

**Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)**  
**Confirmed Minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

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Date : 7 June 2022 (Tuesday)

File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0

Time : 2:30 p.m.

Format : Video conferencing via Zoom

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**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

**Members**

Ms. CHAN Kwai-fun, Brenda

Dr. CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis

Dr. CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen Desmond

Dr. LAW Man-yee, Caroline

Mr. LAW Wing-fai, Teddy

Mr. LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Mr. LEUNG Kin-wai, Ian

Mr. LO Pui-lam

Professor QIU Jian-wen

Mr. SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Mr. WONG Lap-kei, Alex

Mr. YAU Yik-chung, Henry

Ms. YIP Yan-yan

Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Miss YU Hee-wah, Shirley	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation)(Acting), Environmental Protection Department
Ms. CHEUNG Mei-yee, Vivian, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms. CHAN Suet-ching, Angela	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department
Mr. CHEUNG Wing-keung, Wicky	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr. LAI Chi-tung, JP	Assistant Director of Marine/Port Control, Marine Department
Ms. CHAN Cheuk Ling, Kathy	Senior Town Planner/New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters 1, Planning Department
Mr. MA Hon-wing, Wilson	Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development), Water Supplies Department

Secretary

Ms. Lily CHEUNG	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Acting)
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Dr. Jackie YIP	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)(Acting)
Ms. Louise LI	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Ms. Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2)
Dr. TAM Tze-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Recreation Development)
Mr. William CHOW	Country Parks Officer (Recreation Development)1
Ms. Lindy TAM	Country Parks Officer (Recreation Development)2

## **ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Mr. CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Dr. LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr. YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Ms. YU Pik-fan, Vriko

Mr. LAI Kin-ming, Mickey

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation

## **OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

43/22      The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

44/22      The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice, to facilitate the taking of minutes, audio recording would be made during the meeting. It would be destroyed after the minutes have been confirmed.

45/22      The Chairman reminded members to press the “raise hand” button on Zoom to raise questions and comments.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 18 February 2022**

46/22      The minutes of the 77<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18 February 2022 were confirmed with the following amendment.

The second sentence of Paragraph 30/22:

To delete “, especially the entrance,” from the sentence “He suggested reviewing the design so that the facility, especially the entrance, would be built on a minimal scale to preserve the natural scenery.”

## **II. Enhancement of Toilet Facilities in Country Parks (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2022)**

47/22 With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. William CHOW briefed members on the AFCD's progress of the country park toilet facilities enhancement.

48/22 A member enquired if portable toilets would be provided during the reconstruction of the permanent toilets. She also pointed out that the Twisk Campsite was not easily accessible as the trail leading to the Campsite was not well paved. She suggested that the AFCD consider improving its accessibility during the formulation of the project scope.

49/22 Another member enquired whether the new toilets would adopt a new design or implement enhanced management measures to improve the hygiene condition and reduce the risk of spreading virus.

50/22 A member suggested providing paid shower facilities in country parks where water supply was available. She remarked that the water collected from showers was grey water and could be reused.

51/22 Mr. William CHOW responded that portable toilets would be provided during the reconstruction of existing permanent toilets. The AFCD aimed to provide barrier-free passages for wheelchair users to enjoy the campsite facilities as far as practicable. To prevent the spread of virus in country park toilets, sensor-activated water taps would be installed in the new toilets. The cleansing service would also be enhanced.

52/22 Dr. Jackie YIP supplemented that the AFCD could consider the feasibility of providing shower facilities in suitable locations of country parks in future planning. The new toilets would be designed to improve ventilation and hygiene by applying technologies. The management of the toilets would be enhanced and timely maintenance would be carried out when necessary.

53/22 A member observed that the doors of the accessible toilets in country parks opened outwards manually. Such design was unsuitable for wheelchair users who were weak in upper

body strength. He suggested adopting an automated sliding door design. As regards the accessible toilet in Tai Tam Tuk, he observed that wheelchair users could not get to the bus stop directly after leaving the toilet as there was a kerb outside the toilet.

54/22 A member would like to know how the used sawdust in the sawdust toilet would be handled. Also, he observed that some hikers left human waste and used toilet paper on the trail. He suggested that the AFCD enhance education to hikers on the issue.

55/22 A member had visited the sawdust toilet and preferred it to provide water for washing hands. He suggested that the AFCD review its practicability in country parks.

56/22 Mr. William CHOW thanked members' suggestions. The AFCD would follow up with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD), including exploring the feasibility of enhancing the accessible toilet doors, reviewing the Tai Tam Tuk accessible toilet situation, and providing handwashing water in the sawdust toilet. As for the used sawdust, the AFCD had commissioned a contractor to analyse the carbon and nitrogen compositions and assess if it was suitable for converting into compost.

57/22 A member enquired if the ArchSD or a contractor would design the new toilets and whether they would have a unified design style. He continued to ask if the construction materials would be environmentally friendly.

58/22 A member said the Government guidelines on the male-to-female toilet compartment ratio was 1:2. She asked if the new country park toilets would adopt the same ratio. She further suggested that the AFCD should consider adopting hydrophobic flooring in the new toilets to prevent slips or stagnant water accumulation.

59/22 A member advised the AFCD to provide sufficient portable toilets during reconstruction of existing toilets at Tai Tam Country Park. As for the accessible toilet at Tai Tam Tuk, he concurred with another member that the kerb outside the toilet were not wheelchair friendly. Concerning the sawdust toilet, he opined that providing handwashing water was unnecessary. The AFCD should educate the public about the constraints in country park toilets.

60/22 A member remarked that the sawdust toilet might require maintenance from time to time. He advised the AFCD to keep monitoring the maintenance lead time and provide portable toilets during maintenance.

61/22 Mr. William CHOW replied that the Tai Tam Tuk and Bride's Pool Road new toilets would be constructed by ArchSD, whereas the one at Pak Kung Au by Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). They were designed either by their in-house design team or a contractor. The new toilets, therefore, would be of different design styles but the building materials would all be environmentally friendly. As for the male-to-female toilet compartment ratio, it was difficult for country park toilets to follow the same ratio of the urban areas. However, the AFCD would strive to construct as many female toilet compartments as possible. Concerning the measures to prevent slippery floor and enhance accessibility for the toilet at Tai Tam Country Park, the AFCD would discuss with the ArchSD for appropriate enhancement measures. Regarding the maintenance of the sawdust toilet, the AFCD would closely monitor the lead time. Nevertheless, a portable toilet was currently provided adjacent to the sawdust toilet.

62/22 The Chairman enquired if the construction works for the three toilets under phase one could be completed earlier than 2025. He added that the three locations covered in phase one were popular trails and asked if the project scales could be expanded beyond the footprints of the existing toilets. He asked the AFCD to clarify the project timeline and the expected completion date of the phase two enhancement, as well as the progress of the remaining four sites. The Chairman recalled that he had raised the need of providing toilet facilities on Shatin Pass in a previous meeting. The AFCD responded that the location was outside the country park boundary and the matter had to be discussed with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Chairman asked the AFCD to report on the progress of the discussion. He pointed out another location, the Dragon's Back, which was also a popular trail with a high demand for toilets. He asked if the AFCD would consider building public toilets there.

63/22 Dr. Jackie YIP concurred with the Chairman that the reconstruction should be completed as early as possible to meet the public's demand. She explained that the sites were prioritised based on the need and readiness of the preparatory work. She acknowledged that there was a high demand for more public toilets in country parks. However, the lack of supporting infrastructure such as electricity, water supply and sewerage was a challenge for the provision of toilet facilities in some remote locations. The AFCD would continue to explore

possible solutions with the ArchSD and other works departments. In the meantime, the AFCD was exploring new technologies to enhance the toilet services in high-demand locations and include them in phase three. Regarding Dragon's Back, a new toilet was being constructed at To Tei Wan by the ArchSD. She would follow up on the issue of Shatin Pass.

64/22 Dr. TAM Tze-wai supplemented that the reconstruction of toilets in phase one toilets would be expedited as far as possible. The initial toilet designs for phase two would be completed in 2022 and a pre-construction investigation would commence in 2023-24. The toilets in phase two were expected to be completed in 2024 to 2025. As for the phase three works, the relevant departments were working on the technical feasibility assessment such as water and power supplies.

65/22 The Chairman enquired if the AFCD planned to build additional toilets at Shing Mun Picnic Site and Lau Shui Heung in addition to the existing ones.

66/22 Dr. TAM Tze-wai replied that the proposed toilet at Lau Shui Heung was intended to be a reconstruction of the existing toilet which currently had unstable water supply problem. Given the surging popularity of the site, the AFCD had requested the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to render stable water supply by a separate pipe at the site. As for Shing Mun Picnic Site, it would be an additional toilet at the trail's mid-point to replace the portable toilet.

67/22 The Chairman advised the AFCD to consider expediting the construction of toilet at the Lau Shui Heung site to tie in with the population intake at the neighbouring public housing estate, the Queen's Hill Estate. He also enquired if the AFCD had planned to enhance the toilet facilities at Shui Long Wo and Sai Wan Pass of Tai Long Wan as they were both popular hiking spots.

68/22 Dr. TAM Tze-wai thanked the Chairman's advice and suggestions. The AFCD would assess the feasibility of enhancing toilet facilities in Shui Long Wo and Sai Wan Pass.

### **III. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/6/2022)**

69/22 Professor Qiu Jian-wen, Chairperson of Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2022, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 22 April 2022. Members noted the Report.

### **IV. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2022)**

70/22 Dr. Jackie YIP reported on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report from 1 January to 30 April 2022 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/7/2022). Hong Kong experienced the 5th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic during the reporting period. The number of visitors to country parks recorded a notable drop. The amount of refuse collected also dropped as compared with the same period in 2021. Since the launch of the Take Your Litter Home campaign in 2017, the amount of refuse collected had been declining significantly. To a certain extent, the decrease in refuse collected reflected the positive impacts of the educational campaign. The AFCD would continue to launch targeted educational and collaboration programmes with relevant organisations to promote the message. As for hill fires, although there were only 22 fires inside or threatening country parks during the reporting period, the area affected was over 100 hectares. In particular, there was a hill fire at Mount Hallows in April 2022. The fire spanned over a day and affected over 80 hectares, which was about 60% of the total affected area from 2021 to April 2022. The AFCD would restore the burnt site as appropriate. All of the visitor centres, except the outdoor exhibition area of Lions Nature Education Centre and permit counter of Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, were temporarily closed from 7 January to 20 April 2022. During the reporting period, the Government had tightened the social distancing measures, and the AFCD stepped up enforcement in country parks concerning illegal camping, entry of closed campsites/barbecue sites, not wearing masks and participating in prohibited group gatherings.

71/22 Dr. Jackie YIP continued to report that the Hoi Ha Visitor Centre was temporarily closed from 7 January to 20 April 2022. The Hoi Ha Festival 2021 was scheduled for seven days in December 2021 and January 2022. However, two event days, 8 and 9 January 2022, were cancelled due to the situation of COVID-19 pandemic.



72/22 A member enquired how the visitor figures of country parks, marine parks and marine reserve were counted. He asked if the report could provide a breakdown of the number of visitors to individual country parks.

73/22 A member recognised the effectiveness of the Take Your Litter Home educational campaign and suggested the AFCD channel the message to hikers through tour guides. She remarked that the AFCD's seminars to the tour guides receiving continuing professional development courses were effective to promote hiking etiquette.

74/22 A member enquired when the campsites and barbecue sites would be reopened.

75/22 Dr. Jackie YIP replied that the mechanisms of counting visitors in country parks and marine parks were different. In country parks, the number of visitors was manually counted by the AFCD staff stationing at popular/key trail spots. As most of the country parks were interconnected together, it was difficult to ascertain the visitor number of individual country parks. As for marine parks and marine reserve, AFCD's patrol staff recorded the number of passengers on the vessels visiting marine parks and marine reserve. She agreed with the member's suggestion that the educational messages could be disseminated through tour guides. She informed members that hiking etiquette would also be promoted through the tour guide training programmes in the future. Regarding reopening of the country park campsites and barbecue sites, the AFCD was aware of the public's demand. The department would continue to review the closure arrangement taking into consideration the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the Government's anti-epidemic measures and guidelines.

## **V. Any Other Business**

### **(a) Events of Country Parks to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)**

76/22 Dr. Jackie YIP informed members that, as one of the celebration programmes of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the AFCD launched the Hong Kong Country Parks Photo cum Video Competition on 1 June 2022 to encourage members of the public to explore the country parks in Hong Kong and raise public awareness of protecting the countryside environment. In addition, the department would organise two webinars on landscape photography and videography on 18 June 2022 to complement the competition. The

winning entries would be featured in an online exhibition. Detailed information about the competition would be distributed to members by the Secretary after meeting.

(b) Others

77/22      The Chairman raised a question in relation to the recent opening of the Sha Tau Kok Pier to group tours. He asked if the AFCD had reviewed the facilities and management measures at Yan Chau Tong Marine Park in view of the expected increase in the number of visitors. Separately, he apprised that an MPC member, Dr. KOT Chin-wing, Brian, was organising the 2022 International Cetacean Symposium. He suggested that the AFCD could consider inviting Dr. KOT to share the gist discussed in the symposium with the MPC. He also expressed appreciation on the new book published by the AFCD, *Bond with Nature: Exploring Beauty in Hong Kong's Biodiversity*.

78/22      Dr. S F LEUNG anticipated that visitors to Sha Tau Kok would also visit the neighbouring destinations, including Ap Chau, Kat O and Lai Chi Wo, which were within the Geopark. The AFCD had been collaborating with the local villagers to set up facilities/visitor services in the villages, including the story rooms, trails and guided tours. He anticipated that the facilities/services provided by the three villages could accommodate the visitor volume during the six-month trial scheme of the Sha Tau Kok Pier opening. Nevertheless, the AFCD would patrol around the destinations and assess if the management measures had to be adjusted. He concurred with the Chairman that the MPC could invite the hosting organisation of the relevant symposium to share the latest information on cetacean conservation. The AFCD's publication, *Bond with Nature: Exploring Beauty in Hong Kong's Biodiversity*, was an electronic photobook which could be freely downloaded from the AFCD website. He appealed to the members to share the book with their friends and networks to promote the beauty of nature in Hong Kong.

79/22      Dr. Jackie YIP added that the AFCD had collaborated with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong and provided training to tour guides about the major attractions in Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and the Hong Kong Geopark. Guidelines for visiting village areas were also provided to the tour guides. The AFCD had also published a leaflet to facilitate visitors visiting Sha Tau Kok and the neighbouring attractions.

80/22      A member remarked that a lot of schools supported experiential learning programmes. She suggested the AFCD send a physical copy of the *Bond with Nature*:

*Exploring Beauty in Hong Kong's Biodiversity* to secondary and primary schools. Schools interested in visiting Sha Tau Kok and the neighbouring villages may apply for an exclusive guided tour. She also suggested the AFCD to collaborate with the local communities to organise village guided tours with the authentic rural lifestyle and culture for students.

81/22 Dr. S F LEUNG replied that the AFCD would inform schools about the new publication and encourage them to download the electronic photobook. Concerning organising guided tours to Sha Tau Kok, the Security Bureau formulated a six-month trial scheme to open the Sha Tau Kok Pier to only registered local tour groups. Whether it would be opened to other organisations would be considered upon the completion of the trial scheme. Nevertheless, visitors may visit Ap Chau, Kat O and Lai Chi Wo by kaitos from Ma Liu Shui Pier.

#### **VI. Date of Next Meeting**

82/22 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 18 October 2022 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

[Post-meeting note: The next meeting was postponed to 1 November 2022 (Tuesday), 2:30p.m.]

83/22 The meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.

– End –