



Minutes of the fourth meeting of the eighth triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.03am on Tuesday, 21 December 2010, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs MC Guy (Chairman), JJ Barrow (to 2.03pm), LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED (to 2.06pm), GL Cox, EB Gordon, GM McKellar, MW Plowman, PW Rieger QSO JP, CI Sheldon, RG Walker, and JJ White.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Mr CA Grant
Governance
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Mr C Davey (Environmental Management Officer), Ms Elaine Iddon (Environmental Management Officer-Plants), and Mr J Beard (member of the public).

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Barrow noted a possible conflict of interest in regard to Item 8, Tararua Dairy Farmer Stream Fencing Campaign. It was noted that Cr Barrow had in the past been Chairman of Tararua Federated Farmers.

PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions / deputations advised.

The Chair advised of a change to the order to the Agenda items. Item 10, Introduction to "Plant Me Instead" Booklet, would be considered first.

INTRODUCTION TO "PLANT ME INSTEAD" BOOKLET

Mr C Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management introduced Ms Elaine Iddon, Environmental Management Officer-Plants.

Ms Iddon provided Members with a copy of the "Plant Me Instead" booklet. She briefed Members on the content of the booklet and outlined its purpose was to profile the environmental weeds of greatest concern, and encourage gardeners to remove, and replace them with suitable replacement plants.

Members congratulated Ms Iddon and the supporting organisations involved in the production of the booklet. Ms Iddon was available to answer questions of clarification.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

10-57

Moved

Rieger/Walker

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record with the following amendments:

- *Page 4, last paragraph, change Hurnell to Hurdell*
- *Page 5, first bullet point, change Whirikino to Whirokino*
- *Page 5, second bullet point, change Horowhenua to Horizons*
- *Page 6, Resolution 10-54, change Chairman's to Chief Executive's*
- *Page 8, second paragraph, change Horowhenua to Manawatu*

CARRIED

RANGITIKEI RIVER SCHEME REVIEW NUMBER 4: HEARING COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Report No. 10-209

This item informed the Council of the outcome of the Submissions Hearing on the proposed Rangitikei River Scheme Review Number 4, and sought a Council resolution to endorse the Hearing Committee's recommendations and to make provision for funding implications in the Draft 2011-12 Annual Plan and 2012-22 Long-term Plan (LTP).

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) expanded on the principal findings of the Review, the significant changes proposed from the Review, the adoption of the Review for the purpose of stakeholder consultation, and issues raised by submitters relating to the Review. There was discussion about the issues outlined by Mr Neil Colliver and a request that in future an indication be given in hearing reports of the extent to which submitters' issues would be addressed by the Committee recommendations. Following Members' expression of a lack of knowledge on the science of gravel movements in rivers, the GMO undertook to organise a workshop on the subject at a future date.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification about the inclusion of cost estimates in the draft Annual Plan 2011-12 and the 2012-22 Draft Long-term Plan, and the implementation of the recommended changes to river and gravel management practices. It was considered important that the charges applied to river-based extraction be reviewed and that if possible, a fee be applied to any alternative extraction on the river margins, in order to off-set some of the estimated works costs. Accordingly, it was suggested that the wording in the Hearing Committee's recommended outcomes, No. 4. be altered to read: *That the charges applied to gravel extraction on the Rangitikei River **and from any extraction operations on the river-berm immediately adjoining the river channel** be reviewed.* The GMO said although he was happy to include the wording, he cautioned Council that it may not be possible to impose a charge on land-based operations of that nature. He explained that under the Resource Management Act a charge could only be applied to off-set an adverse environmental effect that arose from that activity. Cr Gordon believed it was important for the Scheme Liaison Committee to be informed of that.

There was further discussion about whether to change the wording in recommendation (b) from **endorses** to **recommends**. Ultimately it was left unchanged.

Cr Plowman said he had a number of concerns about the recommended outcomes in the report and would therefore abstain from voting

The Chairman thanked the Hearing Committee comprising Crs Gordon, Barrow, and Chettleburgh for their input.

10-58

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

That the Council:

- a. **notes** the contents of Report No. 10-209;
- b. **endorses** recommendations one to ten of the Hearing Committee meeting held on 10 December 2010, to hear submissions on the Rangitikei River Scheme Review No. 4;
 1. *That Rangitikei River Scheme Review No. 4, including recommended changes to river and gravel management practices, be adopted with the one change referred to in recommendation 2 below.*
 2. *That a new section 4.5 entitled "One Plan Policies and Rules" be added to the draft review. This is to include reference to Policies 6-32 and 6-32A, and Rules 16-15 and 16-15A. Furthermore, to keep the review in balance with the facts, that a sentence be added to the end of the third bullet point in Section 7.4. "Clearly the average recorded extraction rates for decades have been above the sustainable rates, necessitating this reduction".*
 3. *That Horizons Regional Council support land-based extraction from leased land at Ohakea and any other accretion land deemed suitable for gravel extraction and owned by or managed by Horizons Regional Council, as an alternative to river-based extraction.*
 4. *That the charges applied to gravel extraction on the Rangitikei River and from any extraction operations on the river-berm immediately adjoining the river channel be reviewed.*
 5. *That each submitter receives a site visit from Horizons Regional Council staff to confirm works to be undertaken as per the No. 4 Scheme Review proposal.*
 6. *That Steve Blundell be invited to join the Scheme Liaison Committee.*
 7. *That priority for channel widening works adjacent to Neil Colliver's property be confirmed for the current works year.*
 8. *That the target of 30,000 cubic metres as proposed in the POP be strictly adhered to.*
 9. *That stricter monitoring of gravel extraction be undertaken throughout the whole river but in particular the degradation reach.*
 10. *That the Scheme Liaison Committee be given the opportunity to review the proposed yearly 2% increase in scheme rates from the second year onwards.*
- c. **makes** provision in the Draft 2011-12 Annual Plan and the 2012-22 Draft Long-term Plan for the funding and rating implications arising from the Review; and
- d. **instructs** the Chief Executive to advise all submitters and the Scheme Liaison Committee of the outcome of the consultation and submissions process.

Abstain: Cr Plowman

CARRIED

TARARUA DAIRY FARMER STREAM FENCING CAMPAIGN

Report No. 10-210

This item updated Members on the Tararua dairy farmer stream fencing campaign, and sought approval on various funding options.

The Chief Executive (CE) and Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) spoke to the report and expanded on the purpose and nature of the programme. The GMEM elaborated on the background to the launch of the campaign, including initial budget calculations. With the greater than expected success of the campaign, consideration to a range of options to meet the funding gap, was now required. The CE added that registrations for the campaign would remain open till the end of the current financial year.

Members provided their views and asked questions to ensure clarity around the campaign and the identified range of options for closing the funding gap. Full discussion ensued about the proposal to prioritise remaining funding within the environmental grant budget, and in particular, the implications of exhausting all available funding on one project. Also discussed were the opportunities available to explore external funding to support the campaign. A Member noted that it was not always possible to approve all environmental grant applications. Several Councillors expressed concerns about inadequate research being undertaken before the campaign was promoted, and disappointment about delivery of the programme. Ultimately, after full discussion and consideration of Councillors' views, it was agreed to amend the recommendations to reflect the discussion.

10-59

Moved

Rieger/White

That the Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-210;
- b. **agrees** to increasing the available funding for the Tararua stream fencing campaign to include appropriate funding as determined by the Chief Executive Officer, being the use of unallocated, redirected, and freed-up funding within the land and water Environmental Grant outputs for the Tararua stream fencing campaign; and to include staff exploring external funding opportunities;
- c. **agrees** to deferring some of the agreed works to 2011-12, and potentially 2012-13;
- d. **instructs** the Chief Executive to prioritise all applications and;
 - i. **award** grants to the extent of funds budgeted together with funds derived from (b) above;
 - ii. **advise** unsuccessful applicants of their position in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 years.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.06pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

Cr White commented on the unusually long Environment Committee meeting and thanked those who stayed for the duration. She said she would be having discussions with Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory, and Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management about ensuring the meeting closed by 4.00pm in future.

Cr White commented on resolution ENV 10-02 which recommended that a policy paper be brought to the Strategy and Policy Committee on issues around the compliance procedures including in exceptional circumstances. She suggested the paper included the background to the compliance system, the actual procedures that occurred at present, the effectiveness of current procedures, equity issues, what constituted exceptional circumstances, and the protocols and procedures in regard to exceptional circumstances. After further discussion it was suggested that a workshop on the subject be held at a convenient time.

Cr White asked Councillors to ensure that all questions were directed in a courteous manner to staff when clarifying matters in the reports.

10-65

Moved

Guy/Rieger

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Council meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Minutes of 23 November 2010	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX2 Endorsement and adoption of the Audit, Risk and Investment Committee resolutions and recommendations of 14 December 2010	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX3 Council to consider whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain, and define the extent of the release.		

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 1.23pm and resumed at 1.29pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report and expanded on discussions held with the Mayor and Chief Executive of Manawatu District Council in regard to investigations into issues associated with Kitchener Park. Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) gave an update on progress for preliminary investigations to scope the issue which he hoped would be underway by the end of the current financial year. The GMO answered questions of clarification on issues associated with Kitchener Park.

Cr Gordon chaired the Regional Transport Committee meeting on 7 December and chaired the Rangitikei Scheme Hearing on 9 December. He was to attend a meeting with the Rangitikei District Council regarding flooding issues which had become a serious problem in Marton over the last few years. Cr Gordon wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Cr McKellar attended the usual Council/Committee meetings and Councillor workshops. He attended a meeting at the Rangitikei District Council in regard to a plan change. Cr McKellar wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Cr Plowman attended the usual Council/Committee meetings and Councillor workshops, he attended the upper Whanganui Scheme meeting in Taumarunui, and attended the Ruapehu District Council meeting in Ohakune.

Cr Rieger attended the usual Council/Committee meetings and workshops.

Cr Sheldon attended the Resource Management Act Commissioners' training at the beginning of December, the Regional Transport Committee meeting, the launch of the Archives Central project in Feilding on 7 December, the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group meeting, a Councillor workshop on 8 December, the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 14 December, the Environment Committee meeting on 15 December, a Councillor workshop and a Don Linklater Memorial Bursary meeting on 20 December.

Cr Walker attended the Council meeting on 23 November, a Councillor workshop on 8 December, a Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 14 December, a Councillor workshop on 20 December, and met with a ratepayer on 20 December. Cr Walker wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Cr White attended the launch of the Archives Central project in Feilding on 7 December, she attended several meetings at Massey relating to the Manawatu River, and the Ashhurst Stream Scheme meeting at Ashhurst. She attended a Massey function, a Don Linklater Memorial Bursary meeting, the usual Council meetings and workshops, a meeting in regard to the One Plan, and chaired the He Tini Awa Trust meeting (not as a Horizons Councillor). Cr White wished everyone a Merry Christmas and looked forward to seeing everyone in 2011.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors, the Chief Executive, and staff for their contribution throughout the year.

On behalf of the Council, Cr Rieger thanked the Chairman for his representation throughout the year.

In the Public Excluded part of the meeting when considering the Audit, Risk and Investment report of 14 December 2010, Report No. 10-183, Lower Manawatu Scheme Linton Main Drain Stopbank Upgrade – Contract No. 2010/06, it was agreed that the name of the successful tenderer and contract price be moved to the public arena.

PX 10-11

Moved

Rieger/Chettleburgh

That the awarding of Contract 2010/06 to upgrade the Linton Main Drain stopbank between traverse distance 400 m above the Ashlea Road bridge to Pratt Quarries Ltd (PQL) for the tendered sum of Five Hundred and Fifty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Eight dollars and Thirty cents (\$557,428.30) exclusive of GST, be moved to the public part of the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 2.26pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN