

National Conservation Council

General Meeting

11 September 2019, Government Administration Building 2112, 2pm

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - a. A quorum being present (see appendix) the meeting came to order at 2:15pm
 - b. No interests were declared.
2. Minutes of 19 June 2019
 - a. It was noted that at point 5.3.viii. Patricia Bradley was the unrecorded seconder.
 - b. With the above correction Nadia Hardie moved and Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie seconded the minutes, which were approved unanimously.
3. Matters Arising From Previous Meetings
 - a. DoE presented to Caucus on the Council-recommended **Protected Areas** nominations. The Ministry is following up with Cabinet if there are any further questions.
 - b. DoE is reviewing the first legal draft of the **enhanced Marine Parks** regulations and **Spear Guns** directives.
 - c. The **stingray & starfish** handling directives remain with legal drafting.
 - d. DoE is awaiting a meeting with the honourable minister to discuss the **land crab listing** recommendation and **mangrove conservation plan** passed by Council 27 Feb. 2019.
 - e. The public consultation on the draft **turtle conservation plan** ended on Monday. DoE is collating the responses and will report to Council shortly.
 - f. The **Parrot Amnesty programme** has begun its initial announcement phase. So far response has been positive.
 - i. DoE expects to begin PIT tagging birds and conducting health screenings with expert veterinary assistance in October.
 - ii. There has been a lot of public interest, and so far the public has been open to this first step of registering parrots. However the public is aware of the parrot/farmer conflict and interested in knowing what the next steps of parrot management will be?
 - iii. DoE will be doing pet parrot registration outreach directly to possible or reported parrot owners as the project continues.
 - iv. So far only one pet owner from the Brac has contacted DoE about registration. So there will need to be more outreach on Cayman Brac.
4. DoE presented the **Licencing, S41 Consultations, & Seizures Reports**.
 - a. Lionfish capture numbers are not received from individual spearers. Based on the results of the CULL tournaments, and DOE's surveys, the number of lionfish appears to be holding steady at a reasonably low level (given that eradication is not possible). But continued regular culling by the public will always be required.

- b. DoE has received no feedback regarding the advice to not sell old-growth Crown land with conservation value to private interests. DoE has to check the CPA and DCB minutes to see which conservation advice to those entities are taken up or not.
5. Items/Agenda for 11 Sept. GM
- a. DoE presented the **Sybil's Crownbeard Conservation Plan**
 - i. McFarlane Conolly moved the motion, Pedro Lazzari seconded.
 - ii. Having considered the draft Conservation Plan Council moves to circulate it for public consultation.
 - iii. The motion passed unanimously. (Fred Burton & Gina Ebanks-Petrie abstained.)
 - b. DoE presented the **Gamebirds Public Consultation Report**
 - i. Council noted they were impressed with the hunters' proposal as a win-win for hunters and birds.
 - ii. McFarlane Conolly moved, and Franklin Thompson seconded the motion.
 - iii. Having reviewed the consultation report Council moves to recommend to cabinet the proposed change to the seasons for game birds, with the report to accompany the recommendation for Cabinet's reference.
 - iv. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. DoE presented the Ratification of **Spear Gun Renewal With Old Conviction**
 - i. Council noted the police report, particularly the nature of the charge and the time since the charge without reoffending.
 - ii. Gina Ebanks-Petrie moved the ratification and Pedro Lazzari seconded it. The ratification passed unanimously.
 - d. DoE presented the **Beach Bay Development Advice.**
 - i. Council noted that no EIA does not mean no issues, merely that DoE can identify and explain the issues, as well as mitigation actions, without the aid of an EIA. DoE did this in its advice to the CPA.
 - ii. Council noted the particular recommendations
 - 1. Relocating the proposed villas and pathways off the beach;
 - 2. Turtle friendly lighting and construction accommodations for nesting turtles.
 - iii. Having reviewed the DoE Screening Opinion, and provided comments particularly on the climate change aspects of this project and developments in general, the Council confirms that an EIA is unnecessary for this project.
 - iv. The motion was passed unanimously, with Gina Ebanks-Petrie and Colleen Stoetzel abstaining.
 - e. DoE presented the motion to **remove the annual timing of protected area nominations.**
 - i. Fred Burton proposed the motion, seconded by Nadia Hardie and Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Next Meeting
- a. Wednesday December 4th, Cayman Brac (location & time TBA)
7. Any Other Business
- a. Council requested an update on the recent bat die-off.
 - i. DoE recapped the bat die-off earlier in 2019, noting this was not the first such transitory die-off noted locally without a known cause.

- ii. The die-off does not appear to be continuing so surveys have been curtailed but citizen volunteers continue to observe the roosts and will report any new incidences observed.
 - iii. Tissue samples have been collected from necropsies performed by St. Matthew's veterinary school. First samples will be sent to the US CDC to confirm rabies is not present in the tissue. Then further samples can be sent to other laboratories for toxicology and histology assessments.
 - b. Little Cayman Feral Cat Eradication Programme Update
 - i. The Department of Agriculture reported that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has been appointed. The Committee members were gazetted on Monday (9 Sept. 2019). They will be meeting on the 18 or 25th of September. The Little Cayman Feral Cat Eradication Programme will be an agenda item.
 - ii. The Departments of Environment and Agriculture will present the programme – its rationale, particulars, and current status including Judicial Review - to the Committee. Feline Friends and the Humane Society will also be invited to present. The Committee will then advise the Minister of their opinion on the project, which should then (with the recent passage of the certain Regulations to the Animals Law) allow the Judicial Review to be concluded and the status of the programme resolved one way or the other.
 - iii. Council noted it was looking forwards to the resolution of this long-pending issue.
 - c. Council requested the Department of Environment, with Planning assistance where appropriate, to report on the uptake of Council advice for section 41 consultations.
 - d. The National Trust AGM is on Wednesday Sept. 18th at the GT Yacht Cub and all are invited.
- 8. Adjournment
 - a. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:03pm

9. Attendance Appendix

Council Member	11 Sept. 2019	Representation
McFarlane Conolly	Present	Chairperson; East End and Sustainable Development
Franklin Thompson	Present	West Bay and Marine Conservation
Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie	Present	George Town and Sustainable Development & Climate Change
Dominic Williams	Absent	Bodden Town
Edward Chisholm	Absent	North Side
Pedro Lazzari	Present	Sister Islands
Nadia Hardie	Present	National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Patricia Bradley	Apologies	Avifauna & Biodiversity
Fred Burton	Present	Terrestrial Biodiversity
Adrian Estwick	Present	Director of Agriculture
Haroon Pandohie	-	Director of Planning
Colleen Stoetzel	Present	Planning Officer, representing the Director of Planning
Gina Ebanks-Petrie	Present	Director of Environment
Timothy Austin	Present	DoE Deputy, Research
John Bothwell	Present	Secretary