

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ENV 11-24

Moved

Chettleburgh/McKellar

that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 11 May 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Report No: 11-122

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 May 2011 to June 2011.

Catchment Management Activity

Mr Cooper (Environmental Manager – Land) highlighted to Members of the Committee the progress made towards targets in the Whanganui Catchment Strategy and noted environmental plans and environmental grants were down on target last year but there had been an upturn in grants this year. Mr Cooper highlighted that the Poplar and Willow Trust would be launched at Parliament on Monday 9 August 2011. The first Trust chair would be Mr Bruce Wills, Chair of Federated Farmers. A short video was played regarding the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) and Mr Harrison (Environmental Programme Coordinator) was available to answer questions. Dr Roygard (Manager, Science) responded to questions from the Committee about the development of tephra and a full discussion followed about its potential for wastewater treatment in smaller communities.

Water Quantity and Quality Management Activity

Mr Taylor (Plan Implementation Coordinator) responded to Members' questions about the activities discussed in the report and water quality in the Region. Dr Roygard and the Chief Executive addressed Member's questions about the natural character of waterways and how waterways may change over time as the measures to improve these started to work.

The Chair noted with regret the resignation of Mr Hisham Zarour and acknowledged the work he had done. She wished him the best for the future.

Living Heritage Protection

The Committee had a full discussion regarding the Living Heritage reporting and Members highlighted their concerns about slow progress in the development of Totara Reserve. The Chief Executive addressed the concerns and noted that good progress had been made in developing the reserve for the public and that any further work was delayed by uncertainty surrounding a treaty claim in the area. Members also raised concerns about the timing of the 'Living Legends' planting in the Manawatu Gorge. Officers noted that it was scheduled to coincide with the Rugby World Cup and as it was sponsored externally they had no control over it.

Environmental Reporting and Education

Mr Martyn (Manager – Biosecurity) addressed the Committee regarding his report and answered Members' questions. He confirmed to the Committee that the Council was 'winning' its fight to reduce and manage the number of rooks in the Region.

There was concern amongst Members that there were five schools waiting to join the Enviroschools programme that had so far been unable to. Members were advised that this was due to constraints on staff resources and time. Members were advised by the Chair that the appropriate place to address concerns about funding or the expansion of such projects was at the upcoming strategy sessions for the Long Term Plan.

In response to questions, Councillors were advised that officers were looking at securing the future of the Green RIG with a trust. This was subject to finding new sponsorship and plans were underway for developing a proposal around that.

This item was adjourned until later in the meeting to allow for the discussion of other items.

The meeting adjourned at 12.04pm

Cr Gordon left the meeting at 12.04pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD, VECTOR MANAGEMENT AND TB FREE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report No. 11-123

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 May to June 2011.

Mr A Innes and Mr T Hynes addressed the Committee about the work being done to eradicate TB from the Region. Mr Innes responded to Members' questions about the report including concerns about the timings in the programme and how regional efforts to eradicate TB link to the programme nationally. Mr Innes and Mr Hynes made a short presentation with graphics outlining the regional programme for TB eradication.

This item was adjourned until later in the meeting to allow for the discussion of other items.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT (cont.)

Report No: 11-122

Biosecurity Activity

Mr Martyn and Ms Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist) responded to Members' questions about the report. Concerns about the likelihood of poison resistance among animal pests were addressed and queries about the spread and reduction of Old Man's Beard clarified.

This item was adjourned until later in the meeting to allow for the discussion of other items.

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Report No. 11-127

This report presented two items for the information of Members:

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

Councillor Gordon returned to the meeting at 1.51pm

Environmental Protection Team

Mr Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory) was congratulated by the Chair for praise given by the Office of the Auditor General after their Audit of Freshwater Quality.

Members expressed concern about the non-compliance of territorial authorities listed in the report and queried whether it would be possible to **inform them of the** non-compliance notices to the individual Councillors or relevant Committees of these authorities rather than solely to the organisation. (Comparison was made to the way in which company directors were informed of non-compliance). Effluent disposal sites for stock-trucks were discussed and the Chief Executive updated Councillors on progress to install a new effluent disposal site in either Waiouru or Taihape on SH1, and either Turakina or just south of Whanganui on SH3. There was general discussion regarding funding of effluent disposal sites and farmer education.

Councillor Rieger left the meeting at 2.12pm

There was concern that Horizons Regional Council had needed to report on itself for non-compliance but it was explained that for reasons of equity and fairness this was necessary. Councillors discussed liability as it related to contractors and how resource consent compliance could be ensured at all times in the future.

Resource Consent Activities

The Chair praised the lay-out of the report, particularly the comparison of consents applications and consents granted over the past three years. Members noted the individual consents listed and sought further information from officers as required.

This item was adjourned to later in the meeting to allow for the discussion of other items.

Councillor Walker left the meeting at 2.55pm

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT (cont.)

Report No: 11-122

ENV 11-25 Moved Chettleburgh/Cox

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-122 and annexes.

CARRIED

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS (cont.)

Report No. 11-127

ENV 11-26 Moved Cox/Chettleburgh

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information contained in the Annexes to Report No. 11-127.

CARRIED

**ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD, VECTOR MANAGEMENT AND TB FREE COMMITTEE REPORT
(cont.)**

Report No. 11-123

ENV 11-27 **Moved** **Plowman/McKellar**

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-123 and Annex.

CARRIED

CONTAMINATED SITE ASSESSMENT

Report No. 11-128

This item provided Members with information that was requested at a previous Environment Committee meeting.

Councillor Plowman moved an amendment to the motion which failed for want of a seconder.

ENV 11-28 **Moved** **Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

that the Committee:

- a. **notes** the information contained in Report No. 11-128;
- b. **is advised** that this information is being updated within the funding policy;
- c. **notes** that further updates can be provided regarding land that falls under Policy 3-12;
- d. **directs** the Chief Executive to take action in relation to the HAIL sites in Taumarunui consistent with this agenda item.

Against: Cr Plowman

CARRIED

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS – ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MAY 2011

Report No. 11-124

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

ENV 11-29 **Moved** **Chettleburgh/McKellar**

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-124;
- b. **notes** management's response to the queries.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Barrow requested that reporting on significant non-compliances be reintroduced to identify two categories – significant non-compliance with no environmental effect and significant non-compliance with potential environmental effect. The Chair noted that the Committee had resolved to report in that way at the March 2011 meeting and expected to see it introduced to future agendas.

Cr Chettleburgh requested that Councillors on external boards report back to the Committee every six to 12 months. He also asked for clarification regarding representation on the Pukaha Mt Bruce Board and whether this was a Council-nominated or individual held position.

Cr Sheldon noted the recent article in Manawatu Standard about the impact of phosphorous in wastewater from detergents and asked what the Council was doing to work with the district councils on the issue. Mr Carlyon responded that Horizons was part of a working group involving all district council asset managers and all were working toward getting their consents for stormwater discharge of which management of such chemicals was a primary part. Cr Sheldon also queried new efforts to charge Palmerston North City Council for oil discharges into stormwater drains and how this would be managed. Mr Carlyon noted that this Regional Council was working closely with the City Council on the issue. Cr Chettleburgh asked for further information about the bylaw requiring territorial authorities to have resource consent before discharging stormwater into streams and rivers. Mr Carlyon suggested that an item be included at the next Environment Committee meeting about where districts were at with their stormwater treatment and discharge.

Further discussion about non-compliance in the dairy industry, the impact of recent flood on sewage treatment plants and adverse effects were answered by Council officers or referred to other Committees by the Chair.

The Chair concluded by thanking the staff who made presentations at the compliance workshop which she thought was very informative and useful. She also mentioned the science café run by Dr Roygard, Associate Professor Russell Death from Massey University and Tessa Mills, Lyn Neeson and Andrew Hoggard from Federated Farmers about the Manawatu River which she thought was very well run.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR