Scheme may be having.
- DOC welcomes GWRC's assistance to develop a management plan and having 2 DOC and 2 iwi representatives on the proposed governance body, with 2 GW positions will provide tangata whenua and management agencies with representation as management decisions are made.
- The Board noted that DOC has the expertise to advise on flora, fauna and wetlands, and that GWRC will be needed to provide information on the hydrological regime and its influence on the wetlands.
- Dr Robinsons advice provides the Board with some of the technical information that is currently unavailable at the Board table. The Lake Wairarapa action plan seems good but it's not clear who is actioning it. The new governance structure will have to make a clearer and better management plan than what is currently in place.
- If the Board can look at the consent application, the area's which are deficient can be highlighted and pointed out.

Action: The Board to make request a copy of the consent for the input and DOC can assess it. Bev will get back to everyone via email. Register our concerns in good faith and wish to be in dialogue.

Action: Letter from Howard Egan to be circulated and invite to public forum for February's meeting.

During the afternoon tea break (3.00pm – 3.15pm), Nicky Nelson presented a slide-show on the Brothers Island Tuatara, her role as a Senior Lecturer on Herpetology at Victoria University, and the research themes of reptiles she's involved in.

## 9. STATUTORY ADVOCACY

### 9.2 Ministerial Consultation Panel invite to comment on management of deer, thar, chamois and pigs

**It was agreed** that Andy Foster and Geoff Doring will prepare a submission on behalf of the Board for that Document for the November 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. All board members may wish to complete the questionnaire.

### 9.3 WCC's Biodiversity Action Plan

Maggie commented that WCC has seemed to have adopted some of the suggestions. Andy noted that there were some good quality submissions which added a lot of value to the Action Plan.

**It was noted** that the Board can expect the final version in due course.

## 11. BOARD MATTERS

### 11.1 Distribution of the Annual Report

Jeff provided a copy of the mailing list. Board members' comments and discussion included:

- Although the document can be downloaded from the web or an e-mail, a hard copy may help create better links with interest groups
- Cost is an issue because more copies will be needed but the Board's budget can be adjusted
- Possible additions to the distribution list included more tramping clubs, all Forest & Bird branches, WWF, East Harbour Environment Group and other local environmental groups, Conservation Week awards recipients and nominees, relevant local media, trusts such as KWS, Nga Manu etc, potential stakeholders mentioned in last minutes on page 6, Minister, relevant CRIs and local MPs, City Councillors, relevant Ministers, national societies (reptiles too).

Nicky offered to circulate academic/education sites an electronic version.

Action: Jeff and Bev to follow up, get more copies printed to go out, with letter referring to web.

Action: Also noted that the public need to be notified about the current CMS situation, Bev to discuss with Alan.

Action: Next CROBS to start developing an email base list.

### 11.5 Public access to agendas, minutes and submissions

Reference to pg 44 of the papers outlining email correspondence with Pamela (CROBS) and Barry Ward who works for MAF, and is an executive member of of Forest & Bird. The Board has been asked to consider if the list of papers to be tabled as part of the agenda could be made available as separate documents on line, if they are un-confirmed then to be noted as such on each page.

Comments and discussion included:

- Currently if a member of public shows up to the meeting they would receive the tabled copies that the Board receives.
- When the agenda is created, Helen suggested having the relevant documents outside of it embedded electronically, proposing that the agenda be put up on the website.
- People can still request to have copies sent out. Important to be fair to members of public if they know there is an agenda item, that they are able to access it somehow before the meeting.

Action: Jeff and Bev to discuss the timing of the agenda being put on the web, and whether there is the ability to include accompanying papers.

### **Board Whereabouts**

Nicky proposed a system to record where/when Board members are out in the community. The purpose of doing this was explained as:

- To show the public where members are in the community and highlights for us who we're connecting and find areas we might be missing.
- A board member network update, ie one or two items/events they've been involved with recently: not on the agenda; more like a performance indicator.
- A centrally-kept spreadsheet, relating why we're on the board and how we're representing the community, that members can feed into relevant updates.

Action: Nicky will set it up.

## **11.6 Expenditure**

It was noted that the Board was about to expend the printing budget. It was proposed to cut back on catering and travel in order to print more annual reports.

## **11.7 Correspondence**

**It was moved that** the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards correspondence be approved.

Bev Abbott/Haami Te Whiti  
CARRIED

It was acknowledged, regarding the Te Hapua subdivision application, that the Board has no formal standing in the process so that there is no way for it to contribute to the pre-hearings process.

The Board received an e-mail from Catherine Tudhope (NZCA) enclosing a letter to a magazine from Fred Murray, a recently retired member from the Canterbury/Aoraki Conservation Board regarding dune protection and 4WD's. The Board decided to e-mail a thank you note for bringing this to attention.

**It was noted that** Dennis Roberts offered to help with follow up correspondence.

4.30pm Alan McKenzie left the meeting.

## **12. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **12.2 Te Ara Launch**

Maggie briefed members on the latest addition to the on-line New Zealand encyclopedia which is produced and managed by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage - 108 items on the New Zealand Bush. [www.teara.govt.nz](http://www.teara.govt.nz). The public are welcomed to view the site, and to let the Ministry know if they find any content requiring correction.

#### 9.4 HCC temporary sewage discharges

Notification was received of two temporary discharges of raw sewage into Waiwhetu Stream, on 10 and 11 October 2007 following heavy rain, both lasting 10 hours. The Board noted that potential risks to human food sources (fish and watercress) and recreational activities were identified and that warning signs had been erected. Consent conditions required Hutt City to notify relevant parties which included the Board.

4.40pm Nicky Nelson left the meeting.

#### 11.9 Pukaha/Mt Bruce, National Wildlife Centre

Bev invited discussion of the scope of the next meeting and noted that this discussion leads into item 11.4, a priority item for the next meeting.

Points made by members were:

- There is a room for meeting at the National Wildlife Centre, and the meeting will be held there.
- Maggie would like more of a tour, like a walk up the hill; not just to be confined to the centre.  
Action: Jeff will enquire where the walk around may go.
- Clearer understanding of the Governance structure of the 2 bodies; the Pukaha/Mt Bruce Governance Board and the National Wildlife Centre Trust, and how iwi and DOC are involved in order to get an understanding of it as a 'place' in the CMS.
- Geoff Doring noted that the Chairs of both the Trust and Governance Board bodies could be invited to address the Board to highlight their achievements and set out where they're going.
- Would be good to see the breeding program sites, and meet some staff to learn about their work.  
Action: Bev and Alan to go over how much and who we hear from. Jeff to then organize staff to talk for 7<sup>th</sup> December meeting.

It was noted that former Board member Di Anderson may be able to catch-up with the Board during or before the visit.

#### 11.2 & 11.3

The Chair decided to formally defer items 11.2 & 11.3

#### 9.5 Marine education centre

It was noted that the appeal had been lost when two Commissioners had different views from the Judge. Bev Abbott noted that it was now highly unlikely that a suitable new site would be found so Wellington may have lost its chance for a marine education centre.

Koro advised that his family was against the centre.

**The meeting closed at 4.50pm.**

**244760**