

MINUTES

NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION MEETING

25-26 May 2009, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Wellington

Board Members: J Acland (Chair), J Aspinall, M Bayfield, K Booth, P Brown, J Forbes, B Stephenson, B Stuart.

In attendance:

Hunter Donaldson; Bruce Lynch.

1.1 Opening Comments

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.30 am and welcomed attendees. A karakia was given by P Brown.

1.2 Conflicts of Interest Register

The Board noted that M Bayfield has contracted with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to do a small piece of work unrelated to access. The Board noted that disclosure of this arrangement and recording of it in the register was sufficient to deal with any apparent conflict in respect of the pending chief executive appointment.

1.3 Confirm Agenda

The tabled Agenda for the meeting was confirmed by the Board.

1.4 Confirm Minutes

The Board confirmed the notes of the meeting with the Waitakere City Council of 27 April 2009 and the Board meeting of 28 April 2009 as being true and correct records.

Moved (J Forbes/ M Bayfield)

The motion was put: carried

1.5 Matters Arising/Status Report

CEO Presentations

Doug Martin of Martin Jenkins joined the meeting for this agenda item. He explained the process that had been undertaken to select the first chief executive for the Commission, that there had been over 100 applicants, that a short list of these had been determined and agreed to by the Board, that this group had been interviewed by a selection panel of J Acland, M Bayfield and D Martin and that three candidates had been selected to provide a short presentation each at the Board meeting. This would enable the Board to form a view on their preferred candidate.

Moved that the Board go into Committee

Moved (B Stephenson/J Aspinall)

The motion was put: carried

The Board went into Committee.

When the Board came out of Committee the Chairman advised that the Board had met with the three applicants; had heard the three presentations and had selected a preferred candidate.

Moved that the Board delegate to the Chairman the determination of terms and conditions for the preferred candidate.

Moved (J Forbes/(M Bayfield)

The motion was put: carried

The Chairman advised that he would consult with B Stephenson on the agreement.

Lake Wainamu Track Proposal

The Board moved

The Walking Access Commission is prepared to register the walkway at Te Henga in Waitakere City in accordance with the Act.

Moved (M Bayfield/K Booth)

The motion was put: carried

It was noted that draft processes for the Contestable Fund were tabled at the meeting of 24 February 2009; that discussion on those processes had been deferred until further progress had been achieved on the national strategy on walking access, and that it is now timely to consider those processes. The fund is to be included on the agenda for the meeting of 22 June to enable the processes to be considered.

Liabilities and Indemnities

Noted that Brian Hayes has been contracted to look at an array of easements and a lease entered into for the purpose of walkways and now vested in the Commission to evaluate any indemnities or guarantees they may contain.

Mr Hayes is also to report on the possible content of easements or leases the Commission ay enter into from the perspective of indemnification to the grantor.

A letter is to be sent to the Waitakere City Council asking for clarification that the issue of liability has been clarified with Mrs Bethell.

2.1 Financial Report

The accounts and the financial position of the Commission as at 30 April 2009 were accepted.

Moved (J Forbes/K Booth)

The motion was put: carried

2.2 Financial Policies

The following new financial policies were agreed to with the changes as noted:

- a. Credit card policy
- b. Entertainment policy
- c. Gift policy
- d. Theft and fraud prevention policy
- e. Travel policy.

Moved (M Bayfield/B Stephenson)

The motion was put: carried

2.3 Walkways Strategy and Procedures

The word 'generally' is to be added to para 8.

Under clause 30 the Controlling Authority comment is to be amended by inserting 'and' to read "In proposing the name the views of the manawhenua and/or any other representative persons or organisations should be taken into account".

With those changes the Board

- a. **noted** that the walkway strategy is covered separately by the National Strategy on Walking Access
- b. **agreed** to the walkway procedures

Moved (K Booth/J Aspinall)

The motion was put: carried

2.4 Draft Statement of Intent 2009/12

The Board

- a. **noted** the vision reads "The Commission aims to achieve free, certain, practical and enduring access to land and water"
- b. **noted** that the draft Statement of Intent for 2009/12 has been accepted by the Minister
- c. **noted** that the Commission is now arranging for the final Statement of Intent for 2009/12 to be provided to the Minister and for copies to be forwarded to the House and for a copy to be added to the Commission website.

Moved (J Forbes/K Booth)

The motion was put: carried

2.5 New Zealand Outdoor Access Code

The Board agreed that as 'code' is the word used generally and in the Act this should continue to be used rather than any alternative, such as 'guide'; and supported the title

"Outdoor Access Code" on the basis that this has more general application and is more positive than "Code of Conduct".

It was considered that an "Outdoor Access Code" needs to be extended to cover such areas as private land, public land, walkways, fires and other liabilities, and unformed legal roads, to provide the same educational value as the draft shows for Maori land, and that this could be done now as an extension of the current draft or could be progressively added later.

The Board

- a. **noted** the progress with the draft Outdoor Access Code
- b. **noted** that any comments (including any nil returns) on the papers should be forwarded to Bruce Lynch by 5 pm on Monday 1 June 2009 to enable the draft papers to be completed for distribution to the major stakeholders for the meeting on 30 July.

Moved (J Forbes/K Booth)

The motion was put: carried

2.6 Correspondence

The correspondence was received.

The board noted that further replies had also been received from the Prime Minister in reply to the Commission's letter of 28 April 2009 on the Government's initiative on cycle ways, advising that the cycle ways initiative is to be run by Tourism; and from the Waitakere City Council answering the queries from the Commission in respect of the proposed walkway at Lake Wainamu, confirming that the Council wishes to go ahead with registration of the walkway.

The mapping RFP has been released and is generating interest and media queries. The RFP closes on 11 June. As noted in the minutes of the 23 March meeting B Stephenson, J Aspinall, and J Forbes (if he is required), will form the selection*panel.

The Board noted that a communications strategy and logo for the Commission are required. Communications is to be added to the agenda for the June meeting.

The Board agreed that contact is to be made with SPARC and the new Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Recreation Council advisory group.

Moved (K Booth/B Stephenson)

The motion was put: carried

2.7 Policy Reviews - Updates

The Board

- a. **noted** the progress on the Overseas Investment Act review and the Crown Pastoral leases review of tenure review policy

- b. **noted** that the Commission will need to consider how it can liaise with the cycle way initiative to ensure that any walking access synergies are taken into account.

2.8 Information on Walking Access

The Board

- a. **noted** the information
- b. **noted** that C Mulcock has been contracted to examine tenure review access with DOC Canterbury and Otago during June 2009
- c. **noted** that B Hayes is investigating further the easement conditions that relate specifically to walkways; and
- d. **noted** that the Commission will make arrangements to meet with C Brown and J Shrimpton of Glenthorne Station.

2.9 Office Accommodation

The Board noted the proposals for Revera house and the planned layout and expressed the need for the Commission to now finalise accommodation so that it will be seen to be independent of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

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3.0 National Strategy

The Board discussed the draft national strategy for walking access and

- a. **agreed** that the main goals are:
 - Reliable information on walking access is readily available;
 - Enhancing people's knowledge, understanding and acceptance of appropriate standards of behaviour in the outdoors;
 - Achieving enduring public access to and along waterways and to public land where there is an established need or to make provision for the future;
 - Assisting the resolution of walking access disputes; and
 - Working with partners to embed access as a priority
- b. **agreed** that the Commission's vision for walking access is *The aspirations of New Zealanders for free, practical, and enduring walking access to the outdoors are met in a way that respects everyone's rights and the environment*

- c. noted that once the draft has been updated ready for comments from the major stakeholders then the process for public consultation needs to be determined.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Next meeting 22 -23 June - at Turnbull House, Wellington

Approved



J. O. Acland
Chairman

22.6.09