

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 69th Meeting

Date : 30 April 2019 (Tuesday) File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

PRESENT

Chairman

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

Members

Mr Jan CHAN

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Professor NG Sai-leung

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Dr SO Ping-man, JP	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Ms Daisy LO	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Eugenia CHUNG, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), Home Affairs Department
Mr Alan LO	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung, JP	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories), Planning Department

Secretary

Ms Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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IN ATTENDANCE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 1)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 1)
Ms Louise LI	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Miss Connie LAU	Marine Parks Officer (Education)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr CHEUNG Wing-keung, Wicky Chief Leisure Manager (Management)

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr FU Sau-bong Senior Engineer (Planning Policy) (Acting)

For Agenda Item IV only

The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

Mr Peter LAU Senior Architect 11

Mr Hilman HUI Senior Project Manager 134

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Dr HE Shen-jing

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Ms SO Ka-man

Mr LIU Wai-shing, Simon Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Leisure Services)³, LCSD

Mr WONG Yan-lok, Roger Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development)
(Acting), WSD

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

1/19 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced to members Ms Louise LI who was the new Senior Marine Parks Officer of AFCD.

2/19 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 68th Meeting held on 23 November 2018

3/19 The minutes of the 68th meeting held on 23 November 2018 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising

(a) Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas (Para. 118/18)

4/19 Mr Alfred WONG of AFCD reported that the Department had launched a public consultation on 16 February 2019 to seek public views on the proposals for enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas. Five interactive exhibitions in shopping malls, four roving exhibitions in government offices and two public forums were held so far to introduce the proposals to the public and collect their views. The public consultation was still ongoing and would last until mid-May 2019. After the end of the public consultation, the Department would consolidate the views collected and report to CMPB.

(b) Annual Field Visit 2018 (Para. 148/18)

5/19 Mr Patrick LAI of AFCD briefed members on the report of the Annual Field Visit conducted on 17 December 2018. Members noted the Report.

(Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine attended the meeting at this juncture.)

III. MacLehose Trail 40th Anniversary Celebration Programme (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2019)

6/19 Mr Alfred WONG briefed members on Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2019, which was about the programme to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the opening of MacLehose Trail.

7/19 Members noted the programme schedule and details of the events. Noting there had been reports that plastic bottles with packaging labels in simplified Chinese characters were found in country parks, the Chairman suggested that AFCD should seize the opportunity to promote waste reduction tips, including “bring your own bottle” and “reduce the use of tissue papers”, to participants of the celebration programme.

IV. Progress of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2019)

8/19 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matter to be discussed under this agenda item. No member made such declaration.

9/19 Ms Louise LI briefed members on Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2019, which was about the progress of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre (the VC).

(Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP attended the meeting at this juncture.)

(Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia left the meeting at this juncture.)

10/19 After Ms LI’s presentation, the Chairman invited and welcomed the ArchSD representatives to the meeting.

11/19 Regarding the design of the VC, a member enquired whether there were any venues for holding educational activities. Besides, noting that the VC was located at Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1 within the Sai Kung West Country Park, he asked how the site would be affected by the

construction works. Ms Louise LI responded that the outdoor timber deck and the lawn would provide an open space of about 120 m² for outdoor gathering and educational activities. If the weather permitted, the doors of the exhibition hall (about 85 m²) could be slid open to integrate the outdoor spaces with the indoor spaces, which could altogether accommodate about 100 visitors. Mr Peter LAU elaborated the open design concept of the VC and supplemented that the roof of the exhibition hall would extend outward a bit to provide some covered areas for conducting outdoor activities. He also responded that the construction of the VC would affect some trees, most of which were exotic species. ArchSD had followed the established procedures and submitted a Tree Preservation and Removal Proposal to AFCD before the construction. ArchSD would carry out compensatory planting using native tree species.

12/19 Mr Patrick LAI said that since Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1 was some distance away from toilet facilities and the minibus terminal, it had rather low utilisation rate in the past, which was one of the considerations for the site selection of the VC. It was planned that barbecue facilities or picnic area would be reprovisioned to the site after the VC was built. He believed that the utilisation rate of the site would improve by that time as visitors could have access to the toilet facilities in the VC.

13/19 A member appreciated the connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces of the VC. Regarding the external timber deck, she reminded ArchSD to pay attention to the selection of timber and the risks of wild animals being trapped under the timber deck. Regarding the green building design features, she suggested that AFCD could show visitors the amount of electricity generated by the solar panels and to what extent it supported the daily operation of the VC. She believed that such information would be very educational. Lastly, she pointed out that there were quite many wild pigs around the site, and she reminded AFCD to consider management measures to prevent wild pigs from disturbing the VC. In response, Mr Peter LAU said that they would pay attention to the issues when discussing the details of the external timber deck with the contractor. As regards the solar panels, he indicated that the amount of electricity generated by the solar panels would be displayed in the exhibition hall for visitors' information. He also clarified that the solar panels were installed mainly for educational purposes and the electricity they generated was insufficient to support the operation of the whole VC.

14/19 A member suggested that ArchSD could consider using the trees felled by Typhoon Mangkhut to build the VC. Besides, considering that visitors would have to queue up for a long

time if only two virtual reality headsets were provided, he suggested AFCD to consider using equipment that could beam virtual reality experience to a larger area.

15/19 A member noticed that AFCD proposed to allow walk-in visitors to visit the VC during weekends and public holidays and group visits on weekdays with prior appointment. He considered that individuals might wish to make walk-in visits to the VC during weekdays as well. He encouraged AFCD to consider opening the VC for walk-in visits during weekdays as well so as to attract more visitors and better utilise the facility. Besides, the member suggested AFCD to provide the overall exhibition concepts to the Marine Parks Committee for reference.

16/19 Mr Patrick LAI said that the Country Park Visitor Centres managed by AFCD had different operating hours to meet the demands of visitors. For example, considering the popularity of the Lions Nature Education Centre, it was open most of the days and only closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays). Owing to the small number of visitors during weekdays, the Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre was only open on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays at present to improve the cost-effectiveness of its operation. Regarding the operation of the VC, Mr LAI indicated that the tentative plan was to open the VC for walk-in visits during weekends and public holidays while group visits from schools or organisations could be arranged on weekdays with prior appointment. AFCD would continue to explore other options before the opening of the VC and welcomed any suggestions from members.

17/19 In response to a member's enquiry, Ms Louise LI said that the VC and the nearby Jockey Club HSBC WWF Hong Kong Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre (hereinafter referred to as the WWF Centre) served different purposes. The VC would provide visitor services and give information about the objectives and functions of marine protected areas in Hong Kong through exhibits and interactive displays, whereas the WWF Centre mainly offered education programmes for students and the community to learn more about marine environment and resources. She said that the two centres would maintain close communication for better synergy. Besides, AFCD would look into the possibility of collaborations with the WWF Centre and other stakeholders in the vicinity upon the opening of VC, on various activities, such as citizen science programmes, workshops and guided tours. She believed that the two centres could complement each other to promote the importance of marine conservation.

18/19 A member pointed out that indoor lights would attract insects, and suggested that big fans or mosquito killer lamps could be installed in the VC to protect visitors from insect

nuisance. Ms Louise LI responded that the member's suggestion would be taken into consideration.

19/19 A member remarked that from her past experiences, outdoor education was difficult and not favourably looked upon by people because it was susceptible to weather conditions. She advised AFCD to consider incorporating some covered areas into the design of the outdoor spaces so that they did not have to crowd all the visitors into the exhibition hall if it rained.

20/19 Another member anticipated that the utilisation rate of Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1 would rise after the opening of the VC, and soon barbecue smell would attract wild animals to such area. He advised AFCD to consider ways to keep wild animals away from the VC to prevent them from disturbing visitors.

21/19 The Chairman also anticipated that many people would visit the place after the opening of the VC and re-provisioning of Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1. Some people would go for both facilities, while some would just go for either one of them. He suggested that AFCD should contemplate future management measures to avoid potential conflicts between different groups of visitors. For example, AFCD needed to consider whether the parking spaces and loading area inside the VC should give priority to VC visitors or they were available on a first come, first served basis. AFCD also needed to think about whether to allow users of Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1 to park in the parking lot of the VC if the VC was closed.

22/19 A member appreciated the green features of the VC, including the solar panels and rain collection system. He believed that these were excellent designs that future visitor centres could draw reference from. He also advised that water collected from the rain collection system was usually quite dirty. It might not be suitable for hand washing but it could be used for flushing toilets. As for solar panels, it was not easy to obtain enough solar power, especially during rainy seasons, therefore, AFCD would need to rely on other sources for electricity supply. He also cautioned AFCD about the difficulty to maintain and repair the batteries of solar panels. Despite these limitations, he considered that the use of solar panels and rain collection system was very educational as it could demonstrate to visitors the ways to contribute to the reduction of carbon footprints.

23/19 As members made no further enquiries and comments, the Chairman thanked the representatives of ArchSD for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of ArchSD left the meeting at this juncture.)

**V. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2019)**

24/19 Professor NG Sai-leung, Chairman of Country Parks Committee (CPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2019, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 25 February 2019.

25/19 Regarding wild pig nuisance, a member mentioned two recent occasions when he saw adult wild pigs dashing across Lung Cheung Road at about 9 a.m. The situations were rather dangerous and might lead to traffic accidents. He considered that the problem of wild pigs intruding into urban areas should be urgently dealt with. If any accidents unfortunately happened, public perception of wild pigs would probably become very negative.

26/19 The Chairman concurred that it was a serious problem and should be tackled before any accidents happened. In his opinion, the occurrence of wild pigs in urban areas might require actions from multiple government departments, such as AFCD, the Police Force, the Transport Department, and so on. The Government should coordinate cross-departmental efforts. It should also keep a record of wild pig nuisance reports to create a database for developing appropriate management measures and strategies to address the issue.

27/19 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP responded that AFCD had a dedicated team to handle issues of wild pig nuisance and was going to expand the team within this year to 26 staff members. The Department identified around 70 black spots of wild pig nuisance and had already handled/were handling around 30 black spots by the Capture, Contraception/Relocation Programme. Moreover, Dr LEUNG encouraged members to call 1823 to report any sightings of wild pig nuisance to AFCD. Such information would enable AFCD to arrange and prioritise follow-up actions in a systematic way. It would also help the Department to collect more information on wild pigs in Hong Kong. He also invited the member who had seen wild pigs dashing across Lung Cheung Road to give the Department more detailed information for follow-up actions. He said that if necessary, the dedicated team of AFCD would conduct operations to capture the wild pigs and release them to areas farther away from urban areas. If the wild pigs would pose imminent risks to public safety, the team might consider humanely dispatch them.

28/19 Another member said that her car was chased by 22 wild pigs when she was driving to the end of Chung Hom Kok peninsula one day. It indicated that people were feeding wild pigs from their cars, so the wild pigs associated cars with food. In this regard, she supported AFCD to continue strengthening the promotion of “no feeding”. The member also enquired if any effects were seen from the chemical neutering programme for wild pigs.

29/19 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP responded that the programme was implemented for just over a year, and it was too early to see any conclusive results. AFCD would collect more data to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.

**VI. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2019)**

30/19 Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, JP, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC), briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2019, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 12 March 2019. Members noted the Report.

**VII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2019)**

31/19 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2019). Mr LAI highlighted that there were only five hill fires happened inside country parks this fire season (i.e. from October 2018 to April 2019). The number was particularly low as compared with 31 hill fires last fire season and the annual average of 26 in the past 10 years. In this fire season, the biggest hill fire happened in Kai Kung Leng, Lam Tsuen Country Park. It affected 94 hectares of land, but no tree was affected because the area was mostly slopes covered by grasses. Mr LAI assured that AFCD would continue efforts to prevent hill fires in country parks.

32/19 With reference to the table in Section 2.1 of Part B about visitor statistics of marine parks, a member asked for the possible reasons for the drop in the number of visitors to Yan

Chau Tong and Tung Ping Chau marine parks during the reporting period compared to the same period last year. Ms Louise LI responded that after Typhoon Mangkhut, fewer visitors went to these more remote marine parks. AFCD would continue to monitor the visitor number and would remind visitors to keep marine parks clean.

33/19 With reference to Section 2.3 of Part A about the Country Park Volunteer Scheme, the above member suggested AFCD to consider expanding the scheme to provide more opportunities for members of the public to participate in volunteer work and enhance their understanding and appreciation of country parks. Mr Alfred WONG responded that AFCD always encouraged members of the public to enrol in the Country Parks Volunteer Scheme and was having a team of around 800 volunteers at present. The Department would regularly review the number of applications in each recruitment exercise and the number of service hours available to volunteers, and make improvements to the scheme as necessary.

34/19 In response to a member's enquiry, Ms Louise LI indicated that among the six cases of prosecution against "Other Offences" in marine parks, three of them involved harvesting of sea urchins and the others involved boating activities.

VIII. Any Other Business

35/19 Members did not raise any other business for discussion.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

36/19 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 16 July 2019 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.

37/19 The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.