

ENM Special General Meeting
5.30 pm Wednesday 10 May 2017
St Davids Church, 3 Rainforth St, Palmerston North
Minutes

In Attendance:

Alastair Cole (NZ Landcare Trust), Stewart Harrex (ENM, Manawatu Gorge Biodiversity Project), Heinz Fellerhoff (ENM), Sally Pearce (ENM), Madz BatacheI (ENM, Community Fruit Harvest), Karen Tutt (ENM volunteer), Anthea McClelland (Forest & Bird), Harvey Jones (RECAP), Jenny Edwards (Waitoetoe Park, Forest & Bird), Gillian Skyrme (PNCET), Kirsty Barendze(ENM), Sharon Stevens (LEAP), Paul Demchick (WPS), Kheng Lim (F&B – Left Early), Jeff Burns, Ben Schmidt (MUSA), Selwyn York(GC)

Apologies:

Beth Tolly (ENM, Pit Park) Heike Schiele (ENM), Rachel Keedwell (ENM), Russell Poole (Green Corridors), Chris Peterson (Wairarapa Groups), Michelle McManus (PNCSC), Chris Teo-Sherrell (WPS), John Girling (WFT), Helen King (LEAP), Myles Stillwell (WPS), Marilyn Bulloch (Railway Land Action Group), Iola Haggarty, Adam Jarvis (PNCC), Christine McArthur (A Rocha)

Group reports:

- Alastair (Landcare trust) – Landcare Trust have been delivering the citizen’s science project nationally, locally with a field trip to Wairarapa, where some advances in water monitoring, were exiting. Landcare Trust is planning to prepare a report on the outcomes of the field trips around the country, so keep an eye on the website to see what is going on.
- Stewart (Railway Land Action Group, ENM management Committee) - Has been helping out in the ENM office with Job Descriptions etc.
- Sharon Stevens (LEAP) – LEAP has the Ashhurst community market running monthly. Working at getting a business directory together. Finished a trial year for green dollars and trying to bring this out at a bigger level when the business directory is launched.
- Selwyn Yorke (Green Corridors) – Selwyn is the new Chair of Green Corridors which has been working with Palmerston North City Council to plant riparian strips from the Tararua Ranges to the Manawatu river, and are relying heavily on volunteers to do the plantings. They have a nursery contracted to grow the seedlings. A Ricoh are also sponsoring Green Corridors June 11th planting day.
- Ben Schmidt (MUSA) – Has been working with CFH lately. The focus for MUSA is around biking/transport, food wastage, and making services for students cheaper and students lives healthier.
- Harvey Jones (RECAP) – Focus on education in sustainability and permaculture concepts. RECAP runs a permaculture course over two years. A recent project has been Tradescantia weeding where 3 truckloads were taken away six months ago, and recently taken another skip full away. The weeding appears to be working. There is the ongoing maintenance of the orchard/community garden and they are also involved with ReelEarth film festival.
- Jenny Edwards (Waitoetoe Reserve Community) – helps look after Waitoetoe Park with a monthly working bee. Acknowledgment of plants supplied by PNCC, Horizons, A Rocha and various locals. Also liaises with Riverdale primary school and participated in Earth Day.
- Paul Demchick (WPS) – Advocates for fewer pollutants into rivers and groundwater through

both the consent process and the Environment Court. Involved in issues surrounding Affco and are involved in Foxton, Pahiatua, Eketahuna. Have had a very minor role in the recent decision around Horizons and the One Plan.

- Gillian Skyrme (PNCET) – Tasked by PNCC to promote and support environmental activities including currently being involved with ReelEarth. Conduit of funds from PNCC to environmental groups; there are 2 kinds of grants – large grants (up to \$5000) twice a year, and accept applications for small funds at any time of the year (a few hundred dollars). Last year, their project team organised EnviroFest around October and hope to do this again this year.
- Anthea McClelland (Forest and Bird) – Slowly getting to the opening of a revised nature trail, within the Esplanade with new signs. Have almost got to the point where there will be a youth arm of F&B within the Manawatu, thanks to the work of Julia with school environmental groups. There has also been some interest from students at Massey recently and will involve them as projects arise. F& B also sponsored a youth event for the Reel Earth event and are giving prizes for the youth filmmaking competition, where there were 10 entries. These films can be viewed on You Tube.
- Sally Pearce (ENM, Te One) - mentioned the ongoing project at Te One (Bush remnant), which is just out of the Manawatu catchment, but may still be of interest to some people.
- Madz BatachEl (Community Fruit Harvest) – Have had sessions of Apple picking up at the Massey Orchard.

Mid-year report: ENM mid-year report and review of annual plan and budget:

Alastair tabled the report, highlighted it and allowed time for the attendees of the meeting to familiarise themselves with the document.

New member groups – noted the new member group is Waitoetoe Reserve Community, as a separate entity to Friends of Waitoetoe Park. MUSA has recently also become a member. Sally noted that there is a community orchard group from Feilding intending to apply for membership in the near future.

Stewart noted that the students at MUSA's Massey Clubs Day were very positive and keen to be involved.

Staff changes:

Helen Lehndorf has resigned from the Management Committee. Sharon Stevens has resigned from her staff role, and Alastair noted that we miss her in the office. Kirsty has stepped in to the office in the short term. Stewart noted that we have redefined staff roles and job descriptions and a new role will be advertised shortly.

CRM – Madz spoke to the plans going ahead noting that ENM has been contacted by a new volunteer (Richard Ram) through the Volunteer Resource Centre who is very capable and will be able to help us move this project forward

GIS (as part of work with Biodiversity Cluster) – discussed doing spatial planning for working and moving forward with projects. Allows a potential portal to see where people are working and how to get involved. Applied for an Esri Conservation Grant and have been awarded 5 licenses to ARC GIS, plus we have been offered hardware in order to run the software. A big thank-you to David Currin of Advantage Computers who has organised this software for us.

Motion: That the Update to the Annual Plan be accepted – Alastair/Anthea- carried

ENM financial report:

Heinz tabled and spoke to the financial reports.

There have been some structural changes in terms of staffing changes. This has meant that it looks like there will be a little more surplus than expected at the beginning of the year. We are surviving OK on our current capacity, but wouldn't advise taking on any more initiatives.

Motion: That the financial reports are accepted. – Jenny/Harvey carried.

[Kheng Lim left at 6:20pm]

General business:

ENM Evaluation

ENM provided a survey to PNCC to evaluate our service after the first year of our contract. Alastair commended Heike for putting together the original document to ask them for feedback. The feedback was very positive and ENM exceeded expectations for several of the identified criteria, the rest of the criteria were met.

Stewart noted gratitude for PNCC who have been very proactive in being involved with ENM and what we are up to.

MC Membership

Acknowledged Helen Lehndorf for her work.

Also acknowledged Stewart for stepping in to a more active role while Heike is away in Germany. Jenny questioned how frequent the MC meetings are and when – 5:30pm monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Also asked who is on the current committee – Stewart noted that we have a diverse committee, seven people at the moment (Heinz, Alastair, Stewart, Rachel, Beth, Russell and Heike)

Biodiversity Cluster

An offshoot of ENM, trying to bring together all those groups who have an interest in biodiversity (representing 16 groups plus 4 individual interests) in order to improve the biodiversity of the whole of the catchment area of the Manawatu River. A proposed project with a huge 50-year vision, looking at who is working on what, and where patches of bush/wetland can be connected. Currently planning on using the GIS systems to look at what areas exist now and what we can plan for. (There have been some challenges lately with differing perceptions of how fast things need to progress).

It was decided at the most recent meeting that within the next month a group of volunteers from the meeting will put together a draft project proposal, this being arranged by Neil Mickelson of Horizons. Horizons has come to the party and offered to provide someone independent to scribe and facilitate this proposal. Neil has also arranged an independent facilitator for that.

Some discussion occurred around the issues and challenges that arise when putting together such a large project. Alastair noted that ENM does not have the capacity to build the project proposal any faster than we are at the moment.

Harvey asked about the outcome of the Expression of Interest in the DIA Community-led Development Programme OI. Sally noted that we were not accepted for this funding round, although there has been further contact from the DIA around supporting the project. Harvey advised that the EoI from the Ashhurst community was also unsuccessful.

[Paul Demchick left at 6:40pm]

Activities that indicate preference for some groups over others

Heinz introduced this: The question was whether groups; who are not part of a cluster, had concerns over ENM putting resources into clusters that they were not represented in?

Sharon noted that the service levels to other groups, (as a spokesperson for an economic group) has not dropped because of the focus on these clusters.

Anthea asked if the 50 groups naturally fall into different interest areas/clusters. About 19 groups are associated in biodiversity cluster. About 13 member groups are active in the food resilience area, but haven't been meeting regularly at a cluster level. There hadn't been the same demand for regular meetings from other groups (eg. Groups concerned with urban sustainability, such as waste and transport groups); some of this comes down to smaller numbers.

Networking and newsletter and tribune articles – Sharon noted that the articles result in a spike in participation.

Anthea noted that Richard Mays had advised that the Tribunes focus is going away from opinion articles. There was further discussion about ENM's good luck in having a weekly the space for articles and that this space needs to be kept hold of.

Karen noted that she tries to support all groups through our Facebook feed. She also noted that stories of the successes of events can easily be noted on this medium. She asked for groups to get the stories in to us to share their success.

Returning to the original question, in summary, Heinz noted that there doesn't seem to be any problem with continuing on with our clusters.

Other Business

Alastair noted that in our last minutes, Brent Barrett pitched to our group his intention to run for PNCC - congratulations to him on getting on to council. He is approachable as a person on council with an interest in environmental issues.

Policies

Madz noted Sharon's excellent work in pushing the MC through a full revision of ENM's current policies and processes prior to her leaving.

Meeting closed at 7.08pm.

Minutes written by Madz BatachEl