

Minutes of the sixteenth meeting of the tenth triennium of the Catchment Operations Committee held at 9.00am on Tuesday 11 June 2019, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs DB Cotton (Chair), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell QSM, EB Gordon JP (ex officio) (to 10.21am and from 12.05pm), RJ Keedwell (to 10.21am and from 11.56am), GM McKellar (from 9.24am), JM Naylor, NJ Patrick, PW Rieger QSO JP, BE Rollinson, CI Sheldon, and WK Te Awe Awe.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Chief Executive Mr M McCartney  
Committee Secretary Mrs KA Tongs/Mrs JA Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** At various times during the meeting:  
Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Information), Mr J Bell (Manager Investigations & Design), Mr G Cooper (Manager Land & Partnerships), Mr C Veale (Programme Coordinator), Mr M Todd (Environmental Programme Coordinator), Mr P Joseph (Area Engineer), Mr I Lowe (Manager Emergency Management Office), Mr R Brannigan (Senior Emergency Management Coordinator), Ms C Kitson (Project Engineer), Ms S Boyte (Scientist - Land), Ms E Whale (River Management Analyst), Ms S Dellow & Mr C Worts (GNS Science staff), Dr S Vale (Geomorphologist from Manaaki Whenua), Ms C Morrison (Manager Media & Communications).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cr Te Awe Awe to say a Karakia.

#### **APOLOGIES**

It was noted that Crs Gordon and Keedwell, plus the Chief Executive, would be leaving the meeting from approximately 10.30am – 12.00pm to attend other Council business – National Land Transport Plan Roadshow.

An apology for lateness was received from Cr McKellar.

#### **PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS**

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

#### **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.



## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE FUNDING**

*Report No 19-94*

This item updated the Committee on changes to the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) funding over the next four financial years as a result of the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) application and subsequent contract negotiations. The report also overviewed some changes to the SLUI programme as part of the new HCEF contract and in response to increasing interest in afforestation in the Region. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) introduced the item, explained the background to the funding and took Members through each of the recommendations. After consideration of the recommendations by Members, Cr Barrow proposed a new recommendation e. Members discussed the proposed recommendation, provided their views and sought clarification.

*This item was adjourned at 10.22am.*

*Crs Gordon & Keedwell left the meeting at 10.22am.*

## **PRESENTATION: MANAWATU GORGE LANDSLIDE DAM ASSESSMENT**

*Report No 19-90*

Ms Sally Dellow and Mr Chris Worts from GNS Science made a presentation on the methodologies and techniques employed with the assessment and the conclusions drawn from assessing the potential for landslide dams in the Manawatu Gorge, and answered Members' questions.

**COP 19-115      Moved                                      Sheldon/Burnell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in the presentation from GNS Science.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 10.50am.*

*The meeting reconvened at 11.03am.*

## **HILL COUNTRY EROSION AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT IN THE MANAWATU WHANGANUI REGION**

*Report No 19-94*

This report updated on the issue of sedimentation of rivers in the Manawātū-Whanganui region, and included an overview of the various programmes to manage that, including hill country erosion management, science and monitoring and linking the work in the catchment with outcomes in the river for water quality and flood protection. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) introduced the item and highlighted tables 1, 6 and 7 which depicted percentages of highly erodible land in our region. Ms Boyte (Scientist - Land) mentioned the impact of climate change on sediment loads and the current studies on sediment and erosion control. Dr Simon Vale (Geomorphologist from Manaaki Whenua) gave a presentation on the programme overview and structure of Smarter Targeting of Erosion Control (STEC) and answered Member's questions.

**COP 19-116      Moved                                      Sheldon/Burnell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-94 and Annex.*

**CARRIED**

## **MANAWATU & OROUA GRAVEL RESOURCE STUDIES**

*Report No 19-89*

Ms Whale (River Management Analyst) gave a presentation to Members about the findings of an updated assessment of the gravel resource in the lower reach (downstream of the Gorge) of the Manawatu River.

*Cr Keedwell rejoined the meeting at 11.56am.*

Ms Whale highlighted findings with regard to the gravel reach and silt phase, gravel extraction and the One Plan reaches, and Members' questions were answered.

*Cr Gordon rejoined the meeting at 12.05pm.*

**COP 19-117      Moved                                      Naylor/Te Awe Awe**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-89.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm.*

*The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm.*

## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE FUNDING (Continued)**

*Report No 19-94*

Cr Patrick proposed a new recommendation, f. and spoke in support of it. Cr Barrow amended the wording to his previously proposed recommendation e. Discussion ensued with Members having the opportunity to express their views around the proposed recommendations and seek clarification. Dr Roygard explained any implications/consequences associated with recommendation e. and explained the principles associated with recommendation d.i. and d.ii. Cr McKellar foreshadowed an amendment to the wording of proposed recommendation e. in the event that it failed.

The Chair separated out the recommendations with a division called for recommendation e.

**COP 19-118      Moved                                      Barrow/Te Awe Awe**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-94.*
- b. endorses the approach of providing Sustainable Land Use Initiative assistance (mapping and funding) to farms with Sustainable Land Use Initiative Whole Farm Plans, Sustainable Land Use Initiative Whole Farm Maps, Sustainable Land Use Initiative Paddock Maps, and Whanganui Catchment Strategy Plans.*
- c. endorses changes to the Sustainable Land Use Initiative programme as a result of the new Hill Country Erosion Fund funding contract as outlined in paragraph 7.5 and 8.21,*

- d. *endorses the changes to Sustainable Land Use Initiative grant funding as outlined below:*
  - i. *encourage and support landowners to seek funding support for hill country erosion works through the 1 billion trees programme;*
  - ii. *for radiata afforestation grants remaining within the Sustainable Land Use Initiative apply the approach in paragraph 8.12.*

**CARRIED**

- e. *strongly discourages funding to those properties that do not enable the continuance of pastoral farming on land not considered top, or high priority land under the Sustainable Land Use Initiative programme.*

*Against: Crs Keedwell, Naylor, Patrick, Cotton*

*For: Crs Barrow, Burnell, Gordon, McKellar, Rieger, Rollinson, Sheldon, Te Awe Awe*

**CARRIED**

- f. *directs the Chief Executive to support the Chair to write a letter to the Minister and Chief Executive of Ministry of Primary Industries to seek analysis and action on unintended consequences including environmental risks and socio-economic damage to rural communities of some elements of the One Billion trees programme, and to advocate for stronger alignment with the 'right tree, right place' approach to implementation*

**CARRIED**

## **RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT**

*Report No 19-86*

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the period 9 April to 11 June 2019. Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) took Members through the report, provided updates on various activities, and responded to Members' questions of clarification. A series of photographs were shown in support of several of the activities.

**COP 19-119      Moved                                      Burnell/Patrick**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 19-86.*

**CARRIED**

## **FISH PASSAGE UPDATE**

*Report No 19-87*

This item updated Committee Members on progress with improving native fish species populations in scheme drains. Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) introduced the item and outlined the ongoing work to identify potential solutions and costs, and reported on achievements and remedial options available. He and Mr Foxall (Area Engineer Southern) responded to Members' questions, and there was comment around the need for future funding.

**COP 19-120      Moved                                      Barrow/Patrick**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-87 and Annexes.

**CARRIED**

**RURAL UPGRADE PROJECT UPDATE (OMS 15 36)**

*Report No 19-88*

This item updated Members on progress with implementing the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Project (RUP). Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) introduced the report and highlighted a map showing progress on the project. Mr Strong commented on achievements to date, explained the final packages of work to deliver in the 2019-20 construction season, and highlighted some of the primary delivery risks and mitigation strategies.

**COP 19-121      Moved                                      Naylor/Keedwell**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-88; and
- b. notes progress with implementing the Lower Manawatu Scheme Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Project.

**CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 2.22pm.

Confirmed

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
GROUP MANAGER RIVER MANAGEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND PARTNERSHIP