
MINUTES
of the
REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING
held
9.30 am, Wednesday, 21 September 2016
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Tasman District Council: Councillors B Ensor, S Bryant and T Norriss
Nelson City Council: Councillors R Copeland, K Fulton and B McGurk

In Attendance: Tasman District Council: Biosecurity and Biodiversity Coordinator
(P Sheldon), Contracted Adviser (L Vaughan), Executive Assistant
(R L Scherer), Biosecurity Officers (R Van Zoelen, K Wright and L Barber)
Nelson City Council: Environmental Programme Adviser (R Frizzell)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The meeting commenced at 9.36 am.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Norriss/Councillor McGurk
RPMC16-09-5

That apologies for lateness from Councillor K Fulton be accepted.
CARRIED

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Norriss/Councillor McGurk
RPMC16-09-6

That the minutes of the Regional Pest Management Joint Committee meeting held on
Wednesday, 29 June 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

5 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

6 REPORTS

6.1 Recommendations for Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan

Mr Sheldon spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

Mr Sheldon noted that staff were seeking approval from the joint committee to the process of pre-consultation today so that plan drafting can proceed and the new joint committee can promulgate the regional pest management plan in the new triennium.

Cr Fulton arrived at the meeting at 9.40 am.

Mr Sheldon presented a number of slides regarding the draft plan, the timeline for the plan and consultation undertaken with interest groups to date. He noted the issues raised by stakeholders and the new pests that are proposed to be considered in the new plan.

Mr Sheldon said that once the draft document is released staff expect further and more robust engagement with stakeholders.

In response to a question regarding wilding conifers, Mr Vaughan noted that there was now more onus on forestry companies to manage aspects of their operations that impact on other parties.

In response to a question regarding budget constraints, Mr Sheldon said that staff operate as far as possible within existing budgets. He noted that new species may take precedence over species that have been in the plan for a long time unless funding is increased.

The meeting discussed the use of volunteers to assist with managing pests. Mr Sheldon agreed that volunteers can make a difference but that the Biosecurity Act and Health & Safety Act regulations also need to be considered when using volunteers.

Mr Sheldon noted that staff were liaising with their council colleagues in Marlborough and Buller to ensure consistency in pest management across the top of the south.

Mr Sheldon spoke about Pathway Management Plans to manage pests on a more holistic basis.

Cr McGurk spoke about the specific pests in particular areas of each council area, eg Taiwanese cherry in Nelson. Mr Sheldon noted that a lot of pest plants are specific to an area and will be defined in the maps.

Mr Sheldon explained the current funding arrangement which is 75% provided by Tasman and 25% by Nelson. He noted that this funding split will need to be reconsidered following the new plan.

Cr Fulton spoke about the work that Nelson Nature was doing to target issues in the Nelson area.

Mr Sheldon presented a slide on recommendations. He noted that staff are taking a pragmatic approach to the pest management plan, using the regional council template, setting timelines

and taking national guidance.

Mr Sheldon spoke about the national Bio-Managers group who are working together to deliver pest management strategies. He noted that Rob Smith (Tasman) and Dean Evans (Nelson) are members of that group.

The meeting discussed cat management and Mr Sheldon noted that there is a lot of concern about this topic throughout the country. He noted a project near Rabbit Island using cameras, a trap line and dealing to feral cats in this area. Mr Sheldon noted that feral cats are noted in the pest management strategy and are likely to be included in the pest management plan. He noted that staff were watching with interest the bylaw introduced by Wellington City Council where they are restricting cat numbers and introducing mandatory micro-chipping.

In response to a question, Mr Vaughan agreed that any plan to include a rule to desex cats would require significant staff input. He suggested that regional cat management strategies could be considered.

Cr Fulton spoke about a cat curfew that had been introduced in the Dandenong National Park in Australia.

Mr Sheldon agreed that staff need to look at cat management in the next step of the plan. He also noted that the community has strong views about cat management and that this issue will not be resolved in the near future

Mr Sheldon spoke about the control of Argentine and Darwin ants and noted that cost was a big factor for householders to deal with this issue.

It was suggested that the use of Borax to eliminate ants can be used on individual properties but that the method is ineffective on a neighbourhood basis.

Mr Vaughan said that ant management is a low priority with the focus on eliminating their spread to areas where they are not present.

The Councillors discussed the DoC programme to eradicate the great white butterfly. Mr Sheldon noted that DoC had spent in the order of \$20 million on the butterfly eradication.

In response to a question, Mr Sheldon noted that climate change is not factored into the strategy, instead it will deal with individual named pests.

The meeting discussed the methodology that will be used to control pests, in particular, the use of glyphosate and identifying where it will be used.

**Moved Cr Norriss/Cr McGurk
RPMC16-09-7**

That the Joint Council Committee

- 1. Receives report REP16-09-01.**
- 2. Notes the feedback summarised in Section 5 and that the information will be used to guide Plan drafting, subject to the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and its associated National Policy Direction.**

- 3. Adopts the principles and processes outlined in Sections 7 and 8 of this report to provide a context for Plan drafting.**

CARRIED

Public Forum

It was noted that the two council's websites had different public notices regarding the public forum for this meeting; Tasman District Council advertised no public forum, Nelson City Council advertised public forum. The meeting agreed to hear the public speak as part of the public forum.

Raewyn Scott spoke about Argentine ants and feral cats.

Jim Hilton spoke about 1080 poisoning.

The meeting concluded at 11.23 am.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: