

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	Southern Biosecurity Advisory Group
Date	30 th May 2022
Time	9:00am – 12:00pm
Venue	Kurow Memorial Hall, Kurow.
Invited	Angela Johnston, Cllr Anne Munro, Gary Foster, Gavin Loxton, Ines Stager, John Abelen, John Talbot, Matt Simpson, Michael McMillan, Richard Patterson, Rob Young, Cllr Elizabeth Mackenzie, Laurence Smith, Carl Diamond, Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Gerrit Roux, Matt Smith, Juliet Gray
In Attendance	Angela Johnston, Cllr Anne Munro, Gary Foster, Gavin Loxton, Ines Stager, John Talbot, Michael McMillan, Richard Patterson, Rob Young, Cllr Elizabeth Mackenzie, Laurence Smith, Carl Diamond, Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Gerrit Roux, Brent Glentworth, Steve Palmer, Stephanie Mercer-Williams, Wallace Milne
Apologies	Matt Simpson, John Abelen, Matt Smith, Juliet Gray

Item No.	Description	Action
<u>1</u>	<u>Welcome, Introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u>	
1.1	<p><u>Chair and Vice Chair Election</u></p> <p>Matt Simpson and Michael McMillan were nominated for Chair prior to the meeting, both accepted the nominations.</p> <p>John Talbot and Gavin Loxton were nominated for Vice Chair prior to the meeting, both accepted the nominations.</p> <p>No further nominations for either Chair or Vice Chair were received during the meeting.</p> <p>Question raised: Can we have a Co-Chair arrangement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe: Nothing prohibiting this in the Terms of Reference. <p>Group in favour of co-chair arrangement. This is contingent on Matt and Michael accepting the roles as Co-Chair.</p> <p>No requirement for Vice chair if Co-chair arrangement is progressed.</p> <p>Cllr Mackenzie will continue to Chair today's meeting.</p>	

<u>2</u>	<u>Notes/Actions</u>	
2.1	<p><u>Actions & Updates from last meeting</u></p> <p>Greg Stanley unable to attend previous meeting. Greg will give an update on Climate Resilience Programme today via teams.</p> <p>Rūnanga to give update about their projects, Michael will give an update during today's meeting.</p> <p>Request for meeting to be hosted in Kurow.</p> <p>Request for Canada geese to be included in the agency feral animal meeting. This meeting was only limited to feral pigs and deer.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Deliberated and voted on Annual Plan, there was some biodiversity programme funding lost and biosecurity didn't lose any funding.</p> <p>Wallaby funding workshop to be hosted on 9th June to discuss different ways of funding for control in the containment area. This isn't open to the public but the outcome will be publicly available.</p> <p>Proposed subsidy with New Zealand auto-traps for community groups. This is an ongoing discussion.</p>	
2.3	<p><u>Rūnanga Update</u></p> <p>Restoration programme on Rangitata River – restoring the Mauri and Whakapapa of the Awa after flooding events.</p> <p>2 main groups of 12 staff, working in two locations (Lagoon-Peel Forest) and (Peel Forest-Gorge)</p> <p>Establishing a nursery, growing approximately 6000 plants per week.</p> <p>Main activities include planting and upkeep, removing invasive species and working with farmers.</p> <p>Working with 5 Star Beef – identifying areas of significance and planting.</p> <p>Waipopo Lagoon – blocked 4WD access to prevent people driving and dumping rubbish.</p>	

	<p>Project in Burkes Pass, planning and maintenance working alongside Mackenzie District Council, funded by the OTOP water zone committee.</p> <p>Are the operation being carried out by Rūnanga members or contractors?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael: Predominately lead by Rūnanga but some contractors are onboard too. 	
<u>3</u>	<u>Public Forum</u>	
3.1	<p>Wallace Milne from Hakataramea Sustainability Collective joins us.</p> <p>Focusing on engagement with local community as the group is still relatively new.</p> <p>Funding from Environment Canterbury has enabled for spray of gorse and broom, this has included a couple of community days.</p> <p>Juliet Gray and Sarah Elliot have been working on securing more funding.</p> <p>Laurence: Hakataramea Valley is a designated site-led area for gorse and broom control, some money has been given previously but there may be an opportunity to contribute in the upcoming year.</p> <p>Gary: Apart from gorse and broom, what other pests/weeds are up there?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallace: there is some barberry and cotoneaster, there have been some operations to remove wilding conifers too. Now lupin has become prevalent in the last 5 years in the upper reaches of the valley. • Brent: There's been lots of money spent in that area, controlling willow and lupin. <p>Rich: Is there buy in from the community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallace – Yes, there is. Group is working in with the local school to get a nursery up and running. There have been conversations with local Rūnanga on ideas how best to undertake this. <p>What other assistance is being sought after? Can we (the BAG's) feedback to the community to help you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallace: there's nothing in particular at the moment, current focus is awareness of the group in the community. 	

4	<u>Main Discussion items</u>	
4.1	<p><u>Regional and Local Programmes Update</u></p> <p>Taken as read, Laurence to run through highlights.</p> <p>Steve shared a wilding conifer update presentation</p> <p>Wallace: How are things going in the Hakataramea? There are still lots of trees near Grampians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve: There has just been a boom spraying operation, so results may not show for a little while. <p>Is there a plan B if there's a lack of MPI funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve: Hope of a good business case to MPI, will lose 80% of achievements in the next 5 years if funding stops. Need to understand that there will be a time when there is no MPI funding, we need to work with landowners to protect the investment. It is up to the landowner what to do with the land afterwards, but if it's left then can be reinvaded. <p>Brent shared a wallaby update</p> <p>Winter is prime wallaby control time. Removing wilding conifers also removes habitat for wallaby.</p> <p>Working on a resource consent from the Mackenzie District Council to install a fence that will help with the passive spread of wallaby.</p> <p>Signs have recently been installed in road reserve to encourage reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ines: Has there been any feedback around these signs? • Brent: Reports have increased from within the containment zone, one sign has been vandalised so may need to look putting them on adjacent private land. <p>Nassella tussock population trend monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mackenzie: Is nassella spreading in North Canterbury due to land occupier non-compliance or things like climate change? • Laurence: This is mostly due to landowners letting it seed and not grubbing. 	<p>Rich to share Steve's presentation with group.</p> <p>Rich to share wallaby video with group.</p>

4.3	<p><u>Climate Resilience Programme Update</u></p> <p>Greg Stanley presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mackenzie: How are the plantings being protected from wallaby? <p>Greg: Plant guards and regular upkeep. Shooting through the growing season where browsing is occurring and budget allows.</p> <p>Greg to share progress in the next few months.</p>	<p>Rich to share Greg Stanley's presentation with group</p>
4.4	<p><u>BAG Review Workshop</u></p> <p>Cllr Munro: Disconnect with protection of indigenous biodiversity. Currently sits on Biodiversity Champions Group, an improved connectivity is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there the possibility to have a representative from each group give an update? <p>Cllr Mackenzie: We are very production focussed, how do we protect indigenous biodiversity or mahinga kai?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich: There has been a focus on production as we undertake compliance inspections on productive land. This has been at the request of the community. Our future focus will change things hopefully to include more biodiversity values. <p>Recommendations: Meetings</p> <p>Frequency and length</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary: Would be good to have a meeting in the morning with an activity in the afternoon and invite the community to come along. <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary: Can we cover more topics for urban communities? eg. garden escapee species alongside production. • Gavin: More specific topic in more detail with context and background. • Rob: There is an overlap with what's been talked about in the zone committees. This can help with future discussion planning; they can be invited along and vice versa. • Angela: More engagement with catchment groups. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich: Can the BAG members invite catchment group members along when topics are relevant and of value to them? <p>Meeting facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Mackenzie: Have the members of the water zone committees been asked if they feel more/less engaged with using an external facilitator? Cllr Munro: Isn't Rich the facilitator for these meetings? Rich has facilitated these meetings in the past but there has been comments around whether it's appropriate for Environment Canterbury to facilitate these meetings. Do people feel comfortable with that? Angela: Do we need a facilitator if these groups are advisory groups rather than formal committee? Can chairs sometimes facilitate? Rob: Sometimes hard getting facilitators who are right for the group, can cut good conversations short or not steer in the right direction. There is also a cost. <p>Cllr Mackenzie: Important for members to decide what type of group they want to be. This presentation is ECan perspective currently, members need to give there feedback also.</p> <p>Territorial Authority representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Munro: It can be difficult to report back to other councils when time poor. Should have representatives from each or take turns attending where appropriate? <p>Rūnanga representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael: Keep sending information out and extending the invitation. Michael will promote group on his end too. 	
4.5	<p><u>Community Contacts for Biosecurity</u></p> <p>This will be followed up in an email to members due to time.</p>	<p>Rich to share copy of presentation to group</p> <p>Paige to send list of community contacts to group.</p>
4.6	<p><u>General Business</u></p>	

	Gavin Loxton advised that he is meeting with Mackenzie District Council soon regarding a proposal to install rabbit proof fencing around Tekapo Village and eradicate them using dogs and ferrets.	
<u>5</u>	<u>Next Meeting</u>	
5.1	29 th August 2022: Venue TBC	
<u>6</u>	<u>Meeting Close:</u> 12:15pm	