

Minutes of a meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group held at Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 5 June 2019.

PRESENT

Crs LR Burnell, QSM (Chair), R Campbell (Horowhenua District Council), Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Mr D Scott (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club/Fish & Game Councillor Wellington), Mr B Culley (River Warden), Mr I Taylor (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club/Honorary Enforcement Officer), Mr J Henry (Ruahine White Water Club), Mr S Durkin (Wellington Rowing Association), Mr R Anderson (Jet Boating New Zealand), Mr B Sprozen (Manawatu Power Boat Club), Mr D Collin (Manawatu Marine Boating Club), and Mrs C Burnell.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced a new attendee, Mr Don Scott. New attendees at the meeting, Mr Sean Durkin and Mr John Henry, introduced themselves to Members.

APOLOGIES

Moved **Burnell/Campbell**

That an apology be received from Cr Mason (Horowhenua District Council).

CARRIED

Following the meeting, an apology was received from Mr Kelvin Lane (Manawatu Estuary Trust).

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved **Campbell/Burnell**

That the Committee:

confirms *the minutes of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group meeting held on 4 December 2018 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 18 December 2019.*

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME (LMS) - RIVER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Report No 19-57

This item informed Members of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group of Lower Manawatu Scheme management issues that may have some impact on the recreational use of the river over the period June 2019 to December 2019. Mr Joseph (Area Engineer Central) summarised the information in the report. He noted the failed attempt to remove railway irons from the river training works adjacent to Hault's Yard on the Manawatu River, commented on the official ceremony to be held on Friday 7 June 2019 to open the new pedestrian bridge over the Manawatu River in Palmerston North, and responded to Members' questions.

Moved **Burnell/Campbell**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-57.

CARRIED

HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

Report No 19-58

This report provided Members with an update on matters relating to navigation and safety on the Manawatu River and its tributaries. Mr Brannigan (Harbourmaster) took Members through the river events outlined in paragraph 7 and highlighted activities in relation to a Catamaran named 'The Beast' which was assembled and fitted out at Foxton Beach, prior to being launched in early March. He outlined the measures undertaken over the past summer periods to monitor recreational activities at the Manawatu Estuary and Whirokino and the ongoing education to encourage responsible use of the waterways. Mr Brannigan updated Members on the safety measures undertaken throughout the construction period for the new Manawatu River Bridge build, and advised that the closure of the Manawatu Gorge to on-water activities would be considered once the contents of a GNS Science report, due for completion on 30 June 2019, had been completed.

Members discussed how the advertising campaign for the promotion of water safety in the Manawatu-Whanganui region could be improved, highlighted difficulties with navigating the Horizons Regional Council website, and commented on the possibility of keeping the old Manawatu River bridge south of Foxton to be used as a cycleway/pedestrian walkway. Mr Joseph noted that repair costs and ongoing maintenance costs were prohibitive.

Mr Durkin, Wellington Rowing Association commented on the attraction for Wellington rowers to travel to Whirokino for flat water rowing. Mr Sprozen, Manawatu Power Boat Club (MPBC) outlined MPBC's intention to hold future events on the River and commented on the possibilities for enhancing the boating launch area at Whirokino.

Moved **Burnell/Campbell**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-58.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Don Scott (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club/Fish & Game Councillor Wellington) commented on the concerns raised by a number of anglers who had approached the Wellington Fish & Game Council about the declining catch of fish numbers in the Manawatu River system. The anglers were concerned about their sport and the fact that angling prospects were diminishing. Mr Scott believed the problem lay with the spawning areas and explained why. He advocated for spawning research to be undertaken to assess the extent of spawning by adult trout. He also supported cooperation between Horizons Regional Council scientists and Fish & Game. Mr Brannigan (Harbourmaster) advised Mr Scott that the best forum to address his concerns would be Horizons Regional Council Environment Committee. Mr Scott was given details of when the next Environment Committee would be held, and the process to apply for a public forum.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Confirmed

HARBOURMASTER

CHAIR