



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting

14:00 – 15.30pm Wednesday 21 February 2007

MINUTES

Present: Brendan Comerford, David Waters, Geoff Logan, Gerard Prins, Graeme McKay, Jim Stuart Black, John Funnell, Kevin Rangī, Laurie Gallagher, Paul Fistonich, Peter Williams, Rodney Bracefield, Darryl Carpenter, Brett Sullivan, Pete Dawson, Richard Bulger, Duncan Ferner, Zelda Coetzee.

1. **Welcome**

The SAR Secretariat Manager (SSM) welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

Christopher Raley, Geoff Barry, Jeff Sayer, Roscoe Tait, Mike Cuddihy.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting of 22 November 2006**

The SSM outlined the process for circulating the minutes of previous meetings. Some of the amendments made to the minutes after draft 2 were questioned. It was agreed that the summary of Jean Murrays presentation should remain but that the other changes made post draft 2 should be removed. Specifically that item 7, Maritime NZ reverts to the first two sentences only. With these changes, the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2006 were accepted.

4. **Matters arising from the previous Minutes**

- a. **Drowning Prevention Strategy (DPS).** SSM has had discussions with the Accident Compensation Corporation and has been formally invited to attend DPS meetings to represent both the NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee. An extract of the DPS implementation plan relating to emergency services was distributed. It was requested that any comment or opinion on the proposed DPS work plan as it relates to SAR be made known to the SSM prior to their meeting in early April. Kevin Rangī outlined his involvement with the DPS and specifically about the issue of drowning prevention education. The difficulty in achieving whole of sector consensus was noted.

- b. **NZSAR Funding initiative update.** SSM updated the meeting on the SAR strategic funding initiative. The Treasury has indicated support for funding at less than 50% of the minimum requested. Final budgetary decisions remain with Ministers but it should now be considered improbable that sufficient funding will be made available to transfer the responsibility for all saltwater marine SAR to Maritime NZ.

Further bids for the 2008/9 budget will be considered once the outcome of this years budget is known.

5. **New NZSAR Consultative Committee Members**

The Secretary of Transport advised the SSM that the most appropriate way for new members to join the NZSAR Consultative Committee, is to have their membership endorsed by the Committee. SSM proposed that the following be endorsed as members:

- Kordia,
- Surf Lifesaving New Zealand
- The Federation of Commercial Fishermen.

There were no objections.

Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ) questioned why an Australian representative was not invited to this particular forum as New Zealand was invited to the Australian equivalent.

Action: The SSM undertook to investigate.

6. **Planned Beacons Survey – presentation by Colmar Brunton and RBR**

SSM introduced and welcomed Melissa Davey from RBR and Karen Newton and Andrew Robertson from Colmar Brunton. SSM explained that RBR is the creative communications agency responsible for delivering the emergency distress beacons campaign for the NZSAR Council and that they have engaged Colmar Brunton as their research agency to investigate the effectiveness of the campaign.

Karen Newton spoke of the need to find out if the advertising is raising awareness and that the two target groups, end users of emergency locator beacons and wholesalers/resellers of beacons, would be surveyed. She demonstrated the online survey and said that those who completed the online survey would be entered into a draw for \$1000 in cash or one of ten \$100 gift vouchers.

The Committee were then asked to provide contact details of one person responsible for communication to their members. Colmar Brunton would not contact members directly, but would rely on a contact person from those represented on the NZSAR Consultative Committee to forward correspondence to their members. This would give the survey legitimacy, and organisations could reinforce the importance of the survey and encourage their members to respond.

Comment was passed on the need to include in the survey a question about participants' knowledge on how to dispose of old beacons. There were no objections and those present provided Colmar Brunton with their business cards so that they may act as contact person for their organisations.

SSM reminded the meeting that the advertising campaign had one core purpose, and that was to raise awareness of the need to switch to 406MHz Emergency Distress Beacons, and that everything else was secondary to that.

7. **General Business**

a. **NZSAR Secretariat Review.**

The SSM thanked all those who participated in the review of the NZSAR Secretariat. The Review was completed in December 2006 and will be discussed by the NZSAR Council at its next meeting. The findings of the Review were outlined by the SSM.

Action: SSM undertook to distribute the Review in full, once approved by the SAR Council.

b. **Media.**

SSM indicated that some funds may become available and proposed a 2007 NZSAR Stakeholder Communications Plan to the meeting.

The goals of the plan being:

- to promote a sense of identity and community within the NZ SAR Sector by sharing their stories, celebrating their successes and learning from their lessons.
- to raise the profile of the NZSAR Sector by informing the wider stakeholder group and the wider public of their activities, their capabilities and their people.
- to assist the NZSAR in gaining a higher profile with decision makers, sponsors and supporters.
- to ensure information about the NZSAR Sector is readily available at all times and accessible to both external and internal audiences.

The targets of the plan are:

- All NZSAR sector people, paid and non-paid.
- Key SAR Sector stakeholders such as local and national politicians, sponsors, relevant community boards and trusts, media and supporting organisations.
- The wider New Zealand public, domestic and international tourists.

Methods would include:

- Quarterly newsletter - online and printed.
- Annual report - people and statistics focussed.

- Media releases.
- Website as a resource for information

There were no objections to the proposed plan. Comments included that it was a good initiative and a suggestion that it be reviewed after a year.

c. **SAR Awards.**

The SSM reminded the Committee to keep in mind nominations for this year's SAR award. He mentioned that there had been one late nomination from the NZDF that did not fit the criteria of the SAR award and proposed that a letter of commendation or note of appreciation by the NZSAR Council be sent to those nominated.

Some discussion followed but there were no objections to the proposal.

d. **GOES 9.**

The SSM has been notified unofficially that the planned decommissioning of the GOES 9 satellite is underway. Official notification is about a month away, but by late May/early June, NOAA will have decommissioned the GOES 9 satellite.

e. **Satellite Tracking.**

The SSM has had two approaches advising of new satellite tracking systems. Information about these systems is available for Committee members if they are interested. It was noted by John Funnel that these tracking devices are not an alternative to rescue beacons but rather they should be considered a supplementary system.

8. **Additional Business.**

a. The SSM noted that he has been invited to attend a review of new night vision equipment by Pollard Contracting. Those present were requested to let the SSM know if they are interested in attending the product review. SSM clarified that such information is distributed to the meeting as part of his responsibility to monitor technology development and distribute information on new technology, and not to promote products.

b. **LandSAR.** Laurie Gallagher raised some issues relating to the provision of training to LandSAR by SARINZ under contract to Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP). It was explained that this relationship may be required to change as TPP may no longer be able to outsource the provision of LandSAR training.

d. **Air Ambulance Reference Group.** Geoff Logan requested that this item be added to the agenda of the next meeting. He noted that SAR was within the Terms of Reference of what they were examining.

Action. The Air Ambulance Reference Group will be added to the agenda of the next meeting by the SSM.

9. **Proposed next meeting:** 30 May 2007, combined with the NZSAR Council.

Closure. The meeting concluded at 3.20pm

Duncar Ferner
NZSAR Secretariat Manager
Chair