



New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

Minutes of Meeting

2:00 – 4:00pm Wed 28 November 2007

6th Floor Te Waka Boardroom, Novell House,
89 The Terrace, Wellington

Attendees: Alan Thompson (MoT), Geoff Logan (NZ Police), Peter Stockwell (NZDF), Peter Williams (MNZ), Duncan Ferner (Nzsar), Steve Douglas (CAA), Catherine Taylor (MNZ), Roger Brown (MoT), Gavin Jones (NZ Police), Zeld Coetzee (MoT), Rachel Roberts (Nzsar),

1. Welcome

Alan Thompson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 August 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that are not covered by an agenda item.

5. Nzsar Funding

Alan Thompson (Chair/MoT) talked briefly about the Review of the Land Transport Sector. He introduced and welcomed Rosemary Barrington (MoT) to the meeting.

- **Hypothecation**

Rosemary Barrington (MoT) briefed Council on the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill. Although not the main purpose of the Bill, it makes provision for funding activities such as maritime search and rescue, boating safety education and maritime safety services, from taxes collected from recreational boat users.

Submission on the Bill to the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee closes on 20 December, with possible enactment by mid May 2008.

The Council agreed that their collective comments and issues would be addressed in the departmental report on the Bill.

- **Budget Initiative**

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) spoke about the proposed SAR budget initiative for 2008.

Council **endorsed** the bid with the inclusion of the words “and appropriately equipped” to paragraph 15 (g).

- **Mechanics**

Good general discussion was held about the development of a credible system or allocation model to dispense/manage funding.

Action: Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) is to present the Council with a range of options relating to the management of funds, to consider at their first meeting in 2008. The options should clearly demonstrate effective use of money on SAR activities.

6. **NZSAR Stocktake and Statistics**

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) presented the outcome of a NZSAR Stocktake that was conducted in mid 2007. The stocktake describes the size, composition and key capabilities of the NZSAR sector.

Duncan explained issues he had in obtaining accurate figures and interpreting the data. Lengthy discussion was held about defining what data should be targeted and measured, the methodology and purpose of collecting the data and importantly, the validation thereof. There was general agreement that the stocktake was a good starting point that required further development.

A striking feature of the sector which was revealed by the Stocktake is that over 90 percent of the 10,000 people involved in NZSAR are unpaid volunteers.

Action: Roger Brown (MoT), with Duncan’s assistance, is to incorporate relevant information from the presentation into the Ministry of Transport’s next Weekly Report to the Minister.

7. **Communication - *Link* and draft annual report**

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) introduced Rachel Roberts, Communications Consultant to the NZSAR Secretariat and thanked her for the publication of *Link*, NZSAR’s first newsletter.

Attendees were given copies of the draft Annual Report. Duncan requested comments (if any) on the draft NZSAR Annual Report by Friday 30 November 2007.

Catherine Taylor (MNZ) requested changes to the table on page 9 of the draft annual report.

Actions:

- Comments of the draft annual report by Council members to Duncan by Friday 30 November 2007.
- Duncan to amend the table on Page 9 of the draft annual report to better reflect MNZ.

8. Beacons update

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) presented examples of new 406MHz distress beacons advertising brochures. He informed Council of the recent resignation from Blackwood Communications of the Project Manager who had been responsible for the beacons advertising campaign.

9. NZSAR Award 2007

Two nominations were received:

- **Tasman Search and Rescue:** For the rescue of Dr Brewer from the middle earth caving system in August 2007. This was a large, complex and difficult rescue of 70 hours and involving 98 people.
- **Pukehina Surf Rescue:** A 6.1m boat rolled on Pukehina bar in very rough weather. Four people were on board, including two small children. Three people were trapped in the overturned boat for 20 minutes. The rescue was physically very dangerous for those involved. The rescue lasted an hour-and-a-half and involved three lifeguards.

A non-conflicted subgroup had been appointed at the Consultative Committee meeting on 21 November, to consider the nominations. The subgroup recommended Council consider awarding the NZSAR Gold Award to Pukehina Surf Rescue.

Catherine Taylor (MNZ) described an award for SAR bravery that was presented to Jonathan Hunt on behalf of the recipient at a recent IMO meeting.

Council decided that both SAR Award nominations were significant and deserved acknowledgement. They agreed that:

- the NZSAR Gold Award be awarded to Pukehina Surf Rescue;
- a SAR Certificate of Achievement be awarded to Tasman Search and Rescue; and
- if practical, the IMO SAR bravery award given Jonathan Hunt be presented to its actual recipient at the NZSAR awards presentation.

Actions:

- Alan Thompson (MoT/Chair) will discuss the presentation of awards with the Minister of Transport.
- Roger Brown (MoT) and Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) are to advise the Minister on who should be invited to the presentation. At the suggestion of Roger Brown, the upcoming anniversary of the Wahine disaster and the opportunity to acknowledge those involved in related SAR activities should be included in the advice to the Minister.
- Catherine Taylor (MNZ) will follow-up on the IMO certificate awarded to Jonathan Hunt and will provide relevant information to Duncan.

10. General business

- **NZSAR Consultative Committee update**

The SSM provided Council with a summary of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 21 November.

Gavin Jones (NZ Police) noted the impending upgrade to the NZ Police communications system. This system will be encrypted and could be a problem for SAR communications. Gavin also advised that a Government strategy of emergency communications existed and suggested that the SAR sector needed to be aware of this. Peter Stockwell (NZDF) also mentioned that the Government Shared Network or Multi Agency Network (MAN) may be relevant to the SAR sector.

Action: Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) and Geoff Logan (NZ Police) are to investigate the communications issues discussed and report back to the Council.

- **Drowning Prevention Strategy**

Duncan (NZSAR) appraised the Council of his ongoing involvement with the ACC led Drowning Prevention Strategy on their behalf.

- **Class review**

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR) talked briefly about the 2005 SAR Class Review noting that follow on work was required relating to properly defining SAR classes. He outlined the risks involved in poorly defined SAR coordination. There was agreement that protocols needed to be tightened up and properly defined. Catherine Taylor (MNZ) suggested this be held over until a new Maritime Search and Rescue Manager is appointed.

Action: Once the new Manager RCCNZ is appointed, SAR coordinating arrangements are to be properly defined and presented to the Council for approval.

- **NZSAR Secretariat Managers Travel Report**
Duncan (NZSAR) reported on his recent attendance at the Australian Annual SAR Conference in Melbourne as observer, and his visit to the Australian Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra.

11. Air Ambulance Reference Group

Henry Dowler, Project Manager, was welcomed to the meeting. He briefed Council on the draft Cabinet paper of the Air Ambulance Reference Group.

Action: It was agreed that once a draft of the report became available, it would be forwarded to Council members for comment.

Proposed next meeting: Wednesday 5 March 2008

The meeting concluded at 3.45pm with Rachel Roberts taking a photo of Council members present.

Alan Thompson
Chair