

StAG Subcommittee, 18 November 2014

BORPC, 1125 Arawa St Rotorua 12:30 PM

Present:

Collective: Wendy Roe, Christine Paterson; BOPRC: Sarah Omundsen, Sandra Barns, Dwayne McKay, Alastair MacCormick and Anna Grayling; Tanira Kingi (StAG Chairman); Gloria Zamora, Simon Park (Subcommittee Chair), Ollie Parsons (Dairy NZ) and Sharon Love (deer farmer invitee).

Previous Minutes and Actions

- Apologies: Stuart Morrison and Ben O'Brien
- All actions completed or on the agenda

ACTION LIST

1. Alastair MacCormick: summarize principles around Overseer 5 to 6 conversion at next StAG.
2. Sarah Omundsen: circulate land valuation report once finalised.
3. Hariata Ngatai: put FAQs from draft rules on website (Done - see [link](#)).
4. Sue-Ellen Craig and Hariata Ngatai: organize an evening with local commercial solicitors.
5. Dwayne McKay: present an earthworks management plan / resource consent to illustrate the interaction at next StAG.
6. Simon Park: email Paulina Wilhelm about a small block member on the TDR working group.
7. Sarah Omundsen: draft letters for Warwick Murray confirming new StAG members.

STAG Follow Up

Item 1: Converting 13 and 35 draft NDAs to equivalent Overseer version 6 values - Alastair MacCormick

- a. The aim here is transparency on defining the conversion method, not NDA policy. The intent is to make sure it aligns with general consensus agreed to date at StAG and that revised NDAs still target the same proportions of N as set out in the Integrated Framework (Sept 2013).
- b. Rule 11 data was presented on dairy, dry stock, trees and household blocks/properties.
- c. Average Rule 11 shift from Overseer version 5.4 to 6.1.3 is:
 - i. dairy +44% (incomplete dataset but it appears representative)
 - ii. drystock +54%
- d. While Overseer 6 predicts increased N loss below the pasture root zone, this does NOT mean increased N load to the lake. The difference is probably attenuation in the groundwater although this is difficult to prove other than by calculating the difference (root zone N minus stream N).
- e. The 35 and 13 kgN/ha/yr nominal NDA values were based on reductions relative to average ROTAN sector areas and N losses (54.1 and 15.7 for dairy and drystock respectively). This logic was used in the Collective's original proposal (June 2013) and the subsequent Integrated Framework that specified the 140 tN reduction via rules.
- f. This information is needed for catchment modelling – the next step is to identify NDA ranges.
- g. Note that rainfall & soils variability is accounted for, including via Overseer's use of S-map
- h. It is useful to show N reductions as percentages. Using the above assumptions with ROTAN-based reductions, the relative decreases are 35% for dairy and 17% for drystock. If these are applied to the Overseer 6 ROTAN sector N losses, the Overseer 6 sector NDAs are 46 and 20.6 kgN/ha/yr (dairy and drystock respectively).
- i. Although farmers would like the N benefit of removing gorse, this cannot be based on Rule 11 benchmarks which treated gorse as bush – hence the targeted gorse scheme was developed.

ACTION: Alastair MacCormick to summarize principles around Overseer 5 to 6 conversion at next StAG

Item 2: BOPRC staff Changes

- a. Sarah Omundsen leaves the programme in January to be the Tauranga Catchments Manager.
- b. Anna Grayling will be leaving on maternity leave in February.
- c. Dwayne McKay will be more involved in StAG from the BOPRC consents department.
- d. Helen Creagh is now RTALP manager.

Item 3: Actions and Notes from 22 October

- a. Sarah to circulate land valuation report – NB draft done but more information needed so should be finalised shortly.
- b. Support for Māori Landowners is now in the hands of Hariata Ngatai and Sue-Ellen Craig.
- c. Ben O'Brien has spoken to farmers about additional data for farms which are likely to have reasonably up to date Overseer files.

ACTION: Sarah Omundsen to circulate land valuation report once complete.

ACTION: Hariata Ngatai to put FAQ's from draft rules on website. See [link](#)

ACTION: Sue-Ellen and Hariata Ngatai to organize an evening with local commercial solicitors.

Item 4: Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP)/Managed Reduction and Resource Consents

- a. Using farm plans as a condition of consent has been suggested. That's where the detail will be expected. Farmer will need to provide where they are now and how do you plan to meet reductions. The proposal is to use 3-5 year rolling averages of N loss.
- b. Council cannot "take away" a consent but it can assess compliance with conditions.
- c. The envisaged consents will include the following:
 - i. Landowner details
 - ii. Each consent will have a NDA target.
 - iii. Every 5 years farmers will figure out the next steps towards that NDA.
 - iv. The whole plan to meet the NDA will not be required by 2017.
 - v. There needs to be some accountability that you can get to where you say you are going to get to i.e. there needs to be some method(s) of justification.
 - vi. If a farmer doesn't meet targets, he/she will not be compliant. There is normally a staged response to non-compliance, starting with discussion on how to get compliant
- d. Council needs to know where farmers are headed and how they will get there. Alternatively, what is each landowner prepared to give?
- e. Farmers keen to see the detail stripped down

ACTION: Dwayne McKay to present an earthworks management plan / resource consent to illustrate the interaction at next StAG.

Item 4: Small Blocks

- a. Small Blocks are in the process of formalising a group
- b. Membership on StAG for an additional small block and deer farmer member in process.
- c. Small Block member would like to be on TDR group
- d. Noted that although 10 kgN/ha/yr was the draft permitted activity threshold, there were some Rule 11 "pastoral" properties <10 due to low intensity and/or grazing pines/bush. It is not clear if these properties will (or should) be able to increase to 10 kgN/ha/yr as a permitted activity.

ACTION: Simon Park to email Paulina Wilhelm re small block member on TDR working group.

ACTION: Sarah Omundsen to write letters for Warwick Murray re new StAG members.

Meeting ended 2:45 pm