



Minutes of the third meeting, eighth triennium, of the Environment Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 10.01 am on Wednesday, 11 May 2011.

## **PRESENT**

Crs JJ White (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, GM McKellar, MW Plowman (to 4.10 pm), CI Sheldon, and EB Gordon (ex officio) (to 3.11 pm).

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Crs JJ Barrow, MC Guy, PW Rieger  
Chief Executive  
Committee Secretary

Mr M McCartney  
Mrs JA Kennedy

## **ALSO PRESENT** at various times during the meeting:

Mr R Munneke (Policy and Consents Manager), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mr A Beveridge (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science), Ms A Russell (Manager Compliance), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Mr B Martyn (Manager-Biosecurity), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist), Mr P Taylor (Plan Implementation Coordinator), Mr R Munneke (Manager Policy), Mr P Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner), Mr C Davey (Environmental Management Officer-Plants), Mrs R Mercer (Environmental Scientist-Water), Mr H Barnett (Environmental Programme Coordinator), Ms G McRae (Casual Committee Secretary), Mrs L McCurdy (Third Bearing), Mr H Waugh, Infrastructure Group Manager, and Mr P Asante, Wastes Manager, (Manawatu District Council), and a Member of the Press.

The Chair welcomed Ms G McRae (Casual Committee Secretary) and a reporter from the Manawatu Standard to the meeting.

## **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

## **LATE ITEMS**

The Chair advised there were no late items but referred to a request from Cr Barrow for information in regard to compliance of an effluent pond in Tararua. She said it would be dealt with later in the meeting.

## **MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Chair advised she was on the panel for the Waiouru Sewage Treatment plant hearing and declared a possible conflict of interest. Cr Guy declared a possible conflict of interest as he was a member of the panel for the Open Country Hearing in Wanganui and also a panel member for the DB Breweries Limited application for wastewater discharge. Cr Plowman declared a possible conflict of interest as a submitter to the Waiouru Sewage Treatment hearing.

The Chair advised that a presentation of the Dual Discharge Calculator would be presented after the lunch break. Staff members from Manawatu District Council would be attending.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**ENV 11-14**

**Moved**

**Plowman/Chettleburgh**

*that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 9 March 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record with an amendment to the spelling of Ms Masyk to read Ms Maseyk.*

**CARRIED**

Members provided comment on various points.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**

*Report No: 11-78*

The purpose of this item was to inform the Environment Committee of progress made towards outputs listed in the following activity areas of the 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan: Catchment management activity, Water quantity and quality management activity, Living heritage activity, Environmental reporting and education, Biosecurity activity. The report covered the period March 2011 to April 2011.

### **Catchment Management Activity**

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) and Dr Roygard (Manager Science) expanded on areas as required and clarified Members questions. During discussions about Progress Towards Targets, 'Operate nurseries to produce poles', a request was made for the wording to be changed so as to better reflect the final figure.

### **Water Quantity and Quality Management Activity**

The GMEM and Mr Taylor (Coordinator Plan Implementation) elaborated on the 50:50 cost share plan between Horizons and landowners for the Mangaroa Stream. Members' questions were clarified and an update provided by Dr Roygard (Manager Science) on the work around the Cyanobacteria monitoring programme.

### **Living Heritage Protection**

Members expressed continuing concern about the serious ongoing erosion issue at the bottom end of Totara Reserve. The Chief Executive clarified that the erosion risk was a threat to the road and not the Reserve itself. It was noted that the threatened road was Pohangina Valley 'East' Road, not 'West' as stated in the report. Concern was expressed about the future of Kitchener Park and a recommendation was proposed to raise the matter during submissions to the Manawatu District Council Draft Annual Plan. It was noted that Kitchener Park was the property of the Manawatu District Council and ultimately their responsibility.

**ENV 11-15**

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

*that the Council **raises** the issue of the future of Kitchener Park when submitting to the Manawatu District Council Draft Annual Plan.*

**CARRIED**

Members were provided with updates with regard to the Kia Wharite Project, mustelid and rat monitoring at Totara Reserve, and poisons used in the control of Peafowl.

### **Environmental Reporting and Education**

Dr Roygard clarified Members' questions in regard to the environmental monitoring programmes. A presentation detailing staff responses to the Old Man's Beard Review recommendations was provided by Ms Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist) and Mr C Davey (Environmental Management Officer-Plants).

*The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm  
The meeting reconvened at 12.40pm*

A short video providing information on 'Say No to Didymo' was shown by Mrs Rowe (Media & Promotions Manager).

The GMEM provided clarification on Progress Towards Targets for the Green RIG.

### **Biosecurity Activity**

Mr Martyn (Manager-Biosecurity, Mr Davey and the GMEM clarified Members' questions about this activity and expanded on possum control activities and Progress Towards Targets.

The Chair welcomed two visitors from Manawatu District Council. Dr Roygard introduced Mr H Waugh (Infrastructure Group Manager) and Mr P Asante (Wastes Manager) who attended the meeting to view a presentation on the Dual Discharge Calculator. During and after the presentation Dr Roygard and the Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (GMRP&R) answered questions of clarification.

Further clarity was provided about the ~~replanting~~ **control** of pinus contorta by Winstone Pulp, Velvet Leaf, and the annexed news articles to the report.

Mr Martyn and Mr Davey introduced the Field Horsetail Report and provided a powerpoint presentation on Pathway Management Philosophy of Field Horsetail.

**ENV 11-16**                      **Moved**                                      **Plowman/McKellar**

*that the Committee:*

- a.        **receives** the information in Report No. 11-78 and annexes.

**CARRIED**

### **REGULATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS**

*Report No. 11-81*

This report presented two items for the information of Members:

- a.        Environmental Protection Team Report – 1 March 2011 to 30 April 2011
- b.        Resource Consent Activities for March and April 2011

The Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (GMRP&R) introduced Ms L McCurdy (Third Bearing) who had been providing assistance to staff from the Dairy Team.

### **Environmental Protection Team**

Ms Russell (Manager Compliance) alluded to the ongoing work being undertaken to improve communication with consent holders and invited Mrs Rowe (Manager, Media and Communications) to provide comment about the intended survey material, and the methods to be undertaken for improved communication with dairy farmers. Ms Russell handed out a copy of the Dairy Customer Service Survey and Members were invited to put any suggestions/comments they may have about the survey in writing, and direct to either Ms Russell, Mrs Rowe, or the GMRP&R.

Ms Russell and the GMRP&R clarified Members' questions in regard to compliance monitoring actions and environmental incidents.

A hand-out depicting further information about non-compliance thresholds 2010-2011 was provided. Ms Russell and the GMRP&R clarified further questions in regard to the tables listing non-compliances, infringement notices and abatement notices. Ms Russell gave a short presentation on permeability standards and testing of existing ponds. Questions of clarification were asked and it was suggested that a workshop be organised looking at Members' specific issues around non-compliance. The Chair asked that questions be submitted in writing prior to the workshop so as to enable staff to be prepared.

### **Resource Consent Activities**

Mr Munneke (Manager Policy and Consents) and Mr Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner) expanded on issues raised in regard to the consents process. Members asked questions of clarification as they discussed the cost objection decision relating to the joint hearing on Ngati Waewae.

**ENV 11-17**

**Moved**

**Cox/Sheldon**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information contained in the Annexes to Report No. 11-81.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 3.11pm  
Cr Gordon left the meeting at 3.11pm  
The meeting reconvened at 3.19pm*

### **ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD, VECTOR MANAGEMENT AND TB FREE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Report No. 11-82*

The purpose of this item was to inform the Environment Committee of the Vector Management, Animal Health Board (AHB), and Tb Free Committee activity for the Region, for the period March to April 2011.

**ENV 11-18**

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-82 and Annex.

**CARRIED**

## **THE CALL IN PROCESS UNDER THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

*Report No. 11-75*

This information was requested at the March Environment Committee meeting:

- a. What was involved in the Call In Process under the Resource Management Act 1991; and
- b. What were the criteria for determining when an application was called in by the Minister for the Environment.

Mr Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner) emphasised the strict timeframes and the pressure on all those involved in the process, around applications that get called in. Members asked questions of clarification.

**ENV 11-19**

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives and notes** the information in Report No. 11-75 regarding the Call In procedures under the Resource Management Act 1991.

**CARRIED**

## **RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS – ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MARCH 2011**

*Report No. 11-76*

This report provided responses to Members' questions and/or queries raised at previous meetings or Committees of Council.

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) said the item was introduced to give a more satisfactory answer to Members' questions. He apologised for the movement in the columns of the table at Annex B. In paragraph 24, the GMEM said that it should read that "*it has been confirmed that the site has been registered in the Hazardous Activities and Industries List*" rather than "*has not been*".

The GMEM provided clarity as required.

Cr Plowman still had significant concerns about the former Council owned property in Simmons Road. He believed there was potential for dumped chemicals on the property to eventually contaminate the nearby waterways. Discussion ensued about the possible effects of the chemicals over time, and the Council's position should there be an environmental incident. Ultimately, the Chair suggested Members pass a resolution asking the Strategy and Policy Committee to provide an assessment on the cost of a feasibility study, identifying the parameters for that study, and the likely risk of a programme of that type.

**ENV 11-20**

**Moved**

**Plowman/Cox**

*that the Chief Executive be asked to provide a report to a Strategy and Policy Committee regarding the site at 24 and 26 Simmons Road, Taumarunui, assessing the cost of a feasibility study, identifying the parameters for that study, and the likely risk of a programme of this type.*

**CARRIED**

**ENV 11-21**

**Moved**

**Plowman/Cox**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** this report **noting** management's response to the queries.

**CARRIED**

**TELEMETERED WATER METERING PROJECT: END OF SEASON UPDATE**

*Report No. 11-79*

This report informed Members on the progress and status of Horizons' Telemetered Water Metering Project.

Dr Roygard, Manager Science, acknowledged the efforts of the team involved in the Telemetered Water Metering Project.

Mrs Mercer, Environmental Scientist-Water, and Dr Roygard clarified Members' questions.

**ENV 11-22**

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Plowman**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives and acknowledges** the information in Report No. 11-79.

**CARRIED**

**PROPOSED ONE PLAN WATER ALLOCATION FRAMEWORK:  
FEWER RESTRICTIONS ON WATER TAKES FOR SOME CONSENT HOLDERS**

*Report No. 11-80*

This report informed Members of the opportunity for consent holders to update their currently consented minimum flow restrictions to those set out in Schedule B of the Proposed One Plan.

Members fully discussed the report and the Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory and Dr Roygard, Manager Science responded to questions about the benefits of bringing the matter forward rather than waiting for a final decision from the Environment Court.

*Cr Plowman left the meeting at 4.10pm.*

Mrs Mercer, Environmental Scientist-Water explained the comparison of examples: Original Consents versus "reissued" Consents as outlined in Annex B to the report.

Members asked further questions of clarification on various points.

**ENV 11-23**

**Moved**

**White/McKellar**

*that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information provided in Report No. 11-80;

- b. **endorses** the proposed approach to offer consent holders the option to vary consent conditions to align minimum flow and monitoring conditions to those in the Proposed One Plan as amended by decisions.

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

In answer to a query from Cr McKellar the Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory (GMRP&R) said an attempt was always made to give prior notice to the landowner when a dairy compliance inspection was to be carried out.

Cr Sheldon asked if she could receive the Wastewater Monitoring Report for Palmerston North on a regular basis.

The meeting closed at 4.33pm.

Confirmed

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIR