

SHEUNG SHUI TO LOK MA CHAU SPUR LINE**Environmental Committee**

Minutes of Meeting No. 15 held at 9:30am
on Wednesday, 6 June 2008,
at Fo Tan Railway House, Room 507

Present:		
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)
Dr. Ng Cho-nam	The University of Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Dr. Lew Young	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Dr. Janet Lee	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Dr. Michael Leven	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Mr. Paul Leader	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Mr. Richard Kwan	Manager - Environmental (HK Projects)	Member (MTR) (Chairman)
In Attendance:		
Dr. Chan Kam-foon	Manager - Environmental Engineering	Member (MTR)
Mr. Clarence Tze	Environmental Engineer I	Member (MTR)
Mr. Peter Choi	Environmental Engineer II	Member (MTR)

	<u>Action By</u>
<p>1. The <u>Chairman</u> welcomed Members to the No.15 EC meeting. He thanked <u>Dr. Young</u> for his contributions over the years through his expert advices on wetland enhancement works for the LMC Spurline.</p> <p>2. <u>Dr. Young</u> informed the Committee of his departure from Hong Kong. He recommended <u>Dr. Lee</u> to be his replacement on behalf of WWF Hong Kong as a Member of the Committee. The <u>Chairman</u> welcomed <u>Dr. Lee</u> to the Committee.</p> <p>Item 1 - <u>Confirmation of minutes of Meeting No. 14</u></p> <p>3. The minutes of Meeting No. 14 was confirmed without further comments.</p>	
<p>Item 2 - <u>Overview of Spur Line Project</u></p> <p>4. The Chairman responded to <u>A Member (NGO)</u> concern raised at the last meeting regarding the long-term commitment to management and maintenance of the LMC wetland. MTR will manage and maintain the LMC wetland with the same practices as adopted by ex-KCRC (confirmation letter attached in Annex A).</p> <p>5. The Chairman informed Members that the merged company, MTR, was holding the Further Environmental Permits for its operations of the ex-KCRC network whereas the post merged KCRC was continuously holding the “mother” Environmental Permits.</p>	
<p>Item 3 - <u>Ecological Enhancement Works and Monitoring – an Update on Management Works and Look Ahead</u></p> <p>6. <u>A Member (consultant)</u> reported the ecological monitoring</p>	

	<u>Action By</u>
<p>and management work undertaken in 2007-2008 (details in Annex B). The LMC wetland has in general been performing very well during the reporting period together with the well functioning of the infrastructure works. Operational stage monitoring of 26 target bird species continued since year 2006.</p> <p>7. <u>A Member (consultant)</u> raised for discussion with regards the following methods to control <i>phragmites</i> in the LMC wetland: (i) cutting of <i>phragmites</i> which is only a very short-term solution; (ii) digging out, which is fine for small patches but for large areas mechanical equipment is needed that could be very disruptive; (iii) spraying with herbicide 'Round-up', which is also used for some areas at Mai Po. AEC would gather further information on these options and circulate to Members for comments.</p> <p>8. <u>A Member (NGO)</u> advised that there are also large areas of reeds at Mai Po that need to be removed. <u>A Member (NGO)</u> further advised that WWF had carried out a study with the Chinese University of HK on the impact of herbicide spray on the reeds with the monitoring of the concentration left in soil and water. The findings indicated that the application of herbicide was generally not a problem to the fish stock due to its low concentration and quick decomposition but unsure of the effects to dragonflies. However, the application of herbicide should be prudent and shall only be used for local areas with close monitoring of its impacts.</p> <p>9. <u>A Member (NGO)</u> raised that the trees planted around the LMC station have grown very well which might block the views to the wetland in future when they grow further. The Chairman replied that the viewing level at the station is at a height of several stories high. <u>A Member (consultant)</u> added that these tree species would grow only up to approximately 6 to 9m.</p> <p>10. <u>A Member (consultant)</u> responded to the item from the last meeting regarding the station lighting impact to birds at night-time. It was noted that the lighting of the LMC station was from inside the building whereas the clashing of birds would normally be due to the light outside of the building such</p>	AEC

	<u>Action By</u>
as floodlight with strong beam. Since the previous incident of bird clashing, there have been no repeated incidents to date.	
<p>Item 4 - <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>11. <i>A Member (consultant)</i> reported on the incident whereby 54 dead and 40 sick ducks found at LMC wetland on 25-27 March 2008 were collected and tested H5 virus negative. AFCD confirmed the diagnosis of toxicity was due to ingestion of Clostridium Botulinum Toxin (Botulism).</p> <p>12. <i>A Member (NGO)</i> suggested if brief inspection could be arranged at the LMC wetland during long holidays so as to alert AFCD soonest possible if similar incidents occur on site. The Chairman replied brief inspection would be arranged accordingly.</p>	
<p>Item 5 - <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of next meeting to be advised (tentatively in December 2008).</p>	

(Version 0)
23 June 2008

Memorandum 備忘錄


To	Richard Kwan (Manager – Environmental) – Chairman of LMC Environmental Committee	Date	28 May 2008
From	Richard Keefe (A/GM-I)	Ref	
Tel	2688 1688	Location	3/F, Fo Tan Railway Hse.
cc	CIM, WMM		

Long-Term Commitment to Management and Maintenance at Lok Ma Chau Wetlands

I refer to the enquiry raised from the Lok Ma Chau Environmental Committee regarding the Corporation's long-term commitment for management and maintenance for Lok Ma Chau Wetlands.

Please be advised that after the merger of the two railway companies in 2007, the Corporation will continue to maintain its position on sustainability development as one of its governing policies.

As such, we would like to confirm our long-term commitment and continuous effort on management and maintenance of the compensated wetlands at Lok Ma Chau. Our intent remains in line with the practices adopted by ex-KCRC.



Rickard Keefe
Acting General Manager – Infrastructure

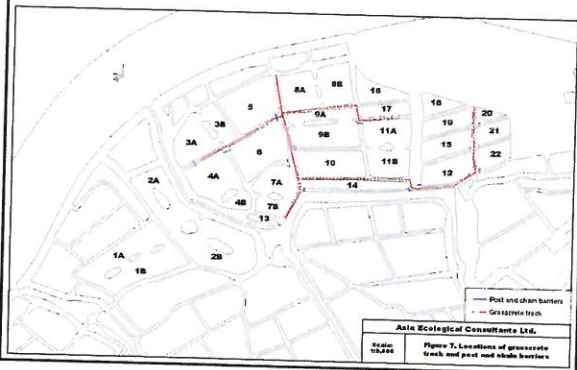


**Lok Ma Chau Spur Line
15th Environmental Committee Meeting
6th June 2008**

Report on Ecological Monitoring
& Management & Works Programme
December 2007 – June 2008

Asia Ecological Consultants Limited

**Tracks and barriers - installation completed in October
2007**



Management Works January – May 2008

- Pond drain down
- Trash fish stocking
- Routine grass cutting
- *Typha* removal and control of spread of *Phragmites*
- Vegetation management and modifications to profile of Pond 17
- Apple snail removal at Pond 15 (1,200 kg removed)
- *Polygonum* transplanting and establishment monitoring

**Pond 17: higher areas around edges of pond were
dominated by non-wetland grasses**



Pond 17 Reprofilng: level lowered to extend wet areas



Edges lowered to slow invasion by terrestrial grasses



Additional pipes installed in Pond 17



Rocks uncovered during reprofiling retained to provide refugia for herpetofauna



Control of Apple Snails - adults



Wetland soils from Pond 17 to be used in modifications to Pond 13



Pond 16: *Phragmites* and *Typha* removed



Pond 14: *Phragmites* and *Typha* cleared from eastern half of pond in 2006



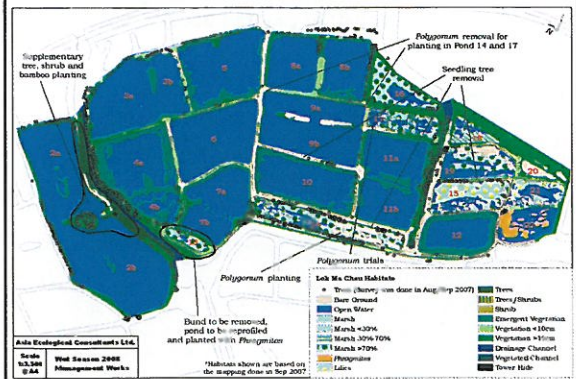
Scheduled Management Works for 2008 Wet Season

- Routine grass cutting and vegetation management
- Modifications to Pond 13
- Replacement tree, shrub and bamboo planting at Pond 2
- Seedling tree control
- Fish stocking
- Control of water quality

Grass Carp are translocated during drain-down



Management Works for 2008 Wet Season



Pond 13 reprofiling

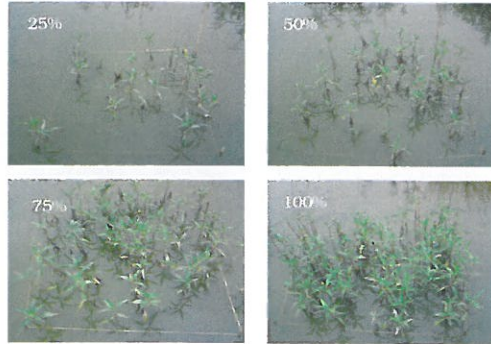
- Small marsh area at Pond 13 has not proved very successful due to difficulty of controlling water levels, small size and remoteness from other marsh areas
- Proposed solution is to recontour, link to Pond 7 and form reedbed
- This can be cut in autumn to provide a roost site for snipe (effective in Pond 22 in autumn 2007)
- Will provide habitat for ardeids (incl. Chinese Pond Heron) as will have more fish (due to new connectivity with Pond 7)

Wetland plant management trials

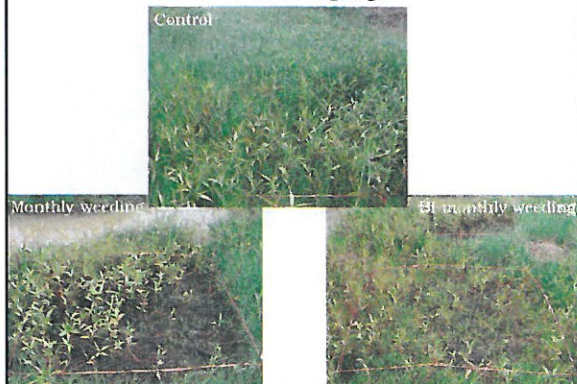
Two primary aims:

- To inform methods for transplanting wetlands plants within the WCA with the ultimate aim to eliminate importation of wetlands plants onto the site
- Inform weeding protocol for wetland plants

Transplanting polygonum seedlings at different densities



Different weeding regimes



Operational Stage Monitoring

- Required as of August 2007 when Spurline commenced operation (although operational stage monitoring started in January 2006)
- Wildlife targets extended to cover species of conservation importance detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment:
 - Eurasian Otter
 - 26 bird species (c.f. Table 2.3 of the HCMP)
 - Burmese Python, Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle, Chinese Bullfrog
 - Dragonflies (increased numbers and species diversity)

Monitoring of Target Waterbird Species: protocol

- Counts from towers at LMC at Mai Po San Tsuen (MPST) for larger waterbirds and raptors.
- Transect survey for smaller target species at LMC and MPST and for all species at San Tin.
- Some species being counted by both methods to see which is most effective.
- Methodology for calculation of targets reviewed in early 2007 (included in latest HCMP)



Eurasian Otter – 2008

Recorded from Camera traps:

- During week ending 6th December 2007



Bird Targets 12 months up to 28th Apr 2008

Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio	Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio
Great Cormorant	3,052	0,344	8.86	Greater Painted snipe	0,012	0,000	LMC
Great Frigate	3,422	0,102	33.66	Black-winged Stilt (tower)	0,185	0,020	9.25
Great Egret	1,147	0,750	1.51	Black-winged Stilt (transect)	0,168	0,002	8.37
Little Egret	1,116	1,065	1.04	Pintail/Swamp's Snipe	0,035	0,002	2.81
Lesser Frigate	0,391	0,422	0.93	Common Snipe	0,236	0,036	6.58
Black-faced Spoonbill	0,370	0,027	17.11	Richard's Pipit	0,070	0,040	1.76
Common Teal (tower)	1,642	0,040	41.05	Hindbunting	0,052	0,005	10.40
Common Teal (transect)	1,612	0,040	40.30	Common Stone-pit	0,169	0,022	7.68
Common Spotted Plover	0,024	0,000	LMC	Pallas's Grasshopper Wren	0,025	0,001	26.43
Imperial Eagle	0,001	0,000	LMC	Zitting Cisticola	0,195	0,113	1.72
Common Murre	1,065	0,061	17.47	Japanese Yellow Bunting	0,000	0,000	nr
Common Crane	0,000	0,000	LMC	Red-billed Starling	2,340	1,424	1.65
Common Coot (tower)	0,052	0,000	LMC	Black-winged Stilt	1,012	0,001	12.37
Common Coot (transect)	0,007	0,000	LMC				
Black-billed Woodpecker	0,001	0,000	LMC				
Red-billed Woodpecker	0,018	0,000	LMC				

Key: NR - Not recorded within WTA or Control Area during the period
 Blue - Targets met the density in WTA, at least to the blue and green control areas
 Yellow - Targets not met, although density higher than in control areas
 Red - Targets not met and density lower than in Control Area

Avifauna highlights January – May 2008

- One Pheasant-tailed Jacana wintered on Ponds 15 and 21 (lily ponds); joined by a second bird in early May
- Greater Painted-snipe breeding in Pond 19; and chicks seen in Pond 17
- Territorial Black-naped Oriole
- 13 broods of White-shouldered Starlings in nest boxes



Endangered - Birds 2007-08

Species name	Status	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Black-faced Spoonbill	Endangered	200	126	138	110	91	7
Falcatad Duck	Near Threatened	3	2	1			
Greater Spotted Eagle	Vulnerable	2	1	2			
Imperial Eagle	Vulnerable	1	1	2	2	1	
Black-tailed Godwit	Near Threatened	1					
Yellow-breasted Bunting	Near Threatened	5					4
Collared Crow	Near Threatened			2	2	2	

Lok Ma Chau Station at night

