



Notes for:	SDC Ecosystems & Indigenous Biodiversity Working Group –District Plan Review			Date:	20. June 2018
Meeting held at:	SDC Head Quarters, 2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston				
Time:	3.00pm-6.40pm			Room:	Executive 1
Name	Initis	Title/Role	Name	Initis	Title/Role
Working Group Members:					
Murray Lemon	Chair	Chair (Councillor SDC)	Elisha Young-Ebert (until 6.00pm)	EYE	Federated Farmers
Ben Rhodes (from 3.30pm)	BR	S & P Team Leader SDC	Ken Murray	KM	Department of Conservation
Nicky Snoyink	NS	Forest & Bird	Peter Graham	PG	Landowner
Scott Pearson (until 6.00pm)	SP	Fish & Game NZ	Hamish Rennie	HR	Waihora Ellesmere Trust
Jenny Ladley	JL	Landowner (University Canterbury)	Sam Leonard	SL	Environment Canterbury
Apologies					
James Guild	JG	Landowner			
In Attendance					
Stephanie Styles (from 3.20pm)	SS	Group Co-ordinator Planning Consultant (Boffa Miskell)	Andrew Spanton	AS	Biodiversity Co-ordinator SDC
Andrew Mactier	AM	Strategy and Policy Planner SDC			



Agenda:

Item #	Item	Lead
1.0	Te Taumutu Rūnanga presentation	RS, SE, PH
2.0	Refresher on last meeting:	SS / CHAIR
3.0	Discussion on whether to incorporate SNAs or not:	SS
4.0	Next meeting:	SS

Notes:

Chair – Opened meeting at 3.15pm

Chair – Welcomed Raewyn Solomon (**RS**) and Sefeti Erasito (**SE**) from Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and Paul Horgan (**PH**) from Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd.

1. TE TAUMUTU RŪNANGA PRESENTATION

PH and **RS** presented their submission (circulated earlier in the week), which raised a number of points in relation to the cultural significance, and the management and protection of indigenous biodiversity including as set out below:

PH – Capacity is an issue for Ngai Tahu and Taumutu Rūnanga regarding involvement in the BWG.

Indigenous biodiversity is very important to Ngai Tahu. The removal of one species can affect the rest of the environment.

The current rules are weak and the policies and objectives are not halting the decline.

RS – clarified:

- The importance of water especially to Taumutu Rūnanga for mahinga kai and water burials;
- The importance of water races for mahinga kai habitat.
- The positive experience that has come from the collaborative part of the Osbornes drain improvement project.
- Stock access to the riparian margin

PH – would like the BWG to consider improved drainage management within its remit.

CHAIR – many entities are involved in biodiversity but some of the rules seem counter intuitive. A lot of work has been done at the Zone Implementation Programme in definitions.



PH – much work has been put into identification of Cultural Sites.

CHAIR – there could be a possibility of Mananui Ramsden or a cultural adviser being involved in SNA assessments.

PH supported this.

SS Noted that advice from ECan would be needed to confirm inclusion of cultural values into assessment criteria – Assessment criteria are set out in the CRPS.

AM - mentioned the possibility of the BWG carrying on as a Biodiversity advisory body and that it would be good for Rūnanga representatives to be on that group.

PH – Agreed and noted that the good work undertaken collectively in areas such as Osbourne's Drain could be replicated at other waterways around Te Waihora.

CHAIR – thanked the Taumutu/MKT representatives for the information presented and noted that at Council level there is a lot of contact with Taumutu. Also reiterated that there was a standing invitation for representatives from Nga Rūnanga to attend all Working Group meetings, or if not available, for a representative from Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd.

KM – many agency owned riparian margins need to be considered first for protection and SNA assessment. SDC, LINZ and DoC land and ECan owned land throughout the district e.g. Rakaia Island grazed land, need to be considered.

CHAIR – the current government is owing up to this, and looking at it especially with LINZ.

PG asked about drain clearance practice and conflict this may have with aspirations to manage drains for biodiversity purposes, especially the need for regular cleaning of drains and access by machinery. Also spoke to the impracticality of fencing all waterbodies, especially in hill country.

Further group discussion was had on waterway management issues and preferences for Taumutu/Ngai Tahu, including that many of the issues are possibly already addressed by Council drain management plans.

Also issues with maintenance of land along waterways where fencing and stock control leads to pest/weed issues. Discussions around what stock are acceptable in and around waterways. **RS** indicated that sheep are generally not a significant concern.

HR queried the extent of drains to be managed – all or just those designated? Group consensus was not all farm drains.

HR asked about mahinga kai and how to be sure that tikanga is being followed. Will tiaki ensure this?

RS would like to have tiaki in this role but at present they are primarily dealing with permits.

HR cautioned use of off setting and **RS** also commented that off sets should only be used in limited circumstances.



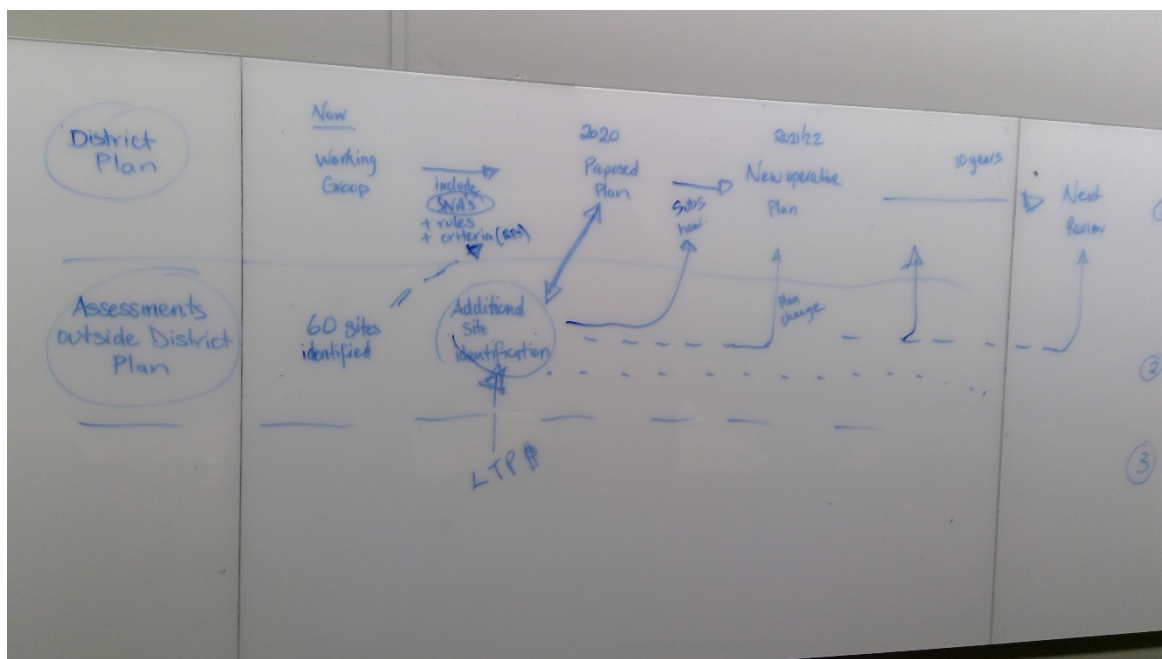
4.30pm - Te Taumutu Rūnanga & Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd reps leave.

2. REFRESHER ON LAST MEETING:

CHAIR – acknowledged that Forest and Bird were not represented at the last meeting but the group had to get on with it – making decisions.

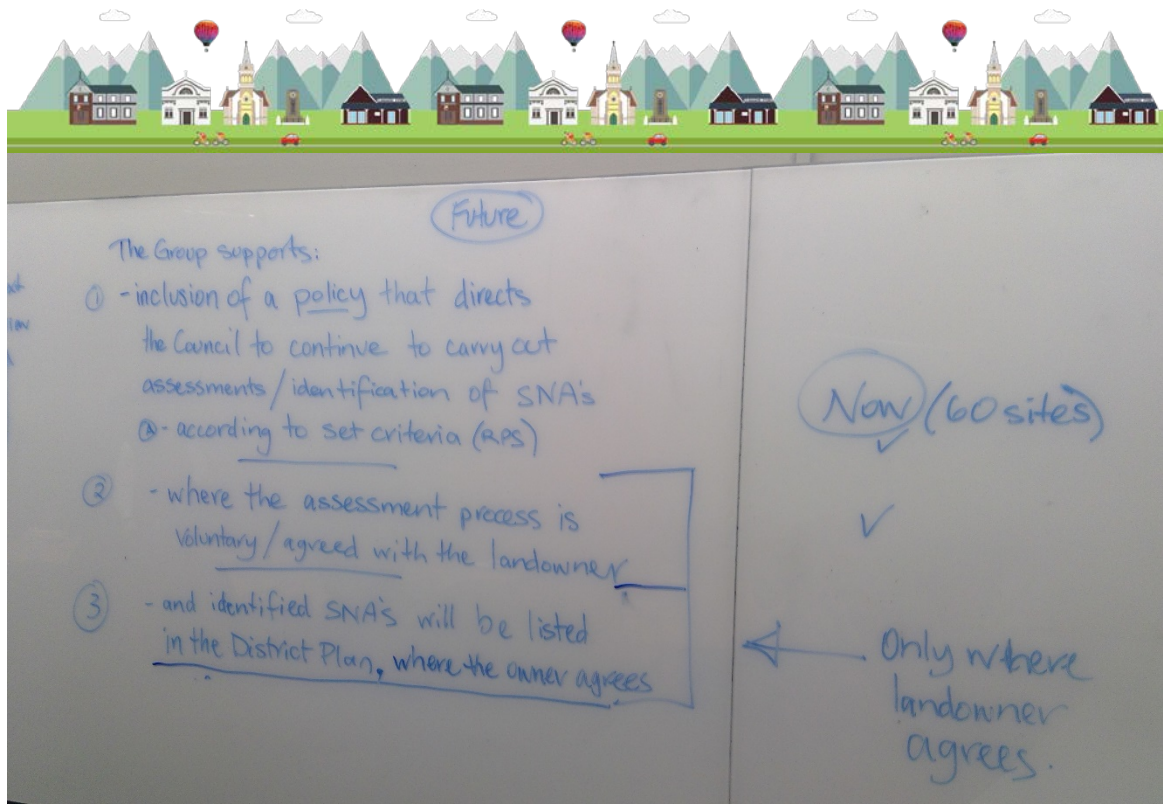
NS confirmed she is happy with the decisions made at the last meeting.

SS re-drew a diagram on the board.



Group discussion was held regarding:

- What part of the process sits outside the Proposed District Plan framework regarding SNA's?
- Does the Working Group Process determine the extent of SNAs?
- How would the proposed NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity affect the work of the Biodiversity Working Group?
- RPS assessment criteria;
- The recent MfE meeting regarding the NPSS,
- How the process could work given that we have a commitment to continue the SNA process,
- The DP notification process and when the rules become operative,
- That landowner's need clarity with the rules – and these will be clarified by the group in the next 2 months and the group focuses on rules and objectives,
- Do we as a group have a collaborative approach between landowners and councils and whether this has been done elsewhere?



PROPOSAL 1

The inclusion of a District Plan policy directing the Council to continue to carry out assessments / identification of SNA's (according to the assessment criteria set out in the CPRS)?

Answer

Yes (unanimous).

PROPOSAL 2

Where the assessment process is voluntary/agreed with the landowner (for all future landowners who Council approaches)?

Answer

Yes (unanimous).

PROPOSAL 3

Regarding listing assessed sites in the District Plan;

- (a) That the approximately 60 sites which have been through the ecological assessment process over the last few years – that the Council should approach those approximately 60 landowners and inform them of the implications of listing/non-listing and that listing is voluntary (subject to Council continuing to discuss the benefits of listing up until the point at which the proposed District Plan is publicly notified)?
- (b) That all future landowners Council approaches regarding whether they are willing to participate in the ecological assessment process; listing is mandatory (as landowners can choose not to engage in the assessment process earlier in the process (and land use will be subject to general vegetation clearance rules instead)).



Answer

- (a) Yes (unanimous, subject to proper communication with affected landowners).
- (b) The Working Group hesitated from answering this part of the proposal in the affirmative and continued to discuss the pros and cons of the approach to be taken to future landowners Council seeks to engage in the ecological assessment process.

Discussion included:

- a) What are the various incentives (both financial and non-financial) to landowners to get assessments done and to list in the District Plan – for example rates remissions increases and transferable development rights?
- b) Whether SNA's can be listed in a 'Silent File and/or on LIM's and protected into the future, rather than listing in the District Plan.
- c) The benefits of targeting/directing incentives to landowners who had carried out ecological assessments and had listed those sites in the Plan, rather than landowners who have opted out of listing
- d) That such a harsh 'black and white' approach may not be the best way forward and may turn many landowners off engaging in the process

Approximately 6pm - SP and EYE left the meeting

As a result of this discussion an alternative Proposal 3 (Proposal 3b) was suggested:

PROPOSAL 3(b)

That not only is participation in the assessment process voluntary, but also once a site has been assessed and deemed to be significant in accord with the CRPS SNA Assessment Criteria, then listing in the District Plan is also voluntary.

Answer

Yes (unanimous).

KM – suggested that a one page document is prepared for the Group with all the decisions on it up to this point.

SS confirmed that the back page of the monthly agenda includes a record of decisions made and decisions yet to make.

Chair – closed the meeting at 6.40 pm. Next meeting (18 July 2018) the focus will be on Rules, preceded by a presentation from Scott Hooson – consultant ecologist (what are the ecological values of the Selwyn District and an ecological perspective on general rules).



Action Table:

Team Member	Action