

**152nd meeting of the Port Nelson Environmental Consultation Committee**  
**15 March 2011** **Port Nelson Visitor Centre**

**Attendance:** Thomas Marchant, Matt MacDonald, Murray McGuire, Grant Rutledge, Stuart Slack, Stephen Wynne-Jones, Jocelyn Bielecki, Bill Rait, Grant Jones (NEC), Paul Fisher (NCC), Vicki Cordwell-Douglas, Paul Sheldon, Phil Wilson, Joanna Plows.  
Apologies: Graeme Fox - Sealord, John White - SSL.

**Environmental update** (Information tabled by Thomas).

**Fumigation** season is underway.

Consent conditions still under objection at NCC. Genera are not happy with some of the requirements around disposal of waste. Genera still working under existing use right. Noted the fumigation is mainly seasonal. Phosphine is used on in-hold logs going to China.

**ISO 14001 audit was** undertaken by Alex Daniel of Verification NZ Ltd last week. The Conditions and Recommendations he made were to shift the focus from auditing the Codes of Practice to the system as a whole, to create and implement an internal audit schedule, to update and review relevance of consents.

Thomas signalled the environmental objectives and targets formulated through consultation with the PNECC would need an update. These cover quality of air, water etc and aim to avoid, remedy or mitigate emissions. Phil Wilson recommended objectives be made more specific, achievable and measurable within a time frame (annual), set these by looking at incidents that have happened and setting out to avoid them.

**PNL Energy Use Policy** (tabled by Thomas)

The policy is to control energy use to:

- avoid unnecessary expense
- improve cost-effectiveness, productivity and working conditions
- protect the environment by reducing emissions
- reduce the carbon footprint of our operation.

**Additional PNL Environmental Objectives**

- Waste Management – there may be assistance with funding through NEC.
- Discharges & spills to land – there have been a few of these over the last year.
- Community engagement – port Open Day a real success.
- Sustainability Reporting – People, community, environment. Should this be covered in the PNEMP?

**Issues Register**

Over the past year there had been 15 minor spills of oil to land. Noted there are procedures in place for dealing with these. Discussion of contractual obligations.

3 calls re truck noise, mainly around gypsum shipment.

4 reported spills to the harbour, only one proved to be oil – was pursued by NCC.

**PNECC meetings** to be held quarterly (approved)

- Meeting #2 – Weds 15 June 2011
- Meeting #3 – Weds 21 September 2011
- Meeting #4 – Weds 14 December 2011

**NCC State of the Environment Report**

Paul Sheldon presented this report, the first since 2005, based on 2008 data. NCC is now moving to a cut-down score card system of reporting that will be more useful and accessible.

**Air Quality**

Steady improvement in PM10 measurement since measures enforced on backyard burning, open fires etc, even when weather is accounted for. Noted NCC is pushing for a move nationally to PM<sup>2.5</sup>. Meeting National Environmental Standards is more difficult in Tahunanui where there is a mix of domestic and industry.

## **Biodiversity**

Report was done by Shanel Courtney at DOC, begins by looking back to how the region would have been pre-human settlement. Nelson's land cover is assessed, 13 environments are considered at risk, eg river mouths, wetlands. NCC staff have worked with landowners to help them access assistance to improve management of remnant forest. About 1/3 have declined to take part but this may change with societal values.

## **Freshwater**

The amount & quality of water flow was measured. Water quality classification is done for 28 sites, based on factors such bug counts, sediment, temperature, pH etc; graded on SOE trigger levels. Urban streams show some improvement since first measured in 2007, and there are now catchment management plans in place for each of these streams. Noted that a lot of work has been done on pipe work to fix faecal contamination in Maitai – still work to be done. The Lud is the sad case in the Wakapuaka catchment, the rural advisor is working with community on planting etc.

## **Marine**

Long Term Monitoring of the harbour has been done since 2004. Sediment studies look at metals, toxicity, bugs, bio-accumulation of toxins in shellfish, and species in intertidal zone. Nickel & arsenic levels are high due to mineral belt. Still problems with Salt Water Creek & compounds from anti-fouling. Waimea Inlet re-survey found no evidence of obvious pollution or nutrient enrichment, the biodiversity is similar to other NZ estuaries. Removal of Rabbit Island causeway allows more flushing. There is now an accord to enhance estuary.

Swimming - Since 2002 micro-biological counts have been done using a traffic light system. Local beaches come through well.

## **Iwi perspective**

Local Iwi have provided a statement on their world view, relating their spiritual views to their concerns re environment. NCC has developed cultural indicators for key sites eg estuaries.

## **Questions**

Bill Rait asked what was happening outside the Alliance works. Paul to look into this.

Vicki asked about air monitoring sites. One is at 117 St Vincent S, far enough from road (100m) not to be affected by traffic. Tahuna site is in Blackwood St reserve. Other sites are behind Brook dairy & near Omaio Village. There was also a NIWA mobile monitoring plan used a couple of years ago.

Paul said NCC & TDC work closely together and are currently developing a regional air shed model with 5 years of data from both catchments.

Jo asked about NCC brochure on climate change – recommended they get some more into the public area. Grant Jones to action.

Paul F commended the council on the environment report, asked what is done to address the issues raised in the report. Paul S said in the marine area not a lot, but in air, water and bio-diversity council is coming up with recommendations to improve areas where there are problems. This feeds into the NCC works programmes. Noted a change in council culture.

Paul was thanked for his presentation.

Grant Jones updated the meeting on the NEC, now sited at Braemar. Encouraged people to come and have a look. He outlined the campaign to Save Our Seas - plastics getting into water courses and eventually into oceans. He is part of a world record attempt sailing around Australia to raise awareness of this issue, working with schools etc on education. [www.saveourseasaustralia.com](http://www.saveourseasaustralia.com) Opportunity for sponsorship. Is an issue where people can do something to make change. Italy and Bangladesh have banned plastic bags.

**Meeting closed at 1.35pm.**

**Next meeting June 15.**