



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of MSC

At the Overseas Terminal in Wellington
23rd September 2010

Present:	Ross Meder	Chairman
	Jamie Robertson	Region 6 Representative
	Joe Fecteau	Alpine & Abseil Committee Convener
	Noel Bigwood	NZ Mountain Guides Association
	Christeen Mackenzie	Boys Brigade of New Zealand
	Andy Woodhouse	Bushcraft Convener
	Allen Hill	Region 4 Representative
	Phil Glasson	Department of Conservation
	Tony Hickmore	Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards
	Bryce Meredith	Education Convener
	Jenny Jordan	Education Outdoors New Zealand
	Inspector Joe Green	Federated Mountain Clubs
	Dave Comber	Federation of NZ Youth Organisations
	Ollie Clifton	Scouts New Zealand
	New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association	Firearms Safety Convener
	David Rew	Girl Guiding New Zealand
	Brian Stokes	HUNTS convener
	Captain Brendan Lynch	NZ Police
	Charlie Hobbs	Land SAR
	Terry Waghorn	New Zealand Alpine Club
	Miles Davidson	Trevor Dyke
	Anja Morris	NZ Shooting Federation
	Ben Luders	NZ Cadet Force
	Sally Duston	NZ Defence Force
	David Shearer	NZ Heliski Operators
	Chris Emmett	NZ Mountain Radio Service
	Geoff Ensor	NZ Snowsports Council
		Region 2 Representative
		Region 4 Representative
		Region 7 Representative
		Search and Rescue Institute of NZ (ass. Member)
		Snow & Avalanche convener
		Tourism Industry Association
Apologies:	Elizabeth Dickens	Girls' Brigade NZ
	Matthew Cant	NZ Outdoors Instructors Association
	Murray Douglas	Region 1 Representative
	Tania MacKinnon	Region 5 Representative
	Mike Boyes	Research convener
	Garth Gully	Risk Management convener

Not Present: Simon Gianotti
Bryan Williams
Dean Eger

ACC
Department of Labour
NZ Sports Industry Association

Proxies: Allen Hill

NZ Outdoors Instructors Association

In Attendance: Chris Hall
Mike Davies
Dale Stokes
Darryl Carpenter
Richard Brodie
Leonce Jones
Chris Tews
Mike Spray
Andrew Hobman
Annie Dignan
Bede Eagle
Maggie Forest

Whitireia Polytechnic
Department of Conservation
NZ Cadet Force
Chief Executive
Business Manager
Operations/Education Manager
Programme Manager
Programme Manager
Programme Manager
Research Manager
Communication Manager
Administration

Welcome and Introduction

Ross welcomed everyone and introduced the Honourable Nathan Guy, Minister of Internal Affairs.

NZMSC Life Time Award

Noel Bigwood was presented with a Lifetime Award by the minister.

Apologies

Apologies were read out (see above). In addition, Diane Brown and Bill O'Leary from the Deerstalkers' Association tendered their apologies.

Confirmation of Council 2010 / 2011

The delegate list was gone through, adjusted and accepted.

Welcome to Delegates

Ross welcomed everyone, and noted his congratulations to Noel Bigwood.

Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Trevor Dyke moved to accept the minutes, Ben Luders seconded.

Motion carried.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None

Chairperson's Report

Life has been difficult in the last year. MSC has faced increasing demand and reduced support. Over the past year events have been significant, we have had coronial inquests and the ministerial review. MSC will have a role to play in communicating recommended messages to the public. We have spent significant time looking at reducing cost; much has happened at branch level.

MSC have been contracted to conduct research in a number of areas. We have received targeted funding for projects such as bush craft manual.

We signed a tripartite agreement with Skills Active and NZOIA. We aim to measure outcomes against strategic goals. As always we need long term funding streams to ensure our work and long term partnerships to perform. See also annual report.

Noel Bigwood moved the report be accepted, Ollie Clifton seconded.

Motion carried.

Chief Executive's Report

Congratulations to Noel Bigwood! And thank you Minister for the visit and the opportunity to attend the upcoming Avalanche conference in USA.

MSC formed in 1965 in response to the perceived need for a safety organisation. It is important that we remember where we come from. Things we focused on this year:

- Communication – maintained activity.
- Organisational consolidation and functional delivery structure – improved.
- Community education – improved.
- Research, evaluation advice and development going very well. We have an outcomes model which will be discussed in the afternoon.
- Funding up (for projects) and down (core funding).
- Operational – centralised training progressed well, still work to be done.
- Review of the snow-avalanche program. Thanks to Hamish McCrostie who stepped down and to Chris Emmett who stepped in. Andrew Hobman came on board as programme manager. The programme is holding steady and progressing this year.
- Line-by-line analysis of the branches – A somewhat traumatic process. A big thank you to the regional reps for their role in the process. Good progress was made
- Operational budgets – maximising value and reducing cost. Progressed well.
Financials – The projected deficit of \$206K came down to \$71K actual. Funding work continues. Project funding was particularly successful. Several collaborative projects are under way and a big focus of what we do.
- It's been a good year, but a tough year.

Next year we need to secure funding. We will continue to collaborate with our partners. We will consolidate changes made and provide good governance. Specifically we will ensure we have funding levels adequate to meet our needs, we will transform our education and training processes including all the supporting structures to achieve that, and we will connect with our local, regional and national communities, the outdoor sector, our stakeholders and visitors to NZ

Finally thank you to all volunteers, regional reps, committees and council members.

Brendan Lynch moved the report be accepted, Ollie Clifton seconded.

Motion carried.

Financial Report 2009/2010

Kerry Price from Grant Thornton gave a presentation and commented on the economic climate effect on the not-for-profit industry. A particular issue raised was the reduction in equity/cash reserves which needs to be resolved in the long term. The Exec will consider this based on a positioning paper from Grant Thornton.

Noel Bigwood moved the Financial Report be accepted, Miles Davidson seconded.

Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports (tabled)

Alpine: Have been somewhat on hold while working on relationships with Skills Active and NZOIA. This relationship has been sorted now and we are looking at going forward. Andrew Hobman will be assisting this process. A working group is looking at some of the training processes and are having a meeting regarding that.

Snow & Avalanche: The last 12 months have been focused on a smooth transition for both convener and program manager. Avalanche.Net is the focus along with developing Avalanche Exposure systems together with the Department of Conservation. The Crystal Ball is excellent. Avalanche education is going from strength to strength.

Regional Representative Reports (tabled)

Common concerns volunteer recruitment and retention, and coping with the increased demand for MSC training by other organisations.

Council Member Reports (tabled)

Scouts: just completed our census, 5% increase in kids. Increased need for training leaders! Funding continued issue.

Fed Youth no report – not particularly active.

SARINZ: Thanks and congratulations for turning the corner! We have a good fit with MSC. The Crystal Ball represents some great work!

TIANZ: Want to acknowledge Noel Bigwood's award. Have had a challenging year on the Exec, and acknowledge the other members on the exec. Also acknowledge the working team out there! It's been a busy year in tourism. The mining debate came on, and there was a lot of publicity around Freedom Camping. The Tongariro Crossing has been an issue, with the development of safety codes for the operating groups. We are developing training programs and requirements for concessionate operators there. Working closely with DOC. Commercial arm of outdoors activity needs to be safe and regulated. Outdoor Safety Code – classic MSC role and good work. The Ministerial Adventure Review; TIA put a lot of work into it – now the hard part is coming in the details of how to run a practical and effective system, supporting the good operators.

NZDA: close collaboration with MSC mainly through the HUNTS program which is growing like topsy. Membership is growing too.

NZMGA: Busy year. Lost SPARC funding so had to restructure the way we're operating. We have a new administration officer. Our biggest project: we weren't meeting the international standards for guides and had to do a review of our training program, working from the top down.

Noel Bigwood moved that all reports be accepted. Bryce Meredith seconded.

Motion carried.

Confirmation new Members of Council

New Zealand Mountain Radio Service (NZMRS)

Pleased to be invited. New national body formed recently.

Noel Bigwood spoke in support. Question from Brendan Lynch regarding use with the increased availability of PLBs. Allen Hill also supportive: Mountain Radio is an iconic part of the NZ outdoors.

Ross proposed the vote.

Motion Carried.

New Zealand Heliski Operators Group (NZHOG)

Formed in 2008, the organisation covers the majority of heliski operators. Have formalised a code of conduct for members. Have built a close relationship with MSC through Andrew Hobman and the Avalanche program. A question was asked if there are heliski operators who are not onboard; there are but with the Department of Labour review it's probably in the cards.

Jamie Robertson noted that NZMGA feel it's a bit early to apply for membership; all the members are commercial and this may influence the code of conduct rather than safety; this is a concern for the NZMGA. Would recommend membership next year. Ben Luders spoke in support of the application.

Ben Luders moved application be accepted, Chris Emmett seconded . NZMGA against. All other for.

Motion carried.

Confirmation of Council Awards

Vic Drayson of Tauranga Branch. Mike Spray spoke in favour.

Malcolm Cooke of Tauranga Branch. Anja Morris spoke in favour.

Bryce Meredith moved the Awards be confirmed. Ben Luders seconded.

Motion carried.

Confirmation of Business Plan and Budget 2010/2011

Darryl gave a presentation of the draft business plan and budget, as had been approved by the Exec, for the next year. Darryl then moved that the draft business plan and budget be adopted. Some questions and discussion followed, particularly around volunteers and branch support, program support and qualifications.

At this point, Joe Green moved a motion that the business plan and budget not be approved. He held concerns around the future of the qualifications issues as brought up, and also that the outcomes model is embedded in the plan but had not been finalised by the Exec. Joe reminded Council that this was a draft plan only and he highlighted that the plan only allowed four meetings of Exec which could allow the management to act as they wished at other times. When questioned by Brendan Lynch as to who Joe was representing, Joe stated he was acting as a representative of the NZ Police and not as a member of the Exec. A lengthy discussion followed around the content of the business plan, the budget, and the objectives of the plan. Allen Hill expressed concern that the council was presented with a draft business plan and budget that appeared to not have full agreement within the Executive.

Phil Glasson felt the Exec has failed the council in presenting a business plan that cannot be approved. Cannot understand how we have an Exec come to the meeting and say 'don't adopt'

He proposed a new motion **that the 2010-2011 business plan be adopted**. Joe withdrew his original motion and instead moved an amendment:

That the following words be added: "Subject to the following changes".

(At this point the meeting adjourned for a delayed lunch, while the proposed changes were typed up on screen before voting.)

Bullet point 3 on page 4 change to delete the words “where appropriate” so it now reads “...acknowledge and use volunteers as the primary mechanism in our delivery to our communities”
Opening paragraph on page 5, delete last sentence of first paragraph and replace with: “The model below, **while still under development** provides the basis for the 2011-16 Strategic Plan and the 2010-2011 Business Plan”.
Page 6, item 2a – delete the line “focussing all operational activity on contributing to the transformation project”
Page 6, item f: Change to read “becoming a registered accredited provider for a limited scope”
Page 7 Change to read under reporting “receive reports of progress against the plan when requested....”
Page 7, bottom of page, remove item 3 “conducting four executive meetings”
Page 7, item 9: delete “with assistance from external agencies”.
Page 10: add to the table re the transformation project the words “and subject to executive approval for this project”

Amendment moved by Joe Green, Brian Stokes seconded.

Motion carried.

The amendment thus became part of the substantive motion.

This motion was moved by Phil Glasson, Seconded by Ollie Clifton.

Motion carried.

Election of Chairperson

Phil Glasson took over chairing temporarily. As there was only one nomination (incumbent) and no nominations could be accepted at the meeting (Constitution requires four weeks notice) He declared Ross Meder Chair.

Election of Deputy Chairperson

There was only one nomination (incumbent) and so Ross declared Murray Douglas Deputy Chair.

Election of Members of the Executive Committee

No committee members fall due for election this year.

Confirmation of Cheque Signatories

Signatories: Ross Meder, Darryl Carpenter, Richard Brodie, Maggie Forest, Lindsey Pickering.

Bryce Meredith moved confirmation, Noel Bigwood seconded.

Motion carried.

Confirmation of Auditors

Present auditors: Deloitte.

Bryce Meredith moved continuation. Noel Bigwood seconded.

Motion carried.

General Business

Miles Davidson raised an issue relating to the process. Have heard that LGB was reviewing funding. Feel we need to look at the timing of approval of our business plan. Suggested that the Exec look at aligning the process to a) have money approved, b) business plan built, and only then c) the Council comes together to approve it.

Ross Meder noted that the nomination of delegates needs to be tidied up. The Exec is looking at establishing a working group with recommendations to the next meeting, potentially looking at the constitution.

Brendan Lynch expressed his disappointment with the process today. When people are being nominated to Exec they need to be aware of the time requirements and be prepared to put that in, and not stand if they are not. Feels his time has been wasted on fairly minor amendments today.

Next Meeting

Based on times and review as suggested by Miles the next AGM would be the 22nd September 2011. May need to be reviewed later on.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 3.45 PM.