

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

Minutes of Meeting No. 17 held at 2:30pm  
On Thursday, 18 June 2009,  
at MTR Headquarters Building, Room 23E

Present:		
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Dr. Janet Lee	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Dr. Michael Leven	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Ms. Shirley Lam	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Mr. Clarence Tze	Environmental Engineer I	Member (MTR)
Mr. Peter Choi	Environmental Engineer II	Member (MTR)
Absent with apology:		
Dr. Ng Cho-nam	The University of Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)

	<u>Action By</u>
<p>1. Welcomed Members to the No.17 EC meeting.</p> <p><b>Item 1 - <u>Confirmation of minutes of Meeting No. 16</u></b></p> <p>2. The minutes of Meeting No. 16 were confirmed without further comments.</p> <p>3. <i>A Member (NGO)</i> raised concerns over the issue of avian flu at LMC wetland. The meeting has gone through detailed discussion of potential avian flu at LMC EEA and noted that the Corporation together with the AEC and YSG has been implementing a set of guidelines that include protocols and measures for prevention of bird flu at LMC EEA. With regards to the need for closure of the LMC EEA for public visits during special circumstances, the Corporation would draw reference to the direction of the Government and Mai Po Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b>Item 2 - <u>Ecological Enhancement Works and Monitoring – an Update on Management Works and Look Ahead</u></b></p> <p>4. <i>A Member (consultant)</i> reported the ecological monitoring and management work undertaken between January 2009 and May 2009 at LMC wetland (detailed in Annex A). It was noted that the wetland has been performing very well during the reporting period together with the well functioning of the infrastructure works. The management work undertaken during the reporting period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desilting of Ponds 9 and 10 and repair of the pond bunds;</li> <li>• Installation of uPVC pipes at Pond 15;</li> <li>• Transplanting of <i>polygonum</i> to Pond 17;</li> <li>• Growing of <i>Nymphaea</i> and <i>Euryle</i> in Ponds 15;</li> <li>• Removal of the <i>Nelumbo</i> from Pond 21;</li> <li>• Control of <i>phragmites</i> with herbicide “Roundup Pro”;</li> <li>• Removal of <i>typha</i> from all ponds;</li> <li>• Additional planting at site entrance and along the watercourse B;</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p>

	<u>Action By</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of apple snails at Ponds 14 – 22;</li> <li>• Control of red fire ant nests with “Top choice”; etc.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 3 - <u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>5. <u>A Member (MTR)</u> informed the members of the current status of the existing wetland monitoring and maintenance contracts. The meeting also discussed on the long term management strategy of wetlands in Hong Kong that a policy on holistic management of compensated wetlands from Government might be needed in future.</p>	Noted
<p><b>Item 4 - <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>6. The date of next meeting to be advised (tentatively in Dec 2009).</p>	

(Version 0 )  
23 June 2009

**Lok Ma Chau Spur Line  
17<sup>th</sup> Environmental Committee Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Report on Ecological Monitoring  
& Management & Works Programme  
January – May 2009**

**Asia Ecological Consultants Limited**

**Overview of  
Management Works January – May 2009**

Vegetation Management

- *Polygonum* transplanting and establishment monitoring
- Establishment monitoring of *Nymphaea* in Ponds 15 & 21; Removal of *Nelumbo* from Pond 21
- Control *Phragmites* with herbicide RoundUp Pro
- *Typha* removal from all ponds
- Extra planting (site entrance and along watercourse B)
- Routine grass cutting; removal of unwanted seedlings

**Pond 9 & 10 De-silting**

Previous condition

- Bunds and slopes of Ponds 9 & 10 were partially eroded
- Middle island in Pond 9 was overgrown with grasses

Current condition

- Re-formed the bunds to approx. 1.5m from the grasscreted tracks
- Gently sloping edges formed
- Pond 9: middle island lowered; *Polygonum* transplanted to Pond 17
- Pond 10: A 'step' created

**Ponds 9 after de-silting**



**Overview of  
Management Works January – May 2009**

De-silting of Ponds 9 & 10

- Bund maintenance
- Island and bottom level adjustment

Edge Improvement at Pond 15

- Edge refinement
- Installation of uPVC pipes

**Overview of  
Management Works January – May 2009**

Wildlife Management

- Periodic pond drain down
- Trash fish stocking for winter food
- Provision and monitoring bird nest boxes

General Site Management

- Fire Ant nests control with Top Choice
- Golden Apple Snail removal at Ponds 14 – 22
- Fish stock management
- Water quality management
- Dog trapping

**Ponds 9 and 10 being de-silted**

Pond 9



Pond 10



**Pond 10 after desilting**



**Polygonum transplanting**



Pond 17



**Pond 15**

Edge Treatment



uPVC pipe



**Pond 15: re-establishment of lilies**

5<sup>th</sup> June



8<sup>th</sup> June



**Pond 15: Nymphaea & Euryle**



**Pond 21: battle with Nelumbo**



**Phragmites: RoundUp Pro – trial at Pond 16**



9<sup>th</sup> April



9<sup>th</sup> April



15<sup>th</sup> April



4<sup>th</sup> May



12<sup>th</sup> May



18<sup>th</sup> May

**Phragmites: RoundUp Pro – trial at Pond 16**



5<sup>th</sup> June

**Extra planting**

Site Entrance



Watercourse B



### Control of Apple Snails - adults



### Routine grass-cutting



### Other Site Management Works



### Scheduled Management Works for 2009 Wet Season

- Continue with routine grass cutting and general vegetation management, including seedling tree control
- Monitoring establishment of *Nymphaea* and control of *Nelumbo*
- Control & monitor of *Phragmites* by RoundUp Pro
- Control of Apple Snails, Fire Ants and dog trapping
- Control of water quality

### Operational Stage Monitoring

- Required as off 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.
- Methodology for calculation of targets reviewed in early 2007 (included in HCMP)



### Mammal & Herpetofauna Targets

- Sign of **Eurasian Otter** - at Pond 2 on 14<sup>th</sup> April.
- Two records of **Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle**; one seen on 31<sup>st</sup> March at Pond 2 and tracks on 14<sup>th</sup> April.
- Single sightings of **Burmese Python** & **Chinese Bullfrog**



### Bird Targets 12 months up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009

Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio	Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio
Great Cormorant	3.248	0.232	14.43	Greater Scaup	0.025	0.001	25.30
Grey Heron	2.456	0.066	28.56	Black-winged Stilt	0.160	0.002	7.68
Great Egret	1.113	0.149	9.02	Painted Swallow's Stoop	0.008	0.002	4.00
Little Egret	1.049	0.797	1.32	Common Snipe	0.003	0.007	4.57
Chinese Pond Heron	0.528	0.405	1.07	Fieldfare's Pipit	0.001	0.002	1.18
Black-faced Spoonbill	0.372	0.022	17.14	Bleu-throat	0.004	0.000	LMC
Common Teal	0.744	0.018	41.33	Common Stonechat	0.118	0.008	2.46
Greater Spotted Eagle	0.002	0.000	LMC	White-bellied Swallow	0.015	0.001	15.00
Imperial Eagle	0.000	0.000	LMC	Zitting Cuckoo	0.140	0.112	1.30
Eurasian Hobby	0.000	0.000	LMC	Japanese Yellow Bunting	0.000	0.000	n.r.
Burmese Python	0.000	0.000	LMC	Red-winged Blackbird	0.000	0.000	LMC
Eurasian Coot	0.001	0.000	LMC	Black-naped Oriole	0.004	0.000	LMC
Chinese Bullfrog	0.019	0.000	LMC				

n.r. - Not recorded within WCA or Control Area during the period  
 LMC - Target met (i.e. density in WCA at least twice that in Control Area)  
 Yellow - Target not met, although density higher than in Control Area  
 Red - Target not met and density lower than in Control Area  
 \* Central observation only

## Endangered Birds Dec 08 – May 09

Species name	Status	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Black-faced Spoonbill	Endangered	185	51	113	105	13	4
Greater Spotted Eagle	Vulnerable	3	1	1	2		
Imperial Eagle	Vulnerable	2	1	2	1		
Yellow-breasted Bunting	Near Threatened				12		
Collared Crow	Near Threatened	1	2		1	2	1