

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee (live streamed) held at 10.00am on Tuesday 10 March 2020, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs RJ Keedwell (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke, DB Cotton (via audio visual link), SD Ferguson, FJT Gordon (from 10am-1pm and 1.09pm – 1.55pm), WM Kirton, JM Naylor (via audio visual link), NJ Patrick, WK Te Awe Awe (from 10am-1pm and 1.09pm – 1.55pm), and GJ Turkington.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager
Corporate and Governance Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary Mrs KA Tongs

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:

Dr N Peet (Group Manager Strategy & Regulation), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr D Neal (Business Services Manager), Mr T Bowen (Principal Advisor), Mrs R Tayler (Manager Policy & Strategy), Mr R Smillie (Biodiversity, Biosecurity & Partnerships Manager), Mr C Davey (Pest Plant Coordinator), Ms C Moll (Policy Analyst – Climate Change), Ms C Morrison (Media & Communications Manager), members of the public, Dr J Procter, Ms A Hunt, Mr C Rudd, and a member of the press.

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

APOLOGIES

SP 20-16 *Moved* **Turkington/Te Awe Awe**
That an apology be received from Cr B Gordon.
CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

The Chair approved Deputations for Item 7 on Lake Horowhenua from Dr Jonathon Procter, Ms Anne Hunt and Mr Charles Rudd.

Dr Procter introduced himself, noted his role as Trustee Elect and Advisory Trustee of Lake Horowhenua, and gave his views in support of the weed harvester operating on Lake Horowhenua.

Ms Hunt presented her concerns and urged Council to cease pursuing weed harvesting as a mechanism for water quality improvement in Lake Horowhenua.

Mr Rudd outlined concerns about the possibility of Council recommending the commencement of the weed harvesting of Lake Horowhenua and distributed supporting information to highlight his concerns.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Turkington declared a possible conflict of interest in regard to his association with forestry work for Hokio Trust.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SP 20-17 **Moved** **Ferguson/Patrick**

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 11 February 2020 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 25 February 2020.

CARRIED

LAKE HOROWHENUA UPDATE

Report No 20-30

This item updated Council on progress in regard to the Lake Horowhenua Accord to restore Lake Horowhenua. The item focused primarily on the establishment and operation of a weed harvesting operation on Lake Horowhenua and sought the new Councils' decision on the pathway forward. Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnership) and Mr Brown (Freshwater and Partnerships Manager) gave a presentation to Members which included an overview on the history of restoration of Lake Horowhenua, the results of two lake restoration options reports from NIWA (2011 and 2012), and Horizons' requirements to maintain and improve water quality via National Legislation (RMA and NPS-FM). They also gave an overview of fish population in the Lake, the issue of sediment in the lake, and the current in-lake weeds and those that are located nearby.

This item was suspended to enable the Committee to put a recommendation to temporarily suspend Standing Order 4.2.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 4.2

SP 20-18 **Moved** **Keedwell/Ferguson**

That the Committee suspends Standing Order 4.2 in order that the meeting can continue to sit beyond the two hour limit, without a ten minute break

CARRIED

LAKE HOROWHENUA UPDATE (Continued)*Report No 20-30*

In expressing his views on the likelihood of Horizons being able to use the weed harvester on Lake Horowhenua in 2021, Cr Cotton said he would personally donate \$5000 to the Lake Accord if the harvester was in operation in 2021 on Lake Horowhenua. Following discussions with Members on a pathway forward for the restoration of Lake Horowhenua, the Chair mentioned that recommendation b.i. would no longer be an option due to no tenders being received for the building of a boat ramp to enable lake weed harvesting at Lake Horowhenua. Members provided their views on the recommendations and ultimately agreed on b.ii. as a way forward. Therefore, b.i and b.iii were deleted. A division was called for recommendation b.ii.

SP 20-19**Moved****Patrick/Clarke***That the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-30 and Annexes.*
- b. *directs the Chief Executive to:*
 - ii. *delay weed harvesting until spring 2021 and complete the construction of the associated infrastructure in 2020 or 2021, including approving the associated additional capex expenditure for the project and any action necessary to maintain permissions relating to the works, and include the capital costs in the Annual Plan as appropriate*
- c. *directs the Chief Executive to notify the Lake Accord Partners, the Ministry for the Environment and the community of this decision.*

For b.ii.*Crs Benbow, Clarke, Ferguson, F Gordon, Naylor, Kirton, Patrick, Te Awe Awe, Keedwell***Against b.ii.***Crs Cotton, Turkington***CARRIED***The meeting adjourned at 12.19pm.**The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm.***QUARTERLY UPDATE: CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY PROGRAMME***Report No 20-31*

This report provided Council with an overview of activities being undertaken on Climate Change across Government. This quarter the focus was largely on the implications for Council of the promulgation of the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 (the Zero Carbon Act). Ms Moll (Policy Analyst – Climate Change) presented the item and together with Ms Taylor (Manager Policy & Strategy) and Mr Bowen (Principal Advisor), answered Members' questions.

Cr F Gordon and Te Awe Awe rejoined the meeting at 1.09pm.

SP 20-20 **Moved** **Patrick/Turkington**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-31.*
- b. *notes that Horizons staff will continue to seek clarity from the Ministry for the Environment on the role of regional councils under the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.*

CARRIED

OLD MAN'S BEARD MANAGEMENT IN THE HORIZONS REGION

Report No 20-32

This report was introduced by Mr Davey (Pest Plant Coordinator) and it reviewed the current programme on Old Man's Beard (OMB), control, provided an assessment of options for its future management within Horizons' region and sought Councillors guidance on next steps for this programme. Mr Davey gave a presentation which highlighted the extent of OMB in the region's habitat, its impact on biodiversity, forestry and farm land, and OMB's management zones and Biosecurity plant control site distribution. Following questions and discussion with Members, Cr Ferguson suggested a new recommendation c.

SP 20-21 **Moved** **Ferguson/Clarke**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. *receives the information contained in Report No. 20-32.*
- b. *notes the projected outcomes from the current control programme in relation to regional pest management plan and biodiversity protection.*
- c. *directs the Chief Executive to prepare a high level approach and budget estimate for the eradication and continued exclusion of Old Man's Beard from the Horizons region, for consideration during the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan process.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 1.55pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR