

MINUTES
NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING
27 July 2017
Wellington

Board Members: J Forbes (chair), P Brown, B Stuart and R McNeill.

In attendance: E Pyle (chief executive), P Tamiana (kaumātua), R Cullinane (operations manager), N Varuhas (acting corporate services manager); A Wilson-Goldman (communications manager) and B Jenkins (policy and partnerships advisor) attended for their agenda items.

Opening Comments

The meeting commenced at 1pm.

The Chair welcomed Board members and staff and invited Peho Tamiana to open the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

An apology for not attending the meeting was received from P Mudford.

Action: The Board

- a) **accepted** the apology for absence from P Mudford.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

2. Confirm Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Wellington on 30 May 2017 were circulated and read.

Action: The Board

- a) **confirmed** the minutes of the 30 May 2017 meeting as being a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chief executive's report

The Board discussed the chief executive's report for July 2017.

The chief executive outlined the projects the Commission is currently focusing on and scoping: South Island High Country, Puhoi-Warkworth-Matakana, Ruahines, Upper North Island, Central North Island and the Marlborough/Kaikoura road re-build.

Regarding the Central North Island project work, E Pyle reported on the hui that he, Peho Tamiana and John Gibbs had with Allan Skipworth chairman of the Tuhourangi Trust on 12 July at Mt Tarawera; and on 13 July a hui in Turangi with representatives from Tuwharetoa to discuss their concerns regarding Tongariro National Park.

A Wilson-Goldman outlined the next steps for the South Island High Country project following the Queenstown Lakes meetings and additional interviews being arranged for consultation, with the aim of developing a report on common themes and suggested directions for future work.

E Pyle reported that a preliminary settlement for material damage and business interruption relating to the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake damage, has been received in July, negotiations are continuing on the claim.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed** the chief executive's report for July 2017.

Moved P Brown **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

4. Audit New Zealand

Chrissie Murray, Director with Audit New Zealand attended the meeting for this agenda item, and discussed the importance of monitoring and reporting risks and in particular fraud prevention. The financial year end audit arrangements letter was discussed and the timeframes for completion of this year's audit work, with the Audit Opinion to be issued 31 October 2017.

Action: The Board

- a) **discussed and agreed to** the Audit New Zealand Arrangements Letter for Year Ended 30 June 2017 audit and timetable.
- b) **noted** the Fraud – Governance and Management completed questionnaires and NZWAC's existing Fraud Policy.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

5. DOC's short and day walk initiative

B Jenkins updated the Board on the initiative the Department of Conservation (DOC) has created with Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) to identify additional short and day walks to relieve current tourism pressure.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** that the Department of Conservation has invited the Commission to contribute to a joint initiative with Tourism NZ to identify short walks.
- b) **noted** that this initiative could increase demand for the Commission's services if new walks are developed because these walks will likely cross a range of land tenures.
- c) **noted** that the Commission's work in the South Island High Country, Central North Island and Rodney are all relevant to planning future iconic short walks.
- d) **noted** concerns about the short walks initiative and the lack of a strategic framework that needs to be part of a wider initiative.
- e) **noted** that the Commission seeks to exercise leadership in this area.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

6. Rodney Access Network Strategy

B Jenkins updated the Board on the work occurring in the Rodney area of Auckland. Compensation from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for impacts on the Moirs Hill Walkway provides the funding for this Rodney work.

The next steps are to finalise the partnership agreement with Auckland Council and the Commission, and that the Commission and DOC agree the level of involvement DOC wishes to have in the project governance.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** that the Board agreed via email to the \$800,000 compensation package and revocation of part of the Moirs Hill Walkway.
- b) **noted** the proposed governance structure for the Rodney Access Network Strategy project, is being negotiated with partners.

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

7. Aspinall Scholarships

The Commission has approached the Architecture and Planning School at the University of Auckland with the Aspinall Scholarship programme. The Commission intends offering one scholarship of \$5,000 in the first year, with applications closing on December 2017. access. The scholarship applicant will be selected by committee comprising two academic staff from the University of Auckland and a Commission representative from the Board.

Action: The Board



- a) **agreed** to trial the Aspinall Scholarship programme for two years through the University of Auckland.
- b) **nominated** Robin McNeill to sit on the Committee.
- c) **discussed** potential research topics

Moved B Stuart **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

8. Overseas Investment Office

B Jenkins updated the Board on the ongoing relationship with the Overseas Office and associated projects. The Commission has about 60 OIO implementation cases and around 40 of these have mediation and arbitration clauses in the consent issued by the OIO. The Commission is unable to predict the number of cases on hand which may lead to a dispute process, but is closely managing and monitoring cases that may show signs of triggering the disputes process.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** that the Commission and the OIO are working to create a better relationship going forward.
- b) **noted** that the Commission will be reviewing its OIO processes internally, which will assist in the development of this better relationship and enable the two organizations to work together more effectively.
- c) **noted** the information provided on the mediation and arbitration processes.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

9. Walking Access Strategy

A Wilson-Goldman presented a mock-up of the draft content for the new Walking Access Strategy. Further discussion has taken place with other key stakeholders and the feedback has been positive and that the current draft is broadly correct and close to a final draft.

In the course of discussion a new vision statement was developed: “Te Mauri o te Hiko” and translated means “The Spirit of movement through the land”.

Action: The Board

- a) **agreed** to provide feedback on any final comments on changes that need to be made prior to publication of the new national strategy within a week from the date of the Board meeting.
- b) **requested** that Commission staff incorporate any final changes before laying out the publication.

Moved P Brown **Seconded** B Stuart **Carried**

10. Outdoors Forum

A Wilson-Goldman advised the Board of an upcoming conference where the Commission will partner with the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA), to be held in Wellington on 4-5 September 2017



If successful, the Outdoors Forum could become an annual event jointly organised by the Commission and NZRA, that speaks to major issues affecting the outdoor recreation sector in New Zealand, and helps build the Commission's position in the sector.

Action: The Board

- a) **noted** that the Commission sponsored the Outdoors Forum in 2016;
- b) **noted** that the Commission is trialling an expanded presence in the Outdoors Forum, and that if successful, it may become an annual conference that the Commission is involved with.
- c)

Moved J Forbes **Seconded** R McNeill **Carried**

11. Quarterly Report – 1 April to 30 June 2017

E Pyle reported on the Commission's Quarterly Report to 30 June 2017, including the quarterly operations report and financial report. In terms of achieving the Commission's performance measures, the Commission has met 12 out of the 18 performance measures. In future years the Commission's performance measures will be more closely aligned with the activities of the Commission.

The Board:

- a) **confirmed** the Commission's Quarterly Report for the period ending 30 June 2017.

Moved R McNeill **Seconded** P Brown **Carried**

12. Significant correspondence

Inwards

Letter of Performance Expectations from Hon Louise Upston, the Associate Minister for Primary Industries, dated 31 May 2017.

13. Next Meeting


The next meeting will be held in Wellington on 3-5 October 2017 – dates to be confirmed.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair complimented and thanked the staff for their presentations and papers for both the workshop on 26 July and for the meeting on 27 July, noting the positive progress being made.

The Chair invited Peho Tamiana to conclude the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.





J Forbes
Chairperson

Notes:

Wednesday 26 July, 12.30pm Board and staff: Workshop – presentations on staff work planning, the Commission’s digital strategy, supporting trails groups, regional priorities and developing the Commission’s values.

Wednesday 26 July, 6.30pm Board and staff met for dinner with Te Urewera Board.