

Minutes of the 1st Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of Prey and Forest Concerning a New Test Course Development by Honda Motor

1 Date and Time

17:00 ~ 19:30 March 8, 2007 Thursday

2 Venue

Utsunomiya-city General Community Center

3 Attendee

Five committee members:

- Chair, Tatsuhiro Ohkubo—Associate Professor of Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University
- Member, Koichi Endo—Assistant District Leader of Tochigi Branch of Wild Bird Society of Japan
- Member, Kazumi Suemoto—Researcher, Natural History Research
- Member, Mitsutake Hayashi—Chief Researcher, Tochigi Prefectural Museum
- Member, Takashi Matsuda—Vice President, Nature Conservation Group of Ujjiie

Organizers:

- Two staff members, Honda Motor
- Two staff members, Honda R&D
- Seven others

4 Agenda

- 1 Objectives of the Review Committee Establishment
- 2 Outline of the Review Committee Establishment
- 3 Overview of the Business Plan
- 4 Position of the Review Committee
- 5 History of Nature Conservation Review and Results
- 6 Future Review Plan
- 7 Others
 - Publicizing Activities of the Review Committee

5 Minutes (summary)

Mr. Okubo was chosen as the chair by the members of the committee prior to this 1st meeting.

Agenda

1 Objectives of the Review Committee Establishment

- The committee agreed on the objectives of the review committee establishment stipulated in the prospectus explained by the organizer

2 Outline of the Review Committee Establishment

- The committee agreed on the draft outline titled “Outline of the Review Committee Establishment” that stipulates items subject to review, committee organization, operations and others explained by the organizer
- The term of the committee is between March 8, 2007 and December of 2010, an expected completion date of the new test course

3 Overview of the Business Plan

- The organizer explained the development plans, business plans, the schedules, and the size of the new test course and a new R&D development

4 Position of the Review Committee

- The committee agreed on its position / relations to the local government and Honda Motor, and its meeting schedule explained by the organizer

5 History of Nature Conservation Review and Results

- The organizer talked about study updates and results in regards to the following: (1) impact level of the new test course to environment, (2) compliance level of the new R&D development plan against the nature conservation agreement, and (3) impact level of these two projects on birds of prey. The members shared following opinions based on this explanation:

1. We need a vegetation map which purely mirrors the current status of each development site to correctly understand and judge the proposed plans → The organizer to prepare

2. Knowing that the new R&D construction will kick off in October, we need to review a ground design, landscape, and construction of the new R&D and give advice even in the middle of the environment review
3. We want to create a conservation plan for rare types of plants once we finalize our overall conservation policies for the R&D construction site and then state our opinions about them. In addition, based on the overall conservation policies, we will appoint a person in charge for individual project such as transplanting.
4. We want to first focus on developing the nature conservation plan for the R&D site whose construction starts a year sooner than the new test course. As for the new test course, we will try developing the conservation plan simultaneously if possible.

6 Future Review Plan

- The organizer talked about the following: (1) birds of prey and forest environment review plans around the two construction sites, (2) review in regards to environment impact assessment of the new test course, (3) review in regards to the compliance level of the new R&D development plan against the nature conservation agreement, study on birds of prey in relation to the two plans. The members shared following opinions based on this explanation:
 1. We want to identify nesting trees of birds of prey as a part of environment review of the project sites and review within 1 kilometer radius of those nesting trees. Even if no nest, attractive landscapes to birds of prey should be subject to environment review.
 2. To determine the attractiveness of forests, we will prepare aerial photographs taken between right after WWII and 1986 and compare them with the current land usage.
 3. Since the habitat density of the proposed construction sites is most likely less than that of Nasunogahara, we review within 4 kilometer radius not 3 kilometer from the nests.
 4. There is much less riparian life found in paddy fields today. This area has many wet paddies and we want to focus on them in our conservation activities.

5. From living organism point of view, it is obviously better to have environment with more vegetation. It is thus ideal to keep what we have even in a different form. How much storage reservoirs we can maintain is an example of earthwork issues. The organizer needs to prepare the land development plan for the R&D construction project and share it at the next committee meeting.
6. We will decide the transplanting location for rare type of plants based on a site-inspection.
7. Both the committee and the organizer will conduct a site-inspection between the end of March and beginning of April. Honda Motor made the following comment: “As a company, we would like to develop business while maintaining conscious towards environment and harmony with communities. Aligning with local governments, we want to facilitate natural environment conservation and reconstruction of waterfront environment such as biotope.

7 Publicizing Activities of the Review Committee

- The committee will launch a HP to communicate its activities to the public. We will see if we can create a link in the HM HP. Detail will follow.