Environmental Management Working Party

Notes of a meeting held on 19 June 2002

Present: Marganne Allen, Kate Kearins, Ken Piddington, Richard Bedford

1. Apologies: Brennan Allen, Hamish Rennie, John Cameron, Bruce Clarkson

2. Reviewed 17 April 2002 Meeting Notes. Further distribution of Bellamy lecture (Waikato Lecture Series 2002): no videotape, audiotape available only. Elizabeth Alley, Executive Programme Advisor with Radio NZ, declined to air lecture but would be interested in interviews with any planned high-profile speakers. University of Waikato library will add audiotape to its collection.

   Task: Other Air NZ staff recommended by Elizabeth and Hamish (email) will be contacted. If National Radio not interested, the Landcare Research sponsored hour on Hamilton Community Radio will be investigated. Email will be send to appropriate departments on campus about availability of Bellamy audiotape in library or with Marganne. (Marganne)

3. Discussion on challenges of arranging Bellamy lecture led to brainstorming on future keynote speakers. If high-profile speakers could be asked to present while they are in New Zealand for other activities, this would simplify matters substantially. Particularly, it might be desirable to have a yearly keynote speaker and make the “Waikato Environment Lecture” a regular event.

   Task: EMWP members are asked to consider potential for keynote speakers in professional contacts with visiting experts. Timing with March Festival of the Environment is advantageous, but not required. (EMWP)

4. Ken made three submissions to the Climate Change Discussion Document (“The Government’s Preferred Package”). Unfortunately, Ken is not optimistic about submissions receiving adequate attention from policy makers.

   a) Recommended changes to Resource Management Act to make it consistent with Kyoto Protocol (Renewable Energy NZ).
   b) Lack of incentives in Policy for photovoltaics (NZ Photovoltaic Assoc.).
   c) Results and recommendations of research on fuel taxes (with Frank Scrimgeour).

5. Marganne summarized recent expansion of paper recycling program. Profile of paper recycling being raised by Official Circular reminder and visit to Science Block. Expanding to other materials such as aluminum, glass, and plastic are being investigated. This is being assisted by graduate student Angela DeKrout who has

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taken the initiative to approach FMD about expanding recycling and has started a student environmental club. Marganne and Angela are planning activity timed with Clubs Day to promote both campus and kerbside recycling.

**Task:** Further promotion of paper recycling. Suggestions (Kate): development of posters for photocopy/printing rooms to summarize acceptable type and forms of paper for recycling, 5 minute presentation on recycling for department meetings, competitions between schools for paper recycling (use series of casual waste bin checks as basis), a second day of recycling promo (in addition to Clubs Day) in WMS vicinity to capture additional students/staff. *(Marganne)*

6. Marganne summarized progress on rideshare software. ITS is currently hoping to have software completed B Semester this year. Marganne provided input to ITS staff by researching factors related to rideshare program success, monitoring parameters to measure effectiveness, software interface (useability) factors and key concerns for University program. Access to rideshare will be limited to students and staff. Marganne and Ray Hayward (FMD Safety and Security) met with Tegan McIntyre and Roger Boulter from Hamilton City Council about possible coordination since HCC plans to develop rideshare program as well. Agreed that two different programs would be best initially since University and central business district are so far apart. Websites could link to each other for promotional purposes, and future coordination will be considered. Success of rideshare will depend on adequate marketing.

**Task:** Does University need to consider development of Transportation Plan to fully address parking issue? *(Marganne and John)*

7. Marganne accepted feedback on draft website, other input provided via email (Hamish). Trying to develop a site that does not require constant updating. Subjects like research best approached by linking to appropriate department/staff web pages rather than listing research projects that will constantly change.

8. Marganne summarized efforts to raise profile of University environmental program through campus publications and Tuesday interview on Hamilton Community Radio (AM 1260).

**Task:** Investigate opportunities for articles in Hamilton circular. Articles could highlight campus environmental issues (i.e. parking) and possible solutions *(Marganne)*.


**Note:** Policy currently planning to have “Projects” dollars that could fund research related to environmental/climate change topics. University needs to
stay abreast of policy development and research funding opportunities from this source. Ken Piddington is willing to act as the University contact person on Climate Change Policy.

10. ICE Award (Marganne). Award was advertised in Official Circular and further advertising to be conducted. One applicant so far from Maxine Day at the International Global Change Institute (IGCI). Proposing to undertake analysis of University impacts and how they translate into greenhouse gas production via Landcare Research EBEX21 model. Data needed for model runs would be very similar data collected for University Environmental Management System. Members of EMWP (Richard, Ken) may have conflicts of interest in judging IGCI proposal. EMWP needs to emphasize that IGCI proposal will be considered impartially with other applicants (hopefully!) and has not committed to funding.

**Task:** Continue advertising for ICE Award applicants (Marganne).

11. Marganne proposed that next campus symposium be a vehicle for promotion and input into University EMS effort rather than focus on single environmental topic. Group discussion on having speakers ranging from international context (Johannesburg attendee?), to national context, then to results available from ongoing University EMS. Have breakout sessions on topics related to EMS. Suggested timing could be March 2003, with Festival of the Environment. 1999 campus symposium had challenge of synthesizing and implementing very diverse input – needs to be considered for future symposium.

12. Proposal that University could pilot an EMS for Tauranga campus (Marganne). Advantages: small, compact campus with no grounds and could be completed relatively quickly. Disadvantages: may not be similar enough issues to aid larger campus effort (i.e. no grounds), travel time and establishing contacts difficult on half-time appointment, breaking up total University EMS may have scale problems (example: decision to build new, environmentally friendly building and mitigate older buildings via energy conservation could have total net benefit that would be lost on smaller scales).