



Minutes of the fifteenth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.03am on Wednesday 9 June 2010.

**PRESENT** Crs MC Guy (Chairman), DB Meads, GP Murfitt MNZM JP (to 12.00pm), PW Rieger.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Crs Bailey, Chettleburgh, Plowman  
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook  
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell  
Environmental Management (to 10.12pm and from 12.35pm to 12.57pm)  
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design, from 11.00am to 12.00pm), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager Land to 10.12am and from 12.35pm to 12.57pm), Mr W Wheeler (Design Engineer, from 11.00am to 12.00pm), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer, from 1.08pm), Mr J Philpott (Consultant, from 1.04pm to 1.20pm), Joel Perry, Andrew Gray, Mike Pritchard, William McKay and Louise McCormack (Sustainable Land Use Initiative students, to 10.12am).

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Crs Murfitt (leaving at lunch time), Gordon (Leave of Absence), and Walker (unwell).

An apology was noted from Cr White (One Plan Deliberations).

**RD 10-122** *Moved* *Rieger/Murfitt*

*that apologies be accepted from Crs Murfitt (leaving at lunch time), Gordon (Leave of Absence), and Walker (unwell).*

**CARRIED**

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items advised.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no Members' conflict of interest issues.

#### **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Mr Cooper, Environmental Manager Land introduced five recipients of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative Scholarship to the Committee. Not all recipients were present due to Massey exams. Those students present were: Joel Perry, Andrew Gray, Mike Pritchard, William McKay and Louise McCormack. The students introduced themselves and outlined some of their studies to Members.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**RD 10-123**

**Moved**

**Rieger/Meads**

*that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 12 April 2010, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

## RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

*Report No. 10-88*

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the two-month period 1 April 2010 to 31 May 2010.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and was available to answer questions of clarification on points of interest. He outlined Council's position around progress on the Taonui Basin consent and advised that the Hearing Commissioners had accepted a formal request for the hearing to be adjourned for a period of around 18 months. The bridge replacement contract would be awarded early in the financial year but the full benefit of that work would not be achieved until the consent application was addressed and stopbanks linking with the bridge could be built to full height. In the interim the community would be provided with a significantly improved, rather than ideal, standard of flood protection.

Cr Chettleburgh expressed concern at the suggested name of Okatia, to be considered as a name for the recreational access facility on the Manawatu River in the vicinity of the Fitzherbert Avenue bridge. He believed that the four city representatives had previously recommended the names; Pauline Keys and Kitty Siefert, for the naming of that facility. Accordingly, after further discussion, it was agreed that the four city representatives meet as soon as possible to further consider and agree on the naming of the facility.

**RD 10-124**

**Moved**

**Meads/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **agrees** *that the four Palmerston North constituency Councillors meet as soon as possible to further consider the naming of the new steps and associated amenity enhancement elements on the Manawatu River in the vicinity of the Fitzherbert Avenue bridge.*

**CARRIED**

Members also discussed progress around Kimberley Reserve; the renewal of a consent for the opening of the Waikawa River mouth and the request from Horowhenua District Council to transfer that consent to Horizons Regional Council; and clarification around an agreement that the Reid's Line floodgate on the Makino Stream would be operated to prevent overflows from the Makino Stream through Feilding, irrespective of the source of water in the stream.

Clarification was sought around progress on the Burkes Pump options. The GMO advised that two possible options had been identified at a recent meeting held with ratepayers concerned. Details of the two options, including an independent estimate on costings would be presented to ratepayers by mail in two to three weeks time, asking them to identify their preferred option.

There were further questions of clarification asked around:

- slow progress on the reconstruction work on State Highway 3 (Napier Road);
- progress around the compulsory land acquisition under the Public Works Act (1981) with respect to one remaining affected party adjoining Rongotea Road at Kopane;

- the considerable time spent by Horizons in providing advice in respect to a number of drainage issues, and where that responsibility should ultimately lie;
- problems in obtaining support from the Hokio A Trust with respect to proposed channel clearance work on the Hokio Stream.

**RD 10-125**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Meads**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 10-88; and*
- acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.*

**CARRIED**

#### **RANGITIKEI RIVER SCHEME – REVIEW NO. 4**

*Report No. 10-87*

This item informed Members of the findings of a review of the channel management/erosion control components of the Rangitikei River Scheme.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) and Mr Blackwood, Manager-Investigations and Design introduced the item and provided clarification as required.

Mr Blackwood responded to comments around continued erosion in the degradation reach of the channel and outlined that steps would need to be taken to implement a phasing-in of extraction restrictions over a maximum of a three-year period. He clarified Members' questions around locations in the Scheme where gravel extraction must be curtailed to the absolute minimum.

Cr Meads commented on the positive level of cooperation shown between all parties concerned and congratulated Mr Cook, Mr Blackwood, and the Catchment Operations team, for the way the Review had developed so far.

**RD 10-126**

**Moved**

**Meads/Murfitt**

- receives** the information contained in Report No 10-87 and Annex;*
- adopts** the Rangitikei River Scheme Review No. 4 Final Draft Report for the purpose of stakeholder consultation;*
- endorses** the proposed consultation programme; and*
- notes** the intention to include a final review proposal in the 2011-12 Draft Annual Plan.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.00pm*

*The meeting reconvened at 12.35pm*

## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)**

*Report No. 10-83*

This report updated Members on progress on Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management updated the Committee on the positive outcome of the recent Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS). He confirmed that approval had been received to fund 200 ha from the public pool to the amount of \$2,000 per ha for the completion of the Seddon, Steele and Stellingwerf joint venture forestry projects. This figure was \$40,000 short of what was originally budgeted for and Mr Mitchell said the shortfall would be funded out of operating expenses.

The original AGS application for \$2,200 was approved and recommended by Audit, Risk Investment Committee, followed with confirmation by Council. There was discussion around the process for now accepting the offer and to which forum it should be recorded under. Ultimately there was agreement that an action point be taken to instruct the Chief Executive to have a review of the process for recording, monitoring, and reporting on joint venture forestry ventures funded as part of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative.

Accordingly, recommendation (b) was included to accept the offer from the AGS.

**RD 10-127**

**Moved**

**Meads/Rieger**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-83 and Annex;
- b. **accepts** the offer from the Afforestation Grant Scheme public pool of \$2000 per ha for the completion of the Seddon, Steele and Stellingwerf joint venture forestry projects.

**CARRIED**

## **ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS**

*Report No. 10-84*

This item informed the Committee of progress in addressing the significant issues raised at annual meetings for river and drainage schemes that were held during April and May 2010.

The Group Manager Operations introduced the report and was available to answer questions of clarification.

**RD 10-128**

**Moved**

**Meads/Guy**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-84 and Annex.

**CARRIED**

## **MANGATAINOKA SCHEME DRAFT RATING REVIEW REPORT**

*Report No. 10-86*

This item informed the Committee of the findings of a review of the Mangatainoka Scheme targeted rating system; recommended changes to the system; and sought Council's approval of a Draft Rating Proposal for the purpose of stakeholder consultation.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the item and advised that the Review was prepared by Mr Philpott, CPG New Zealand Limited, who was available to assist in responding to questions of clarification.

Cr Meads commented on the Review and believed Mr Philpott had done an excellent job in presenting his report which outlined the proposed key changes for the Mangatainoka Scheme rating system. He also commented on the positive input provided by the Scheme Liaison Committee.

The GMO commented on the proposed consultation programme as presented in the item. Provided the Committee approved the draft proposal, it was anticipated that the process would be finalised with approval for inclusion in the Draft Annual Plan within the current triennium.

**RD 10-129**

**Moved**

**Meads/Guy**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No 10-86 and Annex;
- b. **approves** the Mangatainoka Scheme Draft Rating Proposal for the purpose of stakeholder consultation;
- c. **endorses** the proposed consultation/submissions/hearing programme; and
- d. **notes** the intention to include a final rating proposal in the 2011-12 Draft Annual Plan.

**CARRIED**

## **TAWATAIA-MANGAONE SCHEME AUDIT REPORT**

*Report No. 10-85*

This item informed the Committee of the findings of an audit of the Tawataia-Mangaone Scheme, and recommended actions arising from the audit.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) commented on the audit report and identified, as a key issue, the provision of appropriate spillway capacity for the Tawataia dam. In the event that the recently assigned provisional Medium Potential Impact Classification (PIC) in terms of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2008 was upheld, the matter would certainly need to be addressed. Even if a Low PIC was ultimately assigned, the present risk of the dam overtopping and potentially failing, would need to be significantly reduced.

Members asked questions of clarification and accordingly agreed with the recommendations in the Audit Report, in particular around the Tawataia Dam; that a detailed investigation of the hydraulics of the Tawataia Dam be undertaken to determine upgrade requirements for the dam spillway.

**RD 10-130**

**Moved**

**Guy/Rieger**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No 10-85 and Annex;
- b. **notes** the actions proposed in response to recommendations contained in the Audit Report.

**CARRIED**

## LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH PROJECT UPDATE ON DESIGN AND CONSENT ISSUES

*Report No. 10-89*

This item updated the Committee and Council about work done to date in assessing adverse effects in respect of proposed City Reach flood protection upgrade works, and the additional investigations that were required before consent applications could be lodged.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) advised that it was important for agreement to be reached in respect of measures to mitigate or offset as many identified effects as possible, before lodging a consent application by 20 August 2010.

Mr Doull, Senior Design Engineer explained how the “Before Works” scenario had now changed. Essentially, it was established that in a 500-year flood event the existing city stopbanks would not fail. Rather, it was assumed that water would flow over the top of some stopbanks, but they would not fail. Accordingly, the adverse effects associated with raising those stopbanks have now been reduced from those predicted earlier.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification around the predicted level of adverse effects on the various floodplain compartments, and the level of consultation to be undertaken with ratepayers concerned.

Mr Doull was thanked for providing a well written and presented report.

**RD 10-131**

**Moved**

**Meads/Rieger**

- a. **receives** and notes the contents of Report No. 10-89;
- b. **notes** that consultation with parties potentially affected by the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Upgrade project works will commence immediately; and
- c. **notes** that a report on further investigations together with an update on consultation will be available for the August Committee meeting.

**CARRIED**

### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Plowman asked for an update on the proposed channel management works for the right hand bank of the Whanganui River at Kakahi. The Group Manager Operations anticipated that an application for a consent would be lodged over the next few months.

The meeting closed at 1.55pm

Confirmed

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GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

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CHAIRMAN