



Minutes of a meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group of Horizons Regional Council held at Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 1 June 2010.

PRESENT Crs L Burnell (Chairman), L Bailey (from 7.07pm), Mr B Culley and Mr J Story (Manawatu Marine Boating Club), Mr R Crawford (Manawatu Marine Boating Club – Sailing Section), Mr G Hyde, Mr R Anderson and Mr B Eccles (Jet Boating New Zealand), Mr M Wheatley (Manawatu Four Wheel Drive Club), Mr I Taylor and Mr D Booth (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club), Mr P Horton (Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Inc), Ms J Rapson, Mrs J Leckie, Mr N Leckie, Mrs C Paton, and Mr G Paton (Manawatu Estuary Trust), Mrs K Lane, Mr K Lane and Mr S Bayley (Manager Emergency Management, Horizons).

IN ATTENDANCE	Area Engineer	Mr D McKee
	Harbourmaster	Mr E Lloyd
	Committee Secretary	Ms K Booth

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr G Murfitt (Chair of Council) and Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations).

Moved **Booth/Burnell**

that the apologies of Cr Murfitt and Mr Cook, be accepted.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved **Culley/Burnell**

that the minutes of the meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group held on 1 December 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

Report No: 10-81

The purpose of this item was to provide Members of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group (Advisory Group) with an update on matters relating to the Office of the Harbourmaster. The Harbourmaster referred to the process for the Navigation and Safety Bylaw 2010, and noted the Submissions Hearing would follow the conclusion of the meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group. The Bylaw would then go to the Council meeting on 22 June for adoption, and then to the Department of Internal Affairs so that offence and fees regulations could be drafted.

The Harbourmaster outlined the key points in the report and was available to answer questions on points raised. He referred to the new pamphlet being prepared on the revised Bylaw, which would be put under car windscreens and hoped to be available by the next summer. He referred to events that had been held on the River that he had been advised about. The Harbourmaster was requested to modify the period that the report covered, to read from 2 December 2009 to 28 May 2010, as it did not include a jet ski event that happened on 29 May. The Harbourmaster advised that event was included in the Calendar of Events report as the event happened after the Agenda had been printed.

Moved

Burnell/Bailey

that the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group

a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-81.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU RIVER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Report No: 10-77

The purpose of this item was to inform Members of the Advisory Group of Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) management issues that may have some impact on the recreational use of the river during the period June 2010 to December 2010.

Mr McKee (Area Engineer) advised his report covered the period from December 2009 to the end of May 2010. He referred to information in his report in regard to the major works and restoration works being undertaken on the Manawatu River, the river edge vegetation management works, the fencing of a lease block to restrict stock grazing close to the water's edge, and the planned stopbank inspection in the new financial year. He added that the survey referred to in paragraph 9 had been recently undertaken on hazards in the River from Foxton through to Ashhurst but the results of that survey would not be known for a week or so.

There was discussion about toilet facilities on the walkway, whether there were any, if so where they were, and whether there should be more. Management undertook to mention that matter to staff at Palmerston North City Council.

Moved

Bailey/Burnell

that the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group

a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-77.

CARRIED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Report No: 10-82

The purpose of this report was to present the Manawatu River Calendar of Events to the Advisory Group for information. The Harbourmaster referred to his request to clubs and groups for information on future events on the Manawatu River. He said he had been notified of two more events since the report was written, and as information on future events was provided, they would be added to the Council website. Two more events were notified at the meeting.

Date	Organisation	Event/Location	Speed Uplifting Required
Sun, 25 July 2010	Horowhenua Rowing Club	Race, starting 7km above Whirokino	No
Sun, 18 July 2010	Jet Boating NZ Central Districts	Run in the Manawatu River launching at Ashhurst going down to Palmerston North	Wait to hear about Bylaws
Sat, 31 July 2010	Manawatu Marine Boating Club	MMBC Icebreaker Fishing Competition	No
Sat, 18 Sept 2010	Jet Boating NZ Central Districts	Run in the Manawatu River launching at Ashhurst going down to Palmerston North	Wait to hear about Bylaws

There was full discussion on the event run by the Wellington Jet Sport Club on 29 May. Many of those who attended the meeting believed the noise level was unacceptable and questioned why the event was allowed. They were also very concerned that the birds in the estuary were stressed by the speed and noise of the jet skis. As other members of the Advisory Group pointed out, the event had been run in that area for the past five years without a problem, and it was not known that there would be noise issues this time. The Harbourmaster explained he had no reason under the current Bylaws for denying an uplifting of the speed limit, and that if there was a request in future years, then an approach would be made to Horowhenua District Council about monitoring noise levels.

There was a suggestion that the Harbourmaster could contact the Wellington Jet Sport Club and explain the concerns of the community raised at the meeting. The Harbourmaster agreed to do that. He was also asked to mention the possibility of noise level monitoring at future events. Another suggestion was that when there was an application from the Club to uplift the speed limit, the Harbourmaster could send a timely reminder about obeying the rules and Bylaw. The Harbourmaster clarified further questions about the contents of the Bylaw. There was general comment that not all jet skiers behaved badly, and perhaps there needed to be education of those 'boaties' who did not belong to clubs and who may not know the rules and Bylaw. Comment was also made about the usefulness of adequate and appropriate signage.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input to a useful discussion.

Moved

Bailey/Anderson

that the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group:

- (a) **requests** the Harbourmaster to write a letter to the Wellington Jet Sport Club about the noise disturbance to people and birds and whether it meets the criteria of the local council,
- (b) **requests** the Harbourmaster to contact Horowhenua District Council and check the Horowhenua District Plan Rules in regard to decibel levels;
- (c) **issues** an invitation for a representative of the Club to attend future meetings of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group;
- (d) **acknowledges** and **approves** the Calendar of Events in Report No. 10-82 with the inclusion of any additional events agreed to at the meeting.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

NEXT MEETING

| The Chair advised the next meeting of the Advisory Group was provisionally scheduled for 7 December 2010.

The Chairman thanked the Group for their attendance and input.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Confirmed.

CHAIRPERSON

HARBOURMASTER