



MRHLG Inc COMMITTEE MEETING

28 July 2023, 6pm, at 1070b Wainui Road, Mahinepua & Zoom

1.
 - a. Attendance: Brian Putt (chair), Jen Ritchie-Campbell, Casey Campbell, , Phil Shepherd, Lynne Lucas, Jo Leather, Maxine Dignan, Mark Walls & Ronald LaPread
 - b. Apologies: Doug Jane, Mary-Anne Schaab, Lyndon Hurst (zoom issues) (*accepted, Brian/Lynne*)
 - c. Minutes of 2 June 2023 confirmed as a true and correct record (*confirmed, Phil/Casey*)
 - d. Correspondence (*matters added to agenda*)

2. Trapper's Report: (Lyndon's report to be distributed)
 - May was a good month for weasels – 2 in one trap was a first!
 - Appreciated time spent with Bruce Shepherd – shared knowledge of the area
 - Using chew cards to monitor Airstrip and Mahinepua Peninsula
 - Catching quite a few possums with joeys – two generations in one
 - Trap maintenance ongoing

	Cat	Hedgehog	Possum	Rat	Stoat	Weasel
May-23	1	3	65	32	1	12
Jun-23	0	6	65	32	1	4
Jul-23	1	7	46	24	2	2

(from Trap NZ)

Comment regarding a recent cat catch.

Discussion re need for a trap inventory – could use current report map on Trap NZ.

3. Treasurer's Report (Jen's report distributed prior to meeting)

Total funds on hand: \$45,737.15 (*Report adopted, Jen/Brian*)

Of concern: STK and DoC funding applications have been unsuccessful, leaving 18mths funding remaining at current rate. Need to think creatively about alternative funding sources and timelines for applications.
4. Kiwi Taxon recorders (Jo's report)

Graham is nesting. Last week he was active just over 4 hrs/night, this week 2.5hrs/night. Cameras to go out in a couple of weeks. Terry has been active an average of 10.5 to 11.5 hrs/night. Still emerging right on sunset, and Graham an hour later this week 6:45pm. - Terry back in burrow around 4 am, Graham at 9.30pm this week.
5. Kiwi Call May 2023 (Jo)

Despite the weather we have managed to listen on most of our sites. Thanks again to Rebekah for coordinating the physical listening. Jo needs to finish processing information from the recorders. Best call counts on Naked Knoll and Bull Paddock then Orua Quarry, Ridge and Bay. Overall call count numbers down from 2022 for all sites including the core area which we have regularly logged with DOC. Recommend alternative site to replace Noel's Deck in 2024. One night's call count was 6 per hour, a good result compared to other sites. We listened on 2 additional sites on Mark Walls property to achieve triangulation. The Cox (Old House) site is subject to wind coming up the valley. The call counts/hour were in line with the core area. We have not managed to get more recorders back out onto Bruce's yet. There has been a kiwi sighted in Tauranga Bay so the plan is to put a recorder above this. Records are ready for DOC but propose we do not register the two test sites "Campsite" and Whangaihe Bay with DOC this year.

Motion: Submit data for 20 sites, not for Campsite and Whangaihe which need to be re-assessed, and change location of recorder on Noel's deck, provisionally to Hayward's ridge. (Jo/Jen)

Discussion around recorder placement and significantly lower call rates.

Worthwhile to review historical aberrations. Our kiwi sometimes/often call later than the recorders' listening range. For next year, look at trends, consider resources, etc. Should we be worried, or should our response continue to be more action against predators? Should we listen again, till midnight (currently 6-9pm)

Jo happy to do this, but would rather continue testing sites. Anecdotally, other areas also have lower call rates. Second round of calls better than first. Need to consider impacting factors such as predation, extreme weather events, etc.

How can we distribute 'listening' work more widely? Brian happy to help. Jo needs to train others. Jo has logged 80 hrs so far (1hr to review 2hrs of recording). Kiwicoast asking for info about numbers of male and female (from the spectrogram and audiogram data – see examples shared on Facebook).

Jo is happy to train anyone interested in learning how. Jo uses Ravenlight programme.

Jen to approach/target people, perhaps wider membership and Casey suggests presentation at AGM.

6. DoC Permit status (Jo)

DOC have requested more information. Jo is working on an advocacy plan - now integral to the application. The feedback is that we need to reflect the draft taxon plan Jo, Ngaire and Lesley moving this forward before resubmitting to DOC.

7. DoC Funding response (Jo)

No funds from DOCCF or Save the Kiwi following our applications. Final report for Save the Kiwi due next week. Jen and Jo met with NRC re biofund – list developed for traps, toxins, equipment and herbicides. Need to have members engaging more in future with doing their own pest plant and weed control and potential from NRC for us to fund the product/loan equipment.

Brian spoke to Willow-Jean Pryme, MP/Conservation Minister, at awards ceremony – she suggested we apply again with stronger message about the impact of no DoC funding. Brian to write follow-up letter. Need information about funding criteria and assessment.

Discussion re availability of and possibilities for co-funders. Could apply to Foundation Nth for multi-year funding (no deadline, previously received \$10,000). Should we apply now or post-AGM? Iwi link and training component are essential in applications. Discussed possibility of Lyndon and Jo training young people. Goundwork needed over next 6mths before applications.

Brian, Mary-Anne, Jo and Casey – to explore possibilities with neighbouring groups.

8. NRC biofund application/list shared

- a. Would weed control gear be for loan/hire to members? Who would coordinate?
- b. Risks of dispensing toxins, H&S run-thru needed for anyone prepared to use
- c. Need significantly more ratbait – another \$500
- d. Need a licence to buy herbicides, but NRC will give it to us
- e. Concern about toxicity for pets
- f. Possibility of a box of ratbait for financial members
- g. Need to use original toxin containers so properly labelled.
- h. Lyndon could distribute bait to members as he does his trapping circuit.
- i. Could consider completely new system of members doing their own pest management/baiting.

NRC list to be distributed for feedback by 4 Aug and then a decision for submission by mid-August.

9. Updates

- a. Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards –
Highly commended for Environmental Action in the Community
Highly commended for Environment Action to protect Native Life.
Awards ceremony attended by Brian, Jen & Casey. Made connections, interesting, can use the publicity (AGM, publicity days)

Honeymoon Valley – Jen shared invitation for 1 MRHLG person to attend strategy day in Sept – Brian or Jo to attend - for next Rattler.

- b. Kiwi Aversion training : Jen reported day was well attended - 12 people, 24 dogs, koha gathered for Lesley (Mark to add his koha to that amount)
 - c. STK Hui 7-9 July, NP (Brian’s report to go out with minutes & for Rattler. Next year’s conference to be bigger. Big numbers of volunteers but focus is on large groups such as DOC, Councils, etc. Highlight was Nobel prize-winning speaker. No particular priorities identified that could inform different thinking for future.
 - d. Kiwi listening: thank-you gathering worthwhile. A dozen or so people attended, thanks to those who helped, especially to Rebekah for her organisation of the day.
 - e. Noted need to recognise significant work by some, eg, especially Jo’s work with kiwi listening data.
 - f. Kiwi road signage – in Philip’s garage ready to be put up.
 - g. Constitution – Charities Commission & Incorporated Societies websites have been updated and 2023 Constitution, now signed by three officers, to be registered (lodged 2 Aug).
 - h. Website updated to include Terry, Rattler and committee work – to add Environmental Awards. Monthly reports re our Kiwi also to go onto website.
10. Rat Knockdown : Discussion re 2023 knockdown (circulated proposal for coordinator guidelines not discussed)
11. Strategic Review (Casey)
Casey led discussion, especially capacity with volunteer group & potential to employ workers in future, economies of scale, etc.
General agreement with vision of broadening remit to biodiversity. *Agreed.*
Discussion re extending boundary/corridor - Phil to connect with people who could facilitate link with Kauri Cliffs.
Prioritise predator control activity – retaining and expanding Lyndon’s role.
- Brian proposed adoption of the strategic review document – to be distributed to membership with letter from Brian laying out rationale and interconnectedness, taking governance of the group in a positive direction to align with future requirements.
To be presented and discussed at AGM.
12. Other (Jen)
- a. Discussion if we want to be included in Kiwi Coast's regular update on transmitters birds (*agreed*).
 - b. Flyers for distribution? Could use stock on hand.

Next meeting 6 Oct, 7pm

Signed by Brian Putt (Chair): _____

Date: _____