



Minutes of the sixteenth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held at the Marton Service Centre, Hammond Street, Marton, at 10.06am on Wednesday 11 August 2010.

**PRESENT** Crs DB Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, MC Guy, GP Murfitt MNZM JP, PW Rieger, RG Walker

**IN ATTENDANCE** Crs Bailey, Chettleburgh, Main, Plowman, White  
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook  
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design, from 11.00am to 11.40am), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer, from 11.00am to 11.40am), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager Land), Mr G Scott and two associates, (Kitchener Park, from 11.05am to 12.10am), Mr J Beard (Member of the public, from 11.20am to 12.10pm), and a Member of the Press (from 10.55am to 12.10pm).

#### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **PETITIONS / DEPUTATION**

The Chairman advised that Mr Gavin Scott would be making a deputation to the Committee at approximately 11.30am.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items advised.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no Members' conflict of interest issues.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RD 10-132** **Moved** **Meads/Guy**

*that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 9 June 2010, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

Cr Guy noted that at the conclusion of the meeting held on 9 June 2010, there was a site visit to Wanganui to view the upgrade works at Balgownie.

## **RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT**

*Report No. 10-118*

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

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) was pleased to present the report and was available to answer questions of clarification. Mention was made of the detailed schedule which identified 70 projects to be undertaken during 2010-11 and the GMO circulated the schedule for Members' information.

There was discussion around the issue of monitoring compliance with Council's stopbank grazing protocols and the importance of ensuring that all landowners were aware of them, in particular where there had been a change of land ownership. The GMO advised that the protocols were currently being updated prior to reprinting and that it would be timely to re-distribute a copy of the updated document to all affected land owners/occupiers.

Comment was made around proposed changes in gravel management in the Rangitikei Scheme and the GMO said he would be consulting with the affected gravel extractors to determine the most practicable means of achieving the desired reduction in extraction volumes.

In response to comments regarding the Makino Stream stopbank upgrade and the need for the acquisition of approximately 675 m<sup>2</sup> of land from a neighbouring commercial landowner between Warwick and Manchester Streets in Feilding, the GMO clarified that there was no cost for the land itself; however the Lower Manawatu Scheme would meet the legal costs involved. An agreement had been reached whereby Manawatu District Council would assume ownership of the land as an extension to an adjoining recreational reserve.

The GMO explained the situation around the complex issues identified with providing flood protection to the Ashhurst township. As the revised estimate for the works required was significantly higher than first estimated as the basis for the establishment of a new rating system, alternative flood protection options would be considered by staff, and ultimately discussed with ratepayers.

There was discussion around a problem associated with motorcycles causing damage to the recently constructed stopbanks at Balgownie, in particular around the Sailing Club area. The GMO was optimistic that the activity would decrease once works were completed, fencing was erected and the community appreciated the flood protection benefits and amenity enhancement arising from the project.

There was discussion around how to avoid any future contamination of soil arising from inadvertent application of herbicide on properties having organic accreditation, and the cost implications of increased demands for mechanical as opposed to chemical drain maintenance.

The GMO circulated several documents for Members' information: recently completed asset management maps for the Lower Manawatu Scheme; a photograph showing interference to a Mangaone Stream stopbank by carving out a terraced garden; a copy of the Mangatainoka Scheme July Newsletter; and a copy of the final Operations report for the 33 Schemes for the 2008-09 year.

There was considerable discussion around the ongoing interference to stopbanks and the serious damage that could be caused. A recent attempt by a resident to carve out a terraced garden on a stopbank in the vicinity of the Mangaone Stream was highlighted as an example. The GMO was requested to make a media release that clearly highlighted the stupidity of that type of interference and the resulting risk to the community. Accordingly recommendation (c) was included.

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 10-118; and
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection; and
- c. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to release the photograph of the Mangaone Stream stopbank damage with a strong statement about the resulting potentially serious risk to the community.

**CARRIED**

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

*Report No. 10-120*

This report updated the Committee and Council about Resource Management Act (RMA) consent requirements for the Palmerston North City Reach Project, work done to date in assessing adverse effects, and some additional investigative work that was required before consent applications could be lodged.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the item outlining the revised programme of works to allow Palmerston North's flood protection to be upgraded. The summary position included in the report would form the basis of the consent application which was being prepared for lodgement by the end of August 2010.

There was considerable discussion around whether there was a need for the consent to be notified. Cr White believed there was an issue around a local authority being the applicant and effectively the decision-maker, and therefore indicated there was a strong argument for notification of the consent. The GMO noted that the matter of notification was one for the Consents Manager, not the applicant. However he agreed to advise the Group Manager – Planning and Regulatory, of the matters raised.

There was discussion around the terminology used in the report of "less than minor" and Mr Blackwood, Manager Investigations and Design clarified that it was a technical recommendation to indicate the degree of effect.

Members considered the report page by page and sought clarification on various points.

In summary, it was felt that caution was required in respect of any offers of mitigation or compensation, where effects of proposed upgrading works were in fact extremely minor, relative to the extensive flooding that would already be occurring in the large and rare events being considered.

**RD 10-134**

**Moved**

**Guy/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives and notes** the contents of Report No. 10-120;
- b. **notes** that consultation with parties potentially affected by the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Upgrade Project works is well advanced and should be concluded in the near future; and
- c. **notes** that it is expected that the City Reach upgrade project consent application will be lodged on 19 August 2010.

**CARRIED**

#### **DEPUTATION: MR GAVIN SCOTT – KITCHENER PARK**

Mr Scott gave a presentation outlining the problems of flooding, erosion and associated damage to the native forest at Kitchener Park. He asked for some urgency around developing a long-term plan for preventing repeated damage of the reserve.

Members discussed the matters raised and asked questions of clarification. There was discussion around options going forward and what assistance, if any, could be provided firstly to investigate and scope the issue and secondly to implement mitigation works. The GMO explained the difficulty with resourcing an investigation, given other priorities, however he agreed to consider options and report back to the Committee.

#### **TE KAWAU DRAINAGE SCHEME: CULVERT INSPECTION**

*Report No. 10-117*

This item informed the Committee of the outcome of a recent programme of closed circuit television (CCTV) inspections of several flood-gated culverts under stopbanks within the Te Kawau Drainage Scheme.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) referred to a correction in paragraph 14: the cost of \$4,000 per inspection should read \$400.

**RD 10-135**

**Moved**

**Guy/Meads**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No 10-117.

**CARRIED**

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

*Report No. 10-119*

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

Mr Cooper, Environmental Manager Land introduced the report and was available to answer questions of clarification. He said that despite the lower number of plans being completed, the Whole Farm Plans were larger and therefore the total area mapped was up on past years. Members discussed the successful application for funding from the Hill Country Erosion Fund and asked for clarification around how the funds would be distributed.

**RD 10-136**

**Moved**

**Guy/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-119.

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations updated Members on the results of a questionnaire on the Burkes Pumpstation Options.

The meeting closed at 12.32pm.

Confirmed

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GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

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CHAIRMAN (REGIONAL COUNCIL)