



Minutes of the fifth 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 10.02am on Tuesday 9 August 2011.

PRESENT Crs MC Guy (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell, GL Cox, EB Gordon (ex officio) (to 2.30pm), PW Rieger, RG Walker JP.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager Operations Mr AD Cook
Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh, CI Sheldon, MW Plowman, and JJ White.

At various times during the meeting:

Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager), Ms R Pinney (Group Secretary Operations), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager-Land), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer), Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations & Design), Mr J Bell (Design Engineer), Mr J Greer (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Sheldon declared a conflict of interest in regard to Item 9, Lower Manawatu Scheme-Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Proposal.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COP 11-40

Moved

Rieger/Walker

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 8 June 2011, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 11-134

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 June to 31 July 2011.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced a short video clip depicting a number of river and drainage activities.

The GMO provided clarification and answered Members' questions on items of interest contained in the report. A range of photographs and maps was used to depict various activities and identify location of works. There was full discussion and questions asked about the meeting held with Wanganui District Council staff on an inspection of erosion on the southern bank of the lower reach of the Wanganui River, and the associated deterioration of old erosion defences. The GMO provided some background information on the issue and displayed an aerial map of the lower reach of the Whanganui River detailing the vicinity of the erosion. Further clarification was provided about progress on the City Reach Project, the uncertainty around the level of insurance pay-out arising from the September 2010 flood event, and the frequency and standard of maintenance work on Bardell's Drain within the Matarawa Scheme.

COP 11-41

Moved

Walker/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. ***receives*** and acknowledges the information contained in *Report No. 11-134*;
- b. ***acknowledges*** that a *Schedule of Works Completed* is available for inspection.

CARRIED

SEPTEMBER 2010 FLOOD DAMAGE REINSTATEMENT UPDATE

Report No. 11-132

This report updated the Committee on progress with reinstatement work and associated funding matters with regard to flood damage suffered by Scheme assets following the widespread heavy rainfall event that occurred on 5-6 September 2010.

The Group Manager Operations introduced the report and clarified Members' questions.

COP 11-42

Moved

Rieger/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. ***receives*** the information contained in *Report No. 11-132*.

CARRIED

IHURAU SCHEME AUDIT

Report No. 11-133

This item reported the findings of the Ihuraua Scheme Audit and sought Council's approval for the release of the Audit for stakeholder consultation.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the item and provided a map outlining the location of the Scheme. The GMO was available to answer Members' questions. During discussion, a suggestion was made to review the frequency of audits of Schemes. Accordingly recommendation (d) was included.

COP 11-43

Moved

Rieger/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. ***receives and notes*** the contents of the Ihuraua Scheme Audit report;
- b. ***approves*** the report as the basis for consultation with Scheme ratepayers;
- c. ***approves*** the proposed consultation format; and
- d. ***instructs*** the Chief Executive to review the frequency of audits of Schemes and to report back to the Committee by December 2011.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – RURAL FLOOD PROTECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

Report No. 11-135

This item updated the Committee on progress with obtaining consents for proposed major Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) upgrade works on the Oroua River, with particular emphasis on the effects of the works on the Taonui Basin.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced a new staff member, Mr J Bell, Design Engineer.

The GMO briefed Members on the background to the upgrade works and expanded on the findings of Milestone No. 2 report. He identified the area on the map and showed the location of stopbanks, spillways, and areas of water storage and ponding.

Mr Doull, Senior Design Engineer, provided a powerpoint presentation to explain the findings of investigations and flood modelling work that were contained in a No. 2 Milestone Report. In particular he used a number of graphs to demonstrate the impact of proposed drainage improvement works and the operation of the proposed Burkes pump on extent and duration of ponding in the respective sub-ponding basins.

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

Mr Doull, Mr Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design), and the GMO clarified Members' questions about the adverse effects resulting from an increase in peak flood levels in the Oroua River, the expected frequency and timing of ponding events in the Taonui Basin, and the expected benefits from proposed drainage improvement works, and from the proposed pump installation at Burkes Drain gates.

The GMO briefed Members on an indicative timeline for the process ahead.

COP 11-44

Moved

Guy/Cox

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-135 and Annex;
- b. **notes** the steps yet to be taken in progressing towards the reconvening of the Taonui Basin consent hearing; and
- c. **endorses** the consultation programme.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 11-130

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

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) expanded on the tables summarising Whole Farm Plan (WFP) development, implementation, and works completed for the financial year. He explained that the final report for 2010-11, due to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) on 5 August, 2011, noted that SLUI had completed substantially on target and on budget.

Members considered the report and asked for further clarification around opportunities for landowners to obtain Carbon Credits for pre-1990 forestry plantings, and the preference by farmers to use poplar poles over pines.

The GMEM provided and expanded on the three maps outlining: SLUI Overview Plan Progress; SLUI Overview Target Farms and Priorities Map; and SLUI Overview Implementation Progress Map. He explained that although the number of mapped WFPs for the 2010-11 year was well down on the target by number of plans, it was well above the target of total area mapped. Members asked questions of clarification about implementation of WFPs in priority areas, and there was discussion around delivering on existing WFPs.

The GMEM introduced Mr Greer, MAF who commented on: the Progress of SLUI; MAF Structural Change and how it would impact on Horizons; the recent Farm Monitoring Round; and the Afforestation Grant Schemes Review.

Cr Gordon left the meeting at 2.30pm.

Mr Greer answered questions of clarification.

COP 11-45

Moved

Guy/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-130.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Plowman asked for an update on follow-up and maintenance work on the Pakihi Scheme. The Group Manager Operations undertook to let Cr Plowman know what the annual maintenance programme on the Pakihi Scheme had been.

The meeting closed at 2.41pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN