

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

Minutes of Meeting No. 18 held at 2:30pm
On Friday, 18 December 2009,
at MTR Headquarters Building, Room 709

Present:		
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Mr. Bena Smith	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)
Mr. Paul Leader	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)

	<u>Action By</u>
<p>1. Welcomed Members to the No.18 EC meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Mr. Tze</u> welcomed <u>Mr. Smith</u> as a Member of the Committee. <u>Mr. Smith</u> replaces <u>Dr. Janet Lee</u> as EC member on behalf of the WWF Hong Kong.</p> <p>Item 1 - <u>Confirmation of minutes of Meeting No. 17</u></p> <p>3. The minutes of Meeting No. 17 were confirmed without further comments.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>Item 2 - <u>Ecological Enhancement Works and Monitoring – an Update on Management Works and Look Ahead</u></p> <p>4. Members were informed that the wetland maintenance contractor, Yee Sun Garden Ltd., has completed the wetlands maintenance contract at the end of September 2009. The new contractor, City Landscaping Ltd., has been awarded a new contract commencing on 1 October 2009 for a period of two years with an option for extension of two years.</p> <p>5. <u>A Member (consultant)</u> reported the ecological monitoring and management work undertaken between June 2009 and December 2009 at LMC wetland (detailed in Annex A). It was noted that the wetland continued to be performing very well during the reporting period together with the well functioning of the infrastructure works. The wetland management work undertaken during the reporting period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for additional measures, i.e. floating platforms, bird nest boxes and provision duck food. • Desilting and maintenance of pond bunds at Ponds 9 and 10; • Transplanting of <i>polygonum</i> to Pond 17; • Successful establishment of Lily at Pond 15; • Bamboo planting bamboo at wetland site entrance; 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<u>Action By</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog trapping; • Change-over issues of maintenance contractor; and • Scheduling of management and maintenance work. 	
<p>Item 3 - <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6. It was discussed on the Government's policy or any proposals with regards to the consolidation and holistic approach of management given the areas of wetland compensation by different project proponents are increasing. <u>A Member (NGO)</u> informed that the Bird Watching Society has raised similar issue sometime ago to the Government but no concrete feedback was received. Members noted that the Government might need to look forward to the wetland compensation and management issues and would raise to the Government through different channels.</p>	Noted
<p>Item 4 - <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7. The date of next meeting to be advised (tentatively in June 2010).</p>	

(Version 0)
6 January 2010

**Lok Ma Chau Spur Line
18th Environmental Committee Meeting
18th December 2009**

**Report on Ecological Monitoring
& Management & Works Programme
June – Dec 2009**

Asia Ecological Consultants Limited

**Overview of
Management Works June – December 2009**

Vegetation Management

- Site entrance planting – transplanting from Pond 16
- Aiding *Nymphaea* in Pond 15 establishment by transplanting
- Transplanted tree seedling from Pond 16 to the bund between 22 and Clean-up Reedbed
- Routine grass cutting
- Removal of unwanted species (*Phragmites*, *Typha*, *Mimosa*, Water Hyacinth, Tung Choi etc.)

**Overview of
Management Works June – December 2009**

General Site Management

- Reed Beetle *Dimorphopterus spinolae* removal from Pond 22
- Fire Ant nests control with Top Choice (Jun-Sep) and Extinguish (Oct-Dec)
- Golden Apple Snail removal at Ponds 14 – 22
- Fish stock management
- Water quality management
- Dog trapping

Success of Pond De-silting (Pond 9)



**Overview of
Management Works June – December 2009**

- Contract with Yee Sun Garden Limited ended in end of September 2009
- A new contractor – City Landscaping Limited – on-site from October 2009

**Overview of
Management Works June – December 2009**

Wildlife Management

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

Proposal to Provide Additional Enhancement Measures

- Floating platforms
- More bird nest boxes
- Provision of duck food

**Overview of
Management Works June – December 2009**

Clean-up Reedbed Management

- Reed Beetle *Dimorphopterus spinolae*
- Fire Ant nests control with and Extinguish

Reed Trial at the Station Side

- Decomposition rate
- Mulch

Success of Pond De-silting (Pond 10)



Success of *Polygonum* (Pond 17)



Success of Lily Establishment (Pond 15)



Success of Bamboo Planting (Site Entrance)



Dog Trapping



Issues Arising from the Changeover of Contractor

Water Level Adjustment

- Slow mobilisation
- Unfamiliarity of the pumping system
- Insufficient pumps deployed on-site
- Contractor not yet used to need for rapid response

Fish Stock Sourcing

- Difficulties in sourcing fish of appropriate sizes (Tilapia with a mean of 10cm)

Scheduled Management Works for 2010 Dry Season

- Timely water level adjustment and fish stocking
- 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

- Two records of **Leopard Cat** in October, and constant records of two individuals of **Chestnut Spiny Rat** since October, a new record at LMC.



- A vocalising **Chinese Bullfrog** was heard in June.



- A single sighting of **Chinese Cobra** in September.

Bird Targets 12 months up to 30th Nov 2009

Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio	Density (mean/ha)	LMC	Control Area	Ratio
Great Cormorant	2.284	0.386	7.98	Greater Painted-snipe	0.027	0.001	30.24
Grey Heron	2.223	0.085	27.71	Black-winged Stilt	0.104	0.011	9.25
Great Egret	0.012	0.438	2.11	Pintail/Seabird's Snipe	0.031	0.005	5.53
Common Snipe	0.028	0.007	4.11	Common Snipe	0.028	0.007	4.11
Chinese Pond Heron	0.714	0.493	1.45	Richard's Pipit	0.056	0.007	1.44
Black-faced Spoonbill	0.304	0.022	13.82	Blue-throat	0.004	0.000	LMC
Common Teal	0.853	0.018	46.61	Common Stomach	0.110	0.051	2.16
Greater Spotted Eagle	0.084	0.000	LMC	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	0.005	0.002	2.25
Imperial Eagle	0.001	0.000	LMC	Shing Cuckoo	0.155	0.116	1.33
Eurasian Hobby	0.000	0.000	LMC	Japanese Yellow Bunting	0.000	0.000	0.7
Black-billed Stork	0.000	0.000	LMC	Black-naped Oriole	0.000	0.000	LMC
Eurasian Coot	0.001	0.000	LMC				
Phasian-tailed Jacana	0.014	0.000	LMC				

Key:
 NR - Not recorded in WCA or Control Areas during the period
 Yellow - Target met if = density in WCA at least twice that in Control Areas
 Red - Target not met, although density higher than in Control Areas
 Red - Target not met and density lower than in Control Areas
 * Casual observation only

Endangered Birds Jun - Dec 09

Species name	Status	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*
Black-faced Spoonbill	Endangered					11	127	63
Greater Spotted Eagle	Vulnerable					1	1	1
Imperial Eagle	Vulnerable						1	1
Yellow-breasted Bunting	Vulnerable					1	1	
Collared Crow	Near Threatened	3	2	2	2	3	4	2

* Up to 13th Dec 2009

Proposed Work at LMC

