

Minutes of a meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group held in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 7.00pm on Tuesday 3 December 2019.

**PRESENT** Crs FJT Gordon (Chair), SD Ferguson, RJ Keedwell (to 8.00pm), Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Mr B Culley (River Warden), Mr I Taylor (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club/Honorary Enforcement Officer), Mr R Anderson (Jet Boating New Zealand), Mr M Reid (Fish & Game), Mr P Horton (Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated), Mr M Lucas (Manawatu Marine Boating Club), Mr K Lane (Manawatu Estuary Trust).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Area Engineer	Mr P Joseph
Harbourmaster	Mr R Brannigan
Committee Secretary	Mrs JA Kennedy

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members and staff to introduce themselves.

#### **APOLOGIES**

**Moved** **F Gordon /Ferguson**

*That the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group receives an apology from Cr Keedwell for early departure from the meeting.*

**CARRIED**

#### **LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME (LMS) - RIVER MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

*Report No 19-186*

This item informed Members of Lower Manawatu Scheme management issues that might have an impact on the recreational use of the river over the period December 2019 to June 2020. Mr Joseph (Area Engineer) took Members through the report, provided further information where relevant, and responded to Members' questions. Mr Horton (Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated) commented on the eel viewing platform to be constructed at the Tiritea Stream and Manawatu River confluence, and provided the meeting with a short presentation about the project.

**Moved** **Keedwell/Culley**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-186.*

**CARRIED**

## HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

*Report No 19-187*

This item provided Members with an update on matters relating to navigation and safety on the Manawatu River and its tributaries. Mr Brannigan (Harbourmaster) summarised the river event activities, elaborated further on the 'No Excuses' campaign as part of the Safer Boating Forum, and outlined the implementation of a 5 knot speed restriction and other safety measures associated with the construction of the new Manawatu River bridge. He noted that water activities through the gorge would be reinstated and that river users would be advised to exercise caution when using the area. Mr Brannigan clarified Members' questions.

**Moved**

**Anderson/Culley**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-187.*

**CARRIED**

## GENERAL BUSINESS

Members had the opportunity to discuss and provide their comments around the various activities undertaken on the Manawatu River and its tributaries. There was concern expressed about the decrease in birdlife numbers within the Manawatu Estuary due to the focus on water activities, the deteriorating quality of water associated with the discharge of pollution into the Manawatu River, and the condition of a boat ramp along the Rangitikei river, including an issue of rubbish dumping. The Chair summed up the discussion points and noted the importance of managing relationships between user groups. It was suggested that the issues raised be discussed further at the Manawatu River Users' meeting in June 2020. The Chair also noted that the bylaws affecting the use of the Manawatu River and tributaries would be reviewed in June 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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HARBOURMASTER

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CHAIR