



Minutes of the first meeting, eighth triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.04am on Wednesday 10 November 2010.

PRESENT Crs MC Guy (Chairman), JJ Barrow (Chair Elect), LR Burnell, EB Gordon, PW Rieger, RG Walker JP

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Operations Mr AD Cook
Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Crs VJF Chettleburgh, GM McKellar, MW Plowman, CI Sheldon, and J White, Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager Land), Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations & Design), Mr W Wheeler (Design Engineer), Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager), Ms L Jackson (Communications), Mr J Greer (Ministry for Agriculture & Forestry), and a member of the Press (Manawatu Evening Standard).

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Greer, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, and asked that Item 11 on the agenda, Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) be considered at the beginning of the meeting.

APOLOGIES

COP 10-01 *Moved* *Walker/Burnell*

that an apology be noted from Cr Cox.

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS There were no late items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest advised.

PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions / deputations advised.

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 10-169

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

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) referred Members to the tables summarising Whole Farm Plan (WFP) development, implementation, and works completed for the financial year. The GMEM introduced Mr Greer, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), who gave a brief outline of the role that MAF played in regard to the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF), and stated that the HCEF was established to increase the rate of protection for seriously eroded land.

The GMEM explained to Members the concept around 'managed retirement' of land and possible mechanisms that could be used to fund the 'managed retirement' works, eg. the introduction of a lease agreement for the short-term loss of income on any managed retirement of land. When asked what MAF'S views were around managed retirement of land, Mr Greer responded that MAF was investigating options around funding grant works on land that was being developed to improve production, rather than provide funds for lease payments on retired land.

Members considered the report and asked for further clarification around managed retirement of land, and achievement of performance targets relating to implementation of WFPs. There was discussion around the percentage of soil sediment entering rivers and streams from various slopes of land with a suggestion made to perhaps also target lower land slopes under SLUI. The Chairman suggested that a workshop to discuss Members comments around SLUI would be useful.

COP 10-02

Moved

Guy/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-169.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11.13am

The meeting reconvened at 11.20am

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 10-176

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the three month period 1 August 2010 to 31 October 2010.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) referred to the content of the report and said he had included more background material in order to give new councillors a better understanding of the activities undertaken. New members were invited to ask for clarification on points of interest if required. A series of photographs were shown to Members in support of items in the report.

The GMO reported on the considerable amount of damage caused to river banks and drainage channels by recent periods of high rainfall. He advised that the insurance claim process was underway and provided a verbal update on that. The GMO provided clarification around the operating parameters and general information about how the flood control system at Makino stream had been operated during the recent flood events.

Members considered the information and noted that a recently circulated brochure should improve the community's understanding of operating parameters and moderate expectations.

The GMO outlined for the benefit of new Members the background to options and the consultation process involving all Manawatu Drainage Scheme ratepayers for providing improved drainage outlet from the Taonui Basin.

The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.02pm

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT (Continued)

During discussion on the proposed changes to Rangitikei River Scheme management, it was agreed that members of a Special Committee to hear submissions would comprise of Crs Gordon (Chair), Barrow, and Chettleburgh. A Hearing date would be confirmed in consultation with those members shortly.

Further discussion ensued with topics of interest around: timeframes to address flooding, erosion and associated damage to the native forest at Kitchener Park; the significant reinstatement work required at the bottom end of the Mateongaonga Stream; the proposal to draw on the emergency reserve fund held by the Mangatainoka Scheme, Upper Manawatu/Lower Mangahao Scheme, and South Eastern Ruahine Scheme to assist with damage reinstatement; and consent conditions relating to extraction of gravel from Kimberley Reserve on the Ohau River.

There was discussion around a request to give consideration to approval of additional funds for Environmental Grant works in recognition of the harsh weather conditions experienced recently. Demand for Environmental Grant assistance had been high and the GMO advised that it was not possible to approve all applications within the present budget provision. Ultimately, it was agreed to decline the request and recommendation (b) was amended accordingly.

COP 10-03

Moved

Walker/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 10-176;
- b. **declines** additional funds for Environmental Grant (Rivers) works in 2010-11;
- c. **nominates** members of a Special Committee, Crs Gordon (Chair), Barrow, and Chettleburgh, to hear submissions on proposed changes to Rangitikei River Scheme management; and
- d. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

CARRIED

FOXTON EAST DRAINAGE SCHEME – DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Report No. 10-170

The purpose of this report was to seek the Committee's approval for an increased level of maintenance works within the Foxton East Drainage Scheme and for resulting expenditure in excess of the approved Scheme budget.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) explained that the maintenance works were required in order to improve the standard of drainage channels and accordingly deliver a reasonable level of service to ratepayers. He clarified there would be a small impact on the general rate contribution to fund the proposed works.

COP 10-04

Moved

Rieger/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-170;
- b. **approves** a scheme expenditure of approximately \$12,000 in excess of approved budget;
- c. **notes** the proposed means of funding the additional work; and
- d. **notes** the impact on total rates and external borrowings.

CARRIED

KAHUTERAWA STREAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Report No. 10-172

The purpose of this item was to seek the Committee's approval, for the purpose of public consultation, of options for a managed approach to channel maintenance and improvements for the Kahuterawa Stream.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) pointed out that investigation work so far had been addressed out of the non-scheme investigations fund. Accordingly, if approval was given to proceed with the establishment of a new scheme, funding provision would be made through the 2011-12 Annual Plan.

Mr Wheeler, Design Engineer (DE) gave an overview of the key issues and proposed options for the Kahuterawa Stream.

Members discussed the report and consideration was given to the current tight fiscal conditions, and the long-term implications to the Operations Group workload. As a considerable amount of investigation work had already been undertaken, Members agreed to approve the process for consultation and accordingly allow the landowners and stakeholders concerned, the opportunity to comment on the findings of the report.

COP 10-05

Moved

Gordon/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-172;
- b. **determines** to promote the establishment of a new river management scheme at this time; and

- c. **approves** a process of consultation with landowners and stakeholders in relation to the findings in the report, and in particular the possible establishment of a scheme to manage channel improvements and ongoing channel maintenance along the lower Kahuterawa Stream.

CARRIED

ASHHURST STREAM SCHEME – FLOOD PROTECTION UPGRADE

Report No. 10-171

This report updated Members on issues concerning programmed flood protection upgrade works within Ashhurst Township.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and answered questions of clarification.

COP 10-06

Moved

Rieger/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-171;
- b. **endorses** the final proposal for providing improved flood protection for Ashhurst Township and the associated rating impacts;
- c. **endorses** the proposal to convene a meeting of Scheme ratepayers prior to commencing further works; and
- d. **provides** for the identified increase in capital works in the draft 2011-12 Annual Plan.

CARRIED

AKITIO AND HERBERTVILLE – COASTAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Report No. 10-174

This item informed Members of the findings of coastal hazard assessments for Akitio and Herbertville in the Tararua District.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and together with Mr Blackwood, Manager Investigations and Design answered questions of clarification. Discussion ensued around coastal erosion issues and what could be done to protect dwellings and infrastructure on existing and any new development in the area.

Councillor Burnell left the meeting at 3.14pm

COP 10-07

Moved

Guy/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-174 and Annex;

- b. **notes** the value of the report findings for planning purposes; and
- c. **authorises** the Group Manager Operations to jointly discuss with Tararua District Council the implications of the defined coastal hazard zones, and present this to representatives of the two communities of Akitio and Herbertville.

CARRIED

ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Report No. 10-176

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/May 2010.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of clarification.

COP 10-08 Moved

Walker/Barrow

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-175 and Annex A.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Plowman asked for an update on progress with obtaining resource consent for river management works at Kakahi. The GMO said it was a staff resource issue and anticipated that progress would be made before the end of the year.

In regard to progress with the Taringamotu Stream investigation, the GMO advised that the field investigation phase had been completed and a report including a proposal for consultation would be presented at the February 2011 Catchment Operations Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN