

Attendance: Janet Wilson PNTMC-RWP, Warren Wheeler PNTMC, Dave Mulinder Ruahine NZDA-HTC, John Beech MTSC-FMC, Julia Mackie NTC, John Montgomerie HTC, Dan Elderkamp CHBFB, Mike Charlton Ruahine NZDA, Ian Patterson Manawatu NZDA, Nicola Henderson NZWAC, Allanah Irvine DOC, Morgan Marshall DOC, Shaun Ruddle DOC.

**1. Welcome & introductions**

**2. Apologies:** Lex Smith HTC, Glenda Hooper HTC, Pete Meredith, Vince Payne Ruahine NZDA.

**3. Minutes from previous meetings & actions arising**

- a. **Action DOC:** Shaun to establish a post on the RUG Forum to facilitate a potential project to tidy up A Frame Hut.
- b. **Action DOC:** Shaun to inform when the hut inspection is plotted and discuss further.
- c. **Action DOC:** Allanah to follow up on Cons Board stewardship exercise.

**4. Huts and Shelters – work undertaken and planned**

a. DOC managed

i. Completed

- Crow Hut service and minor huts tasks completed.
- Hut checks at Rangī, Sunrise, and Longview. Extra Firewood flown into Sunrise.
- Daphne Hut. Re-roof, verandah, floor repair, and minor work completed at the hut by NZ Army.
- Contractor flights to complete hut services, clear vegetation surrounding huts and minor repairs at site.
- Pre-planning meeting for Iron Gate Hut with RUG.
- Diggers Hut. Removed and disposed of due to damage sustained and risk to environment and users. Any feedback on the suggested future of the of the site can be sent to Shaun or Allanah.

ii. Planned next 3-4 Months

- Barlow hut and Parks Peak Hut Door Chimney and Window.
- Complete paint of Rangiwahia Hut.
- Paint of Sunrise and Longview Huts.

iii. Future Capital Projects

- Iron Gate Hut replacement.

b. Community managed

i. Completed

- Heritage passed hut inspection. Well used by public. Water flowing down river track and blocked culverts. Ian asked the group to please pass on to fill in the hut book when passing through.

- Janet requested when Mid Poh and Ngamoko were to be inspected - **Action DOC:** Shaun to inform when the hut inspection is plotted and discuss further.
- Mr and Mrs Bailey have sent through supplies for Kelly Knight and Pourangaki Huts. Bow Saw, Gas Cannisters, Cleaning Products and other items were donated and have been dropped at the huts. They have a visit planned later in the Summer to complete some general maintenance.
- Toka Bivvy was discussed. The RUG asked Shaun to discuss with Geoff and establish if the project is moving forward.
- Kylie Bivvy Re-pile Task. This was mentioned as a potential community task.
- Aranga Hut. No significant updates to report.

i. New agreements.

Andrew Mercer is now managing Piripiri Bivvy.

## 5. Tracks and roads

a. DOC managed

i. Completed

- Kawhatau Cableway and Crow Hut Swing Bridge had final Swing bridge/Cableway work completed. This involved tying the rigging screws, and other minor work on site.
- Yeomans Track vegetation work around structures, slip benching, wind fall removal, removal of old retaining walls and sign install. Ellis hut maintenance was also carried out.
- Bruce Park Bi-lingual signs installed, new toilet installed by Rangitikei District Council.
- Track Cutting plan is progressing. Expected to be confirmed mid-November.
- Kashmir Road works is underway.
- Alice Nash Track Slip. Has been assessed by Contractor, Staff and DOC Engineer. The scope of works has been confirmed. Final confirmation between DOC and the Contractor is yet to occur. Expected to be completed prior to Xmas.
- Rangiwahia Track. Bench has been cut and alt route posted. This will be monitored until feedback has been provided and a suitable plan established.

ii. Planned next 3-4 Months,

- Complete track cutting contract
- Complete Kashmir Road Works.

iii. Future Capital Projects

- Sunrise track work and interp sign installation
- Sunrise carpark construction
- Tawa Loop toilet install, re-gravel and re-form

- Kashmir Road

b. Community managed/work done

- Nothing reported.

**6. Access**

- a. Wakarara Access. Access is still open. Please use the paper road track that is signposted at the road end.
- b. Mid Pohangina Hut access. A track has been found that leads from Poh Base to the river. Janet has offered to show Shaun the track to establish if there is a possibility of making this formal access.
- c. It was highlighted by the RUG that access is a real concern of the community and a frustration by many.

**7. Biodiversity**

a. DOC

- i. Goat hunters have been down the southern end of Ruahines doing control; another contractor starting up the Northeast side soon; Action: Morgan to share reports from contractors. Have had reports of goats near wharite/kumeti.
- ii. Contorta work is coming up – majority is the north eastern area. Looking at following up some community work now. Action:
- iii. Pine work up
- iv. Darwins Barberry is being added to the HB RPMS. Team went up and did some work west of Duff's Creek.
- v. Old Man's Beard. Continued effort.
- vi. Rowans down at Heritage Lodge. John Terry previously done work – Action: Morgan and Janet to discuss.

b. Community

- i. Community trapping groups into action now. Still looking for people to assist, especially for people to do the Pohangina.
- ii. Te Potae (DOC co-ordinated) – two checks in the last two months;

**8. Other Items**

- a. Lindsay Golding – retirement in December after over 50 Years of service. Function Thursday 13 December at 3.30pm at North Street office. Please RSVP through Allanah.
- b. Stewardship land – **Action DOC:** Allanah to follow up on Cons Board stewardship exercise.
- c. DOC Community Fund – announcements expected soon. **Action DOC:** Information to be shared on the forum when announcements are made.
- d. Janet made the point that the RUG forum can meet without DOC attendance.

- e. FMC meeting feedback. The Back country trust will fund one-off jobs without a long standing agreement. Also discussion re back country trust intent to support thorough job – ie. doing what is required and not just doing bits and pieces. Focus is on keeping original as much as possible. Discussion around maps. FMC pulling that information together and bringing to DOC. Will link in with the CMS.
9. **Next meeting date:** 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, 7pm Palmerston North DOC Office.