



AGENDA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 October 2011 at 10.00am

Notice is given of a meeting of Horizons Regional Council to be held on
Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 10.00am in the Tararua Room,
Horizons Regional Council offices,
11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North

Business to be discussed includes:

- Annual Report 2010-11
- Report from Appeals Advisory Group
- Environmental Protection Team Workshop Outcomes
- Proposed Taringamotu River Scheme

Presentations:

- Mr Bruce Wills – President, Federated Farmers
- Ms Elaine Reilly – Chief Executive, Vision Manawatu

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cr EB Gordon (Chairman)
Cr JJ Barrow
Cr LR Burnell
Cr VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED
Cr GL Cox
Cr MC Guy

Cr GM McKellar
Cr MW Plowman
Cr PW Rieger QSO JP
Cr CI Sheldon
Cr RG Walker JP
Cr J White

RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORTS ARE NOT COUNCIL POLICY UNTIL ADOPTED BY COUNCIL

NEWS EMBARGO

Items in this agenda may be subject to amendment or withdrawal at the meeting. Items are embargoed until two days before the date of the meeting.

Reporters who do not attend the meetings should seek confirmation of the agenda material or proceedings from the Chief Executive prior to any media reports.

for further information regarding this agenda, please contact:
Julie Kennedy, 06 9522 800

CONTACTS	24 hr Freephone : 0508 800 800	help@horizons.govt.nz	www.horizons.govt.nz	
SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea & Kairanga-Bunthythorpe Rds, Palmerston North	Marton Hammond Street	Taumarunui 34 Maata Street	Woodville Cnr Vogel (SH2) & Tay Sts
REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue	Wanganui 181 Guyton Street		
DEPOTS	Levin 11 Bruce Road	Taihape Torere Road Ohotu		
POSTAL ADDRESS	Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442			
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AGENDA

26 October 2011
10.00am

PART ONE

Pages

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Apologies
2. Public Speaking Rights
Notification to speak is required by 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting. Further information is available on www.horizons.govt.nz or by phoning 0508 800 800
3. Late Items:
To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Committee to consider any further items relating to items following below which do not appear on the Order Paper of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.
Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:
 - (i) The reason why the item was not on the Order Paper, and
 - (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.
4. Members' Conflict of Interest
Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.
5. Petitions/Deputations
6. Confirmation of Minutes – 27 September 2011 1 - 24
7. Chief Executive's Report

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Annual Report 2010-11
Report No. 11-190 25 - 26
9. Report from Appeals Advisory Group
Report No: 11-187 27 - 29
Annex A – Summary of Costs versus Budget 30

10. Environmental Protection Team Workshop Outcomes <i>Report No: 11-191</i>	31 - 34
11. Proposed Taringamotu River Scheme <i>Report No: 11-189</i>	35 - 40
<i>Annex A – Submissions Hearing Minutes - Proposed Taringamotu River Management Scheme</i>	41 - 48
<i>Annex B – Revised Assessment - Reduced Works in Middle Reach</i>	49
<i>Annex C – Revised 10-Year Programme of Works</i>	50
12. Affixing of the Common Seal <i>Report No: 11-188</i>	51 - 52

COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. Endorsement and Adoption of Committee and Advisory Group Resolutions and Recommendations:	
Environment Committee – 14 September 2011	53 - 62
Strategy & Policy Committee – 11 October 2011	63 - 72
Catchment Operations Committee – 12 October	73 - 80
14. Presentations:	
Mr Bruce Wills – President, Federated Farmers (approximately 11.00am)	
Ms Elaine Reilly – Chief Executive, Vision Manawatu (approximately 1.00pm)	

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

15. Chairman's Report
16. Members' Reports and Questions

PART TWO - PUBLIC EXCLUDED SECTION

The public is to be excluded from the remainder 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 each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the 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 27 September 2011 Pages 81 - 84	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.

<p>PX2 Endorsement and Adoption of the Audit, Risk & Investment Committee resolutions of 28 September 2011 Pages 85 -89</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>		

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Minutes of the twelfth meeting of the eighth triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.00am on Tuesday, 27 September 2011, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell (from 10.06am), VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GL Cox, MC Guy (to 2.01pm and from 2.14pm), GM McKellar, MW Plowman, RG Walker and JJ White.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney
 Acting Group Manager Mr G Neilson
 Corporate and Governance
 Committee Secretaries Mrs JA Kennedy (to 1.07pm)
 Ms G McRae (from 1.44pm)

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
 Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Ms K Booth (Governance Co-ordinator), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Mr T Collé (Chief Financial Officer), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Planner), Mr and Mrs Paton, and a member of the Press.

APOLOGIES

11-175 Moved White/Walker

That an apology be accepted from Cr Sheldon (attending other Council business), and Cr Rieger (unwell)

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Later on in the meeting the Chairman advised there had been a request for public speaking rights which had been declined.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items to be considered.

The minutes of the Environment Committee had been emailed to Members and a hard copy was tabled at the meeting. Comment was made that not enough time was provided to read the minutes and accordingly the Chairman said they could be received at the next Council meeting.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions/deputations.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**11-184 Moved****Guy/Barrow**

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
Confirmation of Minutes of 30 August 2011	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 30 August 2011	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 Endorsement and Adoption of the Strategy and Policy Committee resolutions and recommendations of 13 September 2011	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.
PX4 Presentation from: MWRC Holdings Limited Investment Opportunities	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.
PX5 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 11.18am and resumed at 2.06pm.

FUNDING OF STOCK TRUCK EFFLUENT FACILITIES*Report No. 11-174*

This report discussed an alteration to Horizons policy on the funding of stock truck effluent facilities. The Chair introduced the report saying it was self-explanatory but that essentially it would ensure that before a decision was made to use ratepayer's money to help build a stock-effluent disposal facility the Council would have to approve funding. He hoped this would ensure that Council would be able to have some influence on facility locations and timeliness of construction.

Cr Chettleburgh met with the Destination Manawatu directors about planning the Christmas Parades, attended the Passenger Transport meeting on 15 September, the Trustees of Heritage Park on 23 September, and their annual meeting the following day, several local events and has been looking at biodiversity around the Country.

Cr Walker noted that he had missed four workshops in August/September and explained to his colleagues the reason for this. He noted that he did attend the Regional Transport Committee meeting, Strategy and Policy Committee meeting and the Whanganui River Users meeting. He also received five phone-calls about rates and received a call about noise and dust from the local speedway which he referred to the District Council.

Cr Burnell attended the usual Horizons' workshops and meetings. He has been working with ratepayers over various issues.

Cr White attended the usual Horizon's workshops and meetings. In addition she had also attended the 10-year celebrations of the Environmental Workshop Manawatu, a meeting with the Chair at the Dalrymple farm, a One Plan Advisory Group Meeting, and the Trust Power Community Awards at which the Ashhurst volunteer stoat-trap monitoring group won their category. She asked whether a sensor light could be installed at Camp Rangiwoods for safety at night and the Chief Executive committed to having this done. She also wished to express her appreciation for the work done by Mr Greg Carlyon during his time at Council, especially his work on the One Plan which she believed would be a very valuable document for the Region. She noted an error on the front page of the report of the Environment Committee meeting in which she had said there were no requests for public speaking rights when in fact she had received a request, but it had been declined.

Cr Barrow attended the usual Horizons' workshops and meetings. In addition he attended whitebait hui at the Palmerston North City library, the Eketahuna and Pahiatua Community Board meetings at which public transport was a major issue. He clarified that he did not speak about the renaming of the Pahiatua track.

The Chair and Chief Executive clarified further Members' Questions.

The meeting closed at 3.11pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN

Meeting Attendance

1 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Elaine Reilly, CEO of Vision Manawatu – Regional Development StrategyØ On-site at property of H Dalrymple re drainage issuesØ Lower Manawatu Scheme Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Project – Briefing to Taonui Basin Land OwnersØ Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Disaster Relief Fund Trust AGM
1-2 September	Regional Sector Group - Wellington
5 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Guest speaker at Wanganui RotaryØ Rob Gollan and re pending consent application and Westoe property
6 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Regional Transport CommitteeØ Quarterly CD Emergency Management Group meeting
7 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Crs' WorkshopØ One Plan Appeals Advisory Group
9 September	Inspection of the Manawatu Gorge with LTNZ CEO David McGonigal
12 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Manawatu River Leaders' ForumØ Rob Gollan to discuss Westoe financials and training/education options
13 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Strategy and PolicyØ Crs WorkshopØ Duncan Cheetham – dairy farm compliance issuesØ Media Interview re PNCC compliance issues
14 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Environment CommitteeØ Prosecution Advisory Committee
15 September	Passenger Transport Committee - Hearing on Draft Public Transport Plan
16 September	Regional Chiefs at Rangitikei District Council, Marton
19 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø CE Performance Review
20 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ø Crs' Workshop
23 September	On-site at property of Warren Cumming re erosion next to Rangitikei River area
26 September	On-site with Michael McAloon re Parewanui property

Upcoming meetings scheduled to end of OCTOBER 2011

<i>28 September</i>	<i>Audit, Risk & Investment Committee and Crs' Workshop</i>
<i>29 September</i>	<i>Joint Transport Study implementation group</i>
<i>30 September</i>	<i>Farm Productivity workshop</i>
<i>4 October</i>	<i>Crs' Workshop</i> <i>OAG Visit</i>
<i>6 October</i>	<i>Rangitikei – a path to wellbeing</i>
<i>10 October</i>	<i>Lower Whanganui River Scheme Working Party</i>
<i>11 October</i>	<i>Strategy & Policy</i>
<i>12 October</i>	<i>Catchment Operations Committee</i>
<i>18 October</i>	<i>Crs' Workshop</i>
<i>26 October</i>	<i>Council meeting and Cr's Workshop</i>

Tuesday 27 September 2011

Michael McCartney – Chief Executive

Introduction

1. For a detailed report of key activities within each of the constituent districts please refer to the attached regional round up (Annex A).

Planning and Policy

2. Work in this area continues to focus on the preliminary work around the Long Term Plan.
3. Council has held a number of workshops surrounding both the Long Term Financial Strategy and aspects of the Funding Policy.
4. Management intends bringing a series of formal agenda items to cover off these discussions.
5. A key item on the agenda is the proposed Council Strategic Directions. These were discussed at the Council Strategy sessions and have been presented here today for discussion and endorsement.
6. These Directions are important to the LTP process as they set the foundation for both the business and activity planning that will be expressed in the Plan.
7. One Plan mediation is still tracking as per the Court schedule. Formal hearings are set for November so over the next few weeks we will see a clearer picture emerge of the issues that will be challenged through the formality of the Environment Court.
8. The Draft Annual Report is completed and will be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 28 September. The final report will be before Council at its October meeting.

Catchment Operations

9. The key news in this activity area is the relatively successful defence of the claim made against Horizons related to the 2004 Whirikino breach. Whilst there are some aspects of the determination that will have some bearing on our future management in this river scheme area, the substantive claim was not successful.
10. Allan Cook will be providing the Catchment Operations Committee with a full verbal briefing on the implications of the determination.
11. Current SLUI progress sits at 12,000ha of land mapped against a target for the year of 55,000ha indicating we are essentially on track with the work plan.
12. There are a number of larger afforestation proposals on the books that will be first discussed with the Catchment Operations Committee then the Audit and Risk Committee

Regulatory

13. The team is preparing to process a large scale wind farm consent for a proposal in Tararua/Wairarapa. This consent will be the largest of its type in this region and involves four authorities (Greater Wellington, Masterton District, Tararua District and HRC).

14. The PAC met recently to consider possible cases to proceed to prosecution.
15. The Compliance Team has been working hard on the Dairy Compliance programme resulting in significant demands not only on that team but also Rural Advice.
16. Pleasingly the results so far this season show good compliance amongst the Dairy Farmers.
17. PNCC are in the process of preparing their response to the non compliance issues raised with them recently. The HRC Chair has invited the PNCC to attend the 11 October Strategy and Policy meeting.
18. The PNCC waste water compliance has prompted the Minister for the Environment to take an interest in the issue. That interest may manifest itself in the form of an inquiry. The Chair of the Regional Council has formally written to the Minister to suggest that it would be appropriate in terms of process and law that a decision on an inquiry be made after the Council has concluded its own investigation.

Transport

19. The attached regional round up covers the key transport activities. I would like to highlight two issues, the first being the Working Group meeting to discuss the Joint Transport Study (PNth City and Manawatu).
20. The second is the impacts of the recent and on-going Gorge closures. This is a matter I would anticipate that the Regional Transport Committee will be considering in due course.

MW LASS Ltd

21. Recently the MW LASS Directors meet to discuss the future direction of the company. The view of the Directors is that MW LASS has been very successful and all have reconfirmed the need to continue with the company.
22. The Directors still believe there are significant cost savings and efficiency improvement opportunities across the shareholder member councils.
23. The Directors also discussed a change to the future governance arrangements.
24. The Hawkes Bay Regional Council has expressed a desire to look into a partnership arrangement with the MW LASS Company. Discussions will take place in due course as to the exact shape of that relationship

MW Holdings Ltd

25. MW Holdings Ltd is set to present its Annual Report today to the Shareholder Council.
26. The Company also intends presenting an investment proposal for Shareholder consideration.

27. Later today CentrePort will be holding their AGM in Wellington. The Chair of MW Holdings Ltd and the Council CFO are aiming to attend.

Regional Chiefs

28. The Regional Chiefs met recently in Marton with the key items on the agenda being:
- Project Tasman;
 - Economic/Population Statistics; and
 - NPS on Freshwater.
29. The Agenda for that meeting is attached as Annex B.

National Issues

30. In late October the sector will be officially launching the Land Water Website. At this stage we hope to launch the site at Parliament hosted by the Minister for the Environment, although details are yet to be confirmed.
31. I understand that in the near future the Auditor General will be releasing the findings of the freshwater audits recently completed. Members will recall that four Regions were included in the Audit (Taranaki, HRC, Waikato and Southland).
32. The Regional Sector Group is scheduled to meet in late November – a draft agenda is not yet available but hopefully I will have it for the October Council meeting.
33. On 19 October the Regional Chief Executives will be meeting in Wellington (draft agenda attached as Annex C) with the following day being a meeting of the Chief Executive Environment Forum.
34. With the attention on the RWC and the upcoming election the activity in Government as it relates to local government business is somewhat quiet.

Staff

35. Members are aware that the Group Manager of Regional Planning and Regulatory has resigned from Horizons. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution Greg Carlyon has made to the organisation and wish him all the best for the future.
36. Finally, I wish to advise Councillors that I will be on leave from 8 to 18 October. Craig Grant will be the Acting CE during my absence.

COUNCIL UPDATE

For the period 22nd August to 23rd September 2011

ACTIVITIES

Ruapehu

Environmental Management

1. HRC are taking a lead role in Tutsan information in support of successfully SFF funding bid by the Tutsan Action Group (TAG).

Operations

2. A public meeting was held on 22nd August at Ngakonui Hall, Taumarunui, summarising findings of river investigations and presenting future channel management proposals. A good turnout of riparian property owners on the Taringamotu River ensued along with the presence of Ruapehu District Council representatives. Submissions close on Thursday 22nd September, followed by a hearing to be held at the Taumarunui RSA on the 29th September.
3. A meeting is to be held with iwi representatives on Sunday 18th September at the Ngakonui Marae in Taumarunui to consult and seek feedback on issues specific to the iwi on the proposed Taringamotu Scheme.
4. A visit by representatives of Ruapehu District Council is scheduled for Tuesday 13th September to inspect the range of newly completed stopbank works and walk/cycleways in Balgownie. The representatives wish to gather information to assist with similar proposed stopbank works in the Ruapehu.
5. Upper Whanganui Scheme Liaison meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 September.

Wanganui

Environmental Management

6. An urban weed awareness programme was launched in Wanganui on the 6th September, targeting Woolly Nightshade.

Operations

7. MOU agreed between HRC and WDC regarding respective responsibilities for storm water outlets and floodgates at Balgownie.
8. Major amenity planting programme completed - over 3000 shrubs planted.
9. Consultant engaged to review Lower Whanganui River report in relation to South Spit.
10. Lower Whanganui River Working Party scheduled for Monday 10 October to discuss Stage 2 flood protection consultation strategy.
11. Final section of timber wall stopbank in Gilbert Street is being completed throughout September with tie in to existing wall at Q-West business site.

Regional Services & Information

12. Road Safety Coordinators will be participating in two school gala days and the Age Concern Expo in October.

Rangitikei

Operations

13. Rangitikei Scheme newsletter currently being prepared to explain implementation of new channel management regime and intentions regarding flood damage.

Regional Services & Information

14. Road Safety Coordinators will be running a Fatigue Stop in October in conjunction with the NZ Police and ACC.

Manawatu

Environmental Management

15. Manawatu River Leaders Forum discussed a bid to MfE's Clean-up fund.

Operations

16. A meeting of Taonui Basin landowners was held on 1 September with good attendance and constructive points of clarification discussed. Individual consultation with affected landowners will take place throughout September.
17. The entire Kopane Bridge deck reinforcing slab has been poured and asphaltting of the road surface will be undertaken during September. The bridge guardrails have been installed and single-lane carriageway operation is programmed to commence in late September. Bulk earthworks for the continued construction of the road embankment are scheduled to commence in late September.
18. Negotiations are in progress with affected Kopane landowners for the realigned 'link-banks' that will tie the existing upstream and downstream stopbanks into the new Kopane Bridge abutments. The contract for this project will commence in January 2012 when bridge construction works are completed.

Tararua

Environmental Management

19. Puhemitu stream planting day – 1700 plants.
20. Rook pre-flight programme started, control will commence in the next two to three weeks.

Operations

21. A large roading project is to be re-tendered requiring a minimum of 20,000 m³ of river run, staff are working with contractors to make this available from locations that will benefit Scheme rivers.
22. Meeting of Ihuraua Scheme ratepayers scheduled for 22 September to discuss outcomes of recent Scheme Audit.
23. Survey completed and design work under way for Victory Park Rock Lining in Pahiatua which Tararua District Council is contributing toward.

Regional Services & Information

24. Road Safety Coordinators continue to support Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) with their activities in Tararua secondary schools. The Booze Goggles have proven to be a popular tool to promote sober driving among young people.
25. Six Great Mates Drive Sober billboards have been re-installed throughout the Tararua.

Palmerston North City

Environmental Management

26. Whatonga has been completed and awaiting outcome on the limited notification consent.

Operations

27. Negotiations with the Manawatu Golf Club are progressing in respect of programmed stopbank upgrade work.
28. Meeting of Manawatu River (Anzac Cliffs) river realignment project team scheduled for 3 October.
29. Recommencement of work at Ruamahanga/Albert Street to complete landscaping, grassing and walkway reinstatement, scheduled week beginning 19 September - weather permitting.
30. Meeting held on 13 September with Tanenuiarangi Manawatu Incorporated (TMI) to discuss operational matters and work programmes for the 2011-12 financial year.

Regional Services & Information

31. Passenger numbers on Palmerston North bus services continue to climb, with year to date patronage up 10% on 2010-11 (which was already a record year).

Horowhenua DistrictEnvironmental Management

32. Official announcement and opening of additional 17.5 ha to Lake Papaitonga Reserve.

Operations

33. Response lodged with the Court in respect of a Counter-Claim from Mr Catley.

34. Letter forwarded to HDC regarding on-going flood risk to houses at Waikawa.

Regional Services & Information

35. The road safety coordinator promoted sober driving with a display and resources at Manawatu College's 'Amped 4 Life' concert and will be following this up with establishing SADD in the school as well as other Horowhenua secondary schools.

CORPORATE & GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Key facts about the organisation

36. Annual Report is complete and sitting with Audit.

37. LTP planning process underway.

Number of FTEs

38. The total number of FTE is: 213.

UPCOMING EVENTSEnvironmental Management

39. Hosting Dr Jim Salinger for seminar on Climate Change and the Impacts on Farming, 30th September, 11:30 am at the PN Convention Centre.

40. Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) AGM 27th September.

GENERALEnvironmental Management

41. Attended the first quarter SLUI Management Meeting with MAF in Wellington on 15th September.

42. Hosted a tour of the GreenRIG with a potential sponsor.

43. Staff attended Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) AGM in Ohakune on 12th September.

44. Radio interview with Radio NZ on SLUI update.

45. Press release on SLUI five year update.

46. Staff attended a meeting with NZ Carbon investor.

Regional Planning and Regulatory

47. Water week - Science talk to Nga Tawa School on 12 September.

**Agenda for Regional Mayors & Chair Forum meeting to be held
on
Friday, 16 September 2011 commencing at 10am**
Hosted by: Rangitikei District Council
Venue: Rangitikei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton
Chair Mayor Chalky Leary

- 10am** **Introductions and Welcome Chair - Mayor Chalky Leary, Rangitikei District Council**
- Apologies**
- Apologies have been received from**
Hon Simon Powers, MP for Rangitikei
Clare Hadley, Chief Executive, Rangitikei District Council
- Confirmation of Minutes 15 April 2011 (attached)**
- 10.10am** **Matters relevant to Members of Parliament who may be in attendance.**
- 10.20am** **Project Tasman**
Rodney Wong, Director, Palmerston North Airport Ltd reporting back on the Project Tasman initiative.
- 10.40am** **Overview of the Regional Economy**
Peter Crawford, Economic Policy Advisor, Palmerston North City Council will make a presentation on economic trends and future outlook for our region.
- 11.10am** **New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Ltd**
- David Ward, CE, Horowhenua District Council to present on the proposed Agency and to ascertain the position of other Councils within our District.
- 11.30am** **National Policy on Freshwater Management**
- Michael McCartney, CE, Horizons Regional Council to present on the National Policy on Freshwater Management
- 11.50am** **Around the Region**
- During this session representatives of each attending local authority will spent 2-3 minutes to update meeting on current happenings.
- 12.15pm** Meeting concludes with a light lunch

Next Meeting – Horizons April 2012

Minutes of the Regional Mayors & Chair Forum held on Friday, 15 April 2011 at the Manawatu Golf Club, Centennial Drive Palmerston North commencing at 1.30pm.

Present

Mayor Ian McKelvie	Manawatu District Council (Chair)
Mayor Roly Ellis	Tararua District Council
Chair Bruce Gordon	Horizons Regional Council
Mayor Chalky Leary	Rangitikei District Council
Deputy Mayor Don Cameron	Ruapehu District Council
Mayor Brendan Duffy	Horowhenua District Council
Mayor Jono Naylor	Palmerston North City Council
Mayor Annette Main	Wanganui District Council
Blair King	CE Tararua District Council
David Ward	CE Horowhenua District Council
Lorraine Vincent	CE Manawatu District Council
Kevin Ross	CE Wanganui District Council
David Hammond	CE Ruapehu District Council
Claire Hadley	CE Rangitikei District Council
Paddy Clifford	CE Palmerston North City Council
Michael McCartney	CE Horizons Regional Council
Cr Margaret Kouvelis	Manawatu District Council

In Attendance

Mr Rodney Wong	Director Palmerston North Airport
Phillipa Barriball	Fonterra
Gordon McKellar	Federated Farmers
Eva Watson Minute Secretary	Horowhenua District Council

1. Introductions and Welcome Chair - Mayor Ian McKelvie, Manawatu District Council

Mayor McKelvie, Chair welcomed all to the meeting, especially Mayor Annette Main from Wanganui, noting it was her first Regional Mayors and Chair meeting. Also commented on attendance from all Councils. He then advised the meeting the background to Cr Margaret Kouvelis' paper. He invited Mr Gordon McKellar from Federated Farmers and Phillipa Barriball from Fonterra to stay for the meeting.

2. Apologies were received from

Minister Tariana Turia
Iain Lees-Galloway MP
Chester Borrows MP
Simon Powers MP
Nathan Guy MP
Mayor Sue Morris Ruapehu District Council

Moved Mayor Brendan Duffy and Seconded Mayor Chalky Leary That the apologies be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3. Confirmation of Minutes 3 September 2010

Moved Mayor Brendan Duffy and Seconded Mayor Chalky Leary That the minutes be received.

CARRIED

4. Triennial Agreement for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region

David Ward spoke to this agreement. Particularly to bring to the attention of all Clause B1 and D1. This item was included on the agenda as it is procedural. There was no discussion on the matter.

5. Project "Tasman"

Rodney Wong, Director, Palmerston North Airport was in attendance to speak to "Project Tasman" - Proposed Taskforce to promote Palmerston North as an International gateway and presented a power point presentation. Challenge to regional leaders how to convince people like Jetstar that this region can act as a cohesive tourist destination. Asked if the project makes sense or are they starting to reinvent the wheel again.

Following the presentation a discussion took place.

- What sort of tourist market are they aiming for
- Outbound mostly to Brisbane
- Commitment that all the regions are working together, regional cohesion
- Wouldn't like to see several RTOs
- What attractions would be available for tourists

A small working group to be established for a short term investigation - Tararua, Wanganui, Palmerston North and Horizons Regional Council expressed interest in joining this group.

Mayor McKelvie thanked Mr Rodney Wong for his presentation.

6. Future Thinking

Discussion paper from Mayor McKelvie, together with the paper presented by Mayor Leary at the recent Zone 3 meeting held in Marton.

- a. Shape of Rural New Zealand – presentation by Mayor Ian McKelvie, Manawatu District Council
- b. Relevance of Regional Mayor's Forum
 - i. Reason for forum existing
 - ii. Agenda content
 - iii. More strategic thinking
 - iv. Participation – local people of influence
 - v. Timing
- c. Focus for next 3 years

The challenge for us as a group of people is to make this forum work or dismiss it.

Following a discussion on this it was decided that data that shows where we were 20 years and where we are now - eg population, number of schools, may see how much we have declined over the last 20 years, should be collated.

- Need to look outside the square to go forward.
- What are the reasons things are what they are and where does local government fit into fixing those things.
- Looking back at presentation to Zone 3 by Steve Maharey, Massey University - innovative marketing, how we get what it is that we want to do to the market and what is the market and the continued reliance on traditional practices. How do we link to that.
- Have to talk to New Plymouth and Hawkes Bay.

- Fonterra will make a commitment to take part in any forum.
- Forum to be structured correctly, positively, with right sort of people and information.

David Ward to make informal approaches in first instance to Steve Maharey, Massey University, BERL, Local Government New Zealand to see what resources they have to assist us and to make Prime Minister's office aware of the initiative.

Bruce Gordon advised that the Regional Forum was put off this year following discussion with all other TLAs with a decision having been made to have one every 2nd year.

7. "Opportunity Knocks"

Cr Kouvelis presented her paper her Discussion Paper "Opportunity Knocks"

- Chair McKelvie commented that given the paper that Rodney Hide put out this week the topic is more pertinent to us in whatever form we chose to take it up.
- Felt that Cr Kouvelis' paper reinforced the previous discussion.
- Would an Unitary Authority fix the population problem?

8. ABC Project Update

Mayor Jono Naylor, Palmerston North City Council gave an update on the ABC project.

How can the City continue to grow economically with the benefits to resound around the region as well. Have concluded informal conversations with community, now about to put forward a draft boundary reorganisation proposal to the Joint Committee on 5 May and then go back to the Councils to sign off at the end of May. Included in the proposal proper will be a timeline for action extending to 1 July 2012. The Manawatu District Council will lose some rating base but have worked out system to compensate Manawatu District Council, with a payment schedule over 5 years and weaning off over next 5 years.

9. Economic Impact of Christchurch Earthquake

Mayor McKelvie put this item on the agenda when the matter was consuming all of us, but he felt that had probably been overcome to a large extent and that the Government is well aware of where this whole thing sits. Huge challenges in front of Christchurch.

Who here is looking at earthquake prone buildings?

Letter from LAPP out advising not currently in position to insure anyone. Whether fund is going to be reinstated or wound up.

10. General Business

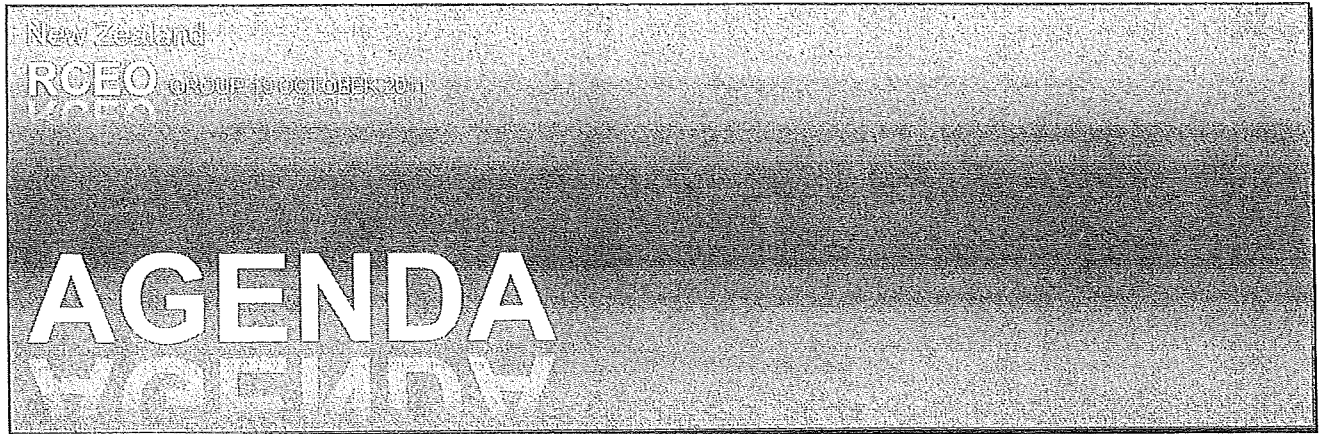
Michael McCartney - clarified the need for a TA Forum on an annual basis, the general consensus that the TA Forum after visiting a number of authorities was useful every 2nd year, is that arrangement acceptable, planning on having one next year. Funding has been set aside towards this along with some sponsorship.

Bruce Gordon voiced concerned about the remuneration that the Government has set. Horizons going to be taking to the Regional Sector meeting but wants support from its region. Will send documentation for information.

David Ward commented on a letter from TBFree NZ letter pointing out the reduction in funding for TB funding proposed in Horizons draft annual plan this year and requesting Councils support. Horizons advised TBFree NZ asked for \$750,000, have put in \$650,000 into the draft annual plan, with \$100,000 surplus from this year underspent.

Next Meeting – Friday, 16 September 2011 at Rangitikei District Council-Chair Mayor Chalky Leary commencing at 10am.

Meeting concluded at 4.10pm.



MEETING START TIME: 10.30 am – APPROX FINISH TIME: 4.00 pm

STANDING ITEMS

- | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|
| 1 | 10.30 | Welcome | |
| 2 | 10.30 | Apologies | |
| 3 | 10.35 | Confirmation of Agenda | |
| 4 | 10.35 | Confirmation of notes of meeting 9 August 2011 | |

RSG PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS

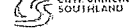
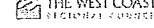
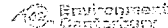
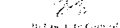
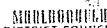
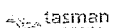
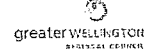
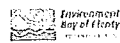
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|---|-------|--|---|
| 5 | 10.40 | Economic Development Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BERL Regional Council contribution to economic growth (substantive item below - Item 12) | Tony Phipps |
| 6 | 10.40 | Water Working Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAG Update • LAWF Update | Bill Bayfield
Relevant Council's CE
Bill Bayfield |
| 7 | 11.00 | Spatial Planning Update | Mary-Anne Macleod |

AGENDA ITEMS

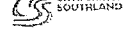
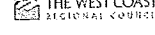
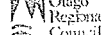
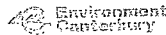
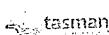
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| 8 | 11.15 | Insurance | David Benham |
| 9 | 11.30 | Regional Planning Procedures | Bob Laing |
| 10 | 12.00 | NZ Poplar and Willow Trust – Request for Financial Support | Ian McIvor and Bruce Wills |

LUNCH BREAK 12.30PM – 1.15PM

Provided by



- | | | | |
|--|------|---|-------------------------------|
| 11 | 1.15 | Environmental Protection Agency | Rob Forlong and Sarah Gardner |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA • What do the RCEO want from the EPA? • What role do the RCEO see for the EPA? • What do the RCEO need from the EPA? | |
| 12 | 1.45 | Update on the BERL Regional Council Contribution to Economic Growth Project | Tony Phipps |
| 13 | 2.15 | Update from the Biosecurity Managers Group and Biodiversity Forum | Rob Phillips |
| AFTERNOON BREAK 2.30PM – 2.45PM | | | |
| 14 | 2.45 | Alignment with Central Government Machinery of Government | Bill Bayfield |
| 15 | 3.15 | Update on experience in working with ECan Commissioners' | Bill Bayfield |
| 16 | 3.30 | CEEF's Meeting Agenda discussion | All |
| 17 | 3.45 | RSG Agenda discussion – next meeting | All |

 Provided by


A Significant decision? If Yes	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy and LGA requirements?	

Item No: 8
Date: 26/10/2011
Report No: 11-190
File No: OMS 10 03 10

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

PURPOSE

1. This item presents the 2010-11 Annual Report for adoption by Council. A copy of the Annual Report is included in Annex A as a separate document.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. There is no financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. The finalised Annual Report will be made available to the public on request.

BACKGROUND

4. At its meeting on 28 September 2011, the Audit, Risk and Investment Committee considered the draft Annual Report 2010-11, and recommended that the final 2010-11 Annual Report, complete with Audit opinion, be adopted by Council on 26 October 2011.
5. The statutory deadline for adoption of Council's Annual Report is 31 October 2011, being a date no later than four months following the end of the financial year to which it relates.
6. The Annual Report follows the same format as last year and that of the 2010-11 Annual Plan. The financial results for the year are compared against the Annual Plan and the prior year's actuals.
7. For legislative compliance purposes, additional notes and extra information has been required. In the section entitled 'Supplementary Information', we have included the following summaries for information purposes – Capital purchases, outstanding fines, rate account summary, river and drainage summaries, scheme reserves, scheme loans and transport scheme summary. This section of the annual report is not audited.

COMMENTS

8. The financial result has not changed from that previously reported to the Audit, Risk and Investment Committee. The statement of comprehensive income (page 133) shows an operating surplus for the year of \$3,153,000 against a budget of \$1,944,000, so Council has ended the year \$1,209,000 ahead of budget.
9. Further income adjustments including subvention receipts, newly identified assets, and asset revaluations have resulted in Council ending the year with total comprehensive income of \$6,001,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the Council:
- a. **adopts** the Annual Report 2010-11;
 - b. **receives** the unqualified audit opinion of Audit New Zealand in relation to the Annual Report 2010-11;
 - c. **instructs** the Chief Executive to prepare the Annual Report for publication and distribution (including any minor presentational changes arising from Audit New Zealand's final review);
 - d. **receives** the draft Annual Report Summary 2010-11; and
 - e. **instructs** the Chief Executive to finalise the Annual Report Summary 2010-11 for publication and distribution.

Thomas Collé
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ANNEXES

- A Annual Report 2010-11
(This is a separate report which is available on request. It has been distributed to Councillors and copies will also be available at Regional House, Palmerston North and Wanganui).
- B Draft Annual Report Summary 2010-11 (to be tabled on the day)
- C Unsigned copy of the Auditor's Report and letter of explanation (to be tabled on the day)

A Significant decision? <i>If Yes</i>	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	N/A

Item No: 9
Date: 26/10/2011
Report No: 11-187
File No: OMS 10 19

REPORT FROM APPEALS ADVISORY GROUP

PURPOSE

1. This report is to update Council on progress made to resolve appeals to the Proposed One Plan as Amended by Decisions. The report covers the period 16 September 2011 to 14 October 2011.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. This is a report for information and has no financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. Responding to appeals to the Proposed One Plan is a process controlled by the Environment Court and opportunity for community engagement is limited by the Court.

BACKGROUND

4. The Appeals Advisory Group was set up by Council in February 2011 to advise the Chief Executive on the management of appeals to the Proposed One Plan. The Chief Executive was also directed to report back to Council on a regular basis on progress and on-going costs and prospects of resolution with respect to dealing with One Plan appeals.
5. The delegation for the Advisory Group to set the extent of compromises in resolving appeal points and provide staff with advice on behalf of Council was confirmed at the May meeting of Council.

ADVISORY GROUP

6. No Appeals Advisory Group meetings were held this period because all matters requiring advice were dealt with before mediation resumed on 26 September 2011.
7. The primary focus of the appeals resolution team has been preparing information for and participating in resumed mediation. Advice will be sought from the Appeals Advisory Group on any points that arise from resumed mediation.

RESUMED MEDIATION

8. Eight days of resumed mediation have been completed. A further three days are programmed for the end of October 2011. The issues being dealt with during this round of mediation are the really difficult ones to resolve.
9. Further appeal points were resolved during resumed mediation; however, in some cases the best achievable outcome was to ensure the points of contention on unresolved appeal points are narrowed down as much as possible. This will make for a much more cost-effective hearing process.

10. Progress is summarised as follows:

Date	Mediation Topic	Outcome
26 September	• Natural Hazards	This matter has been agreed and a hearing will not be required. Final step is to get signatures on a memo of agreement from the parties.
	• Coast	This mediation did not take place as MWRC and the appellant appear to have exhausted options for resolution. It is almost inevitable that the Court will hear this last remaining appeal point on the topic
	• Infrastructure	Appeal points to this topic are resolved depending on the outcome of mediation on another topic. No Court hearing should be needed.
27 September	• Landscapes	A further six appeal points resolved, but it is unlikely that the concerns of energy companies related to cumulative effects clauses in Policy 7-7 can be resolved. A Court hearing for the few remaining appeal points is probable.
28 September	• Biodiversity and Schedule E	Several appeal points close to resolution if further work confirms this. Advice from the Appeals Advisory Group is needed before the few points remaining on Schedule E can be resolved. Biodiversity may not need a Court hearing apart from the legal challenge by Federated Farmers of New Zealand to MWRC taking a lead role in terrestrial biodiversity. MWRC and Federated Farmers have sought directions from the Court for a judicial process to resolve this.
5 October	• Water Allocation and topics	A further five appeal points were resolved and others generally agreed by all but one party. This may not require a Court hearing if final sign off can be obtained.
6 October	• Water Quality RPS	A further eight appeal points were resolved and others may be resolved in tandem with mediation on point source and non-point source discharges mediation on 26, 27 and 28 October.
12 October	• Sustainable Land Use/Accelerated Erosion	Resolution of the 12 appeal points on Chapter 12 rules was almost achieved by the end of mediation. Follow-up drafting work to incorporate matters agreed at mediation is required before sign-off is sought from the parties. No tangible progress was made on Chapter 5 policy provisions. At this time it appears likely that a Court hearing will be required for this topic, however, it will be confined to a much reduced number of points of contention.
12 October	• Groundwater allocation	There is one appeal point remaining and this will be resolved subject to resolution of another matter following this mediation. No Court hearing should be needed.
13, 14 October	• Beds of Rivers and Lakes	A further 11 appeal points were resolved and others may be resolved after follow-up work. MWRC is hopeful that this topic will not require a Court hearing.
26, 27, 28 October	• Point source and non-point source discharges	Yet to be held

11. It is estimated that 164 (37%) of appeal points are resolved. All appeal points on the Air Topic have been resolved so the air provisions of the proposed One Plan are essentially operative because no further amendments will be made.
12. Final confirmation that appeal points have been resolved relies on the Judge signing off consent orders for them. Consent orders are being prepared and sent to the Court on behalf of the parties by MWRC as memoranda of agreement are signed off.
13. Memoranda detailing agreements, agreed follow-up work streams and matters where it was agreed to disagree are available for viewing in the Councillors' office. The memoranda resulting from resumed mediation are printed on blue coloured paper.
14. To meet the Council requirement that the appeals process be completed by 30 June 2012 it is considered that no further mediation is likely to occur unless the parties are confident that agreement will be reached. The appeals resolution team is encouraging the Court to set time aside in March/April 2012 for those appeal points that will need to be heard by the Judge.

BUDGET

15. **Annex A** is presented for members' information. It contains two graphs. The first shows monthly costs versus the budget estimate for that month for this financial year. The second shows the cumulative cost of the appeal process which began on 1 October 2010. Both these summaries have been updated with financial data for September.
16. Costs so far this year are \$239,724 versus a budget estimate of \$296,430. This means the project is currently \$56,706 below budget (81% of the estimated budget costs for 1 July to 30 September).

RECOMMENDATIONS

17. It is recommended that the Council:
 - a. **receives** the report of the Appeals Advisory Group.

Barry Gilliland
APPEALS PROJECT MANAGER

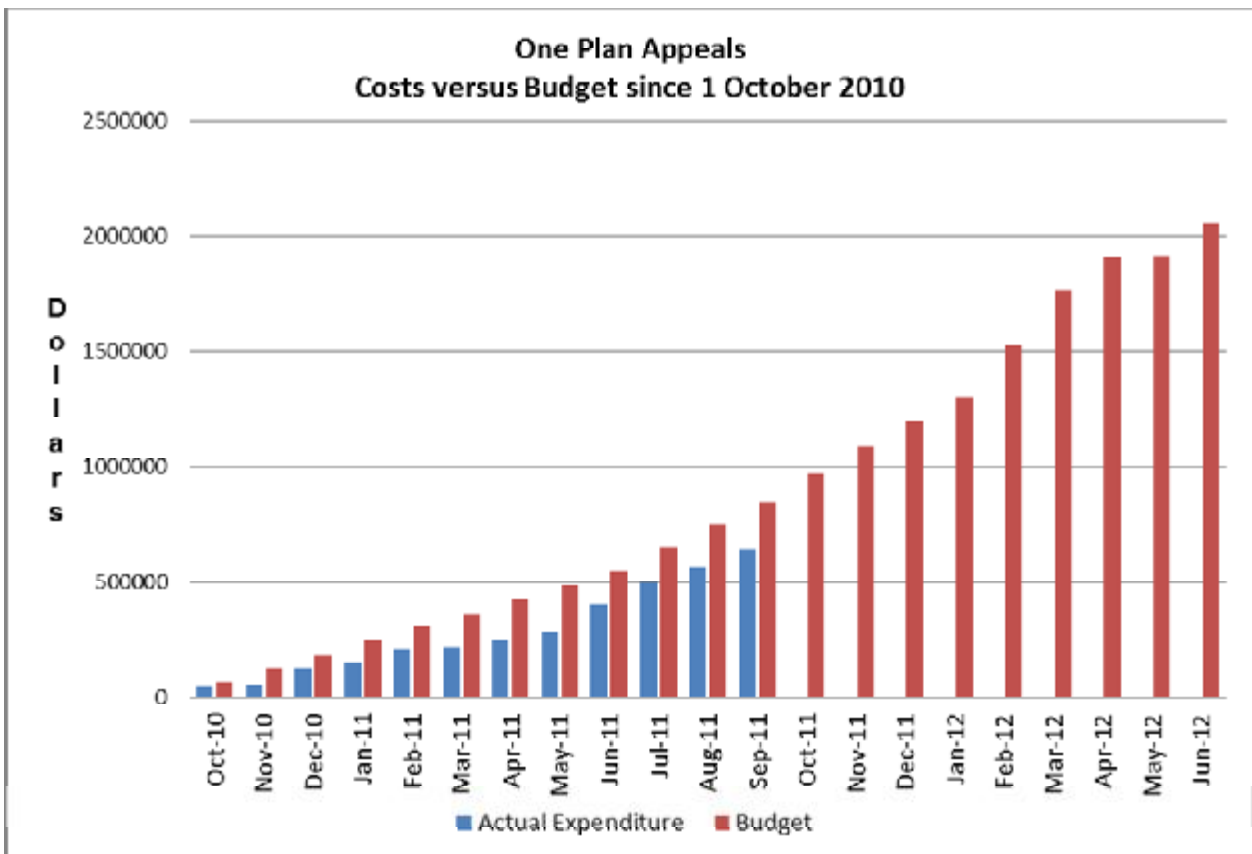
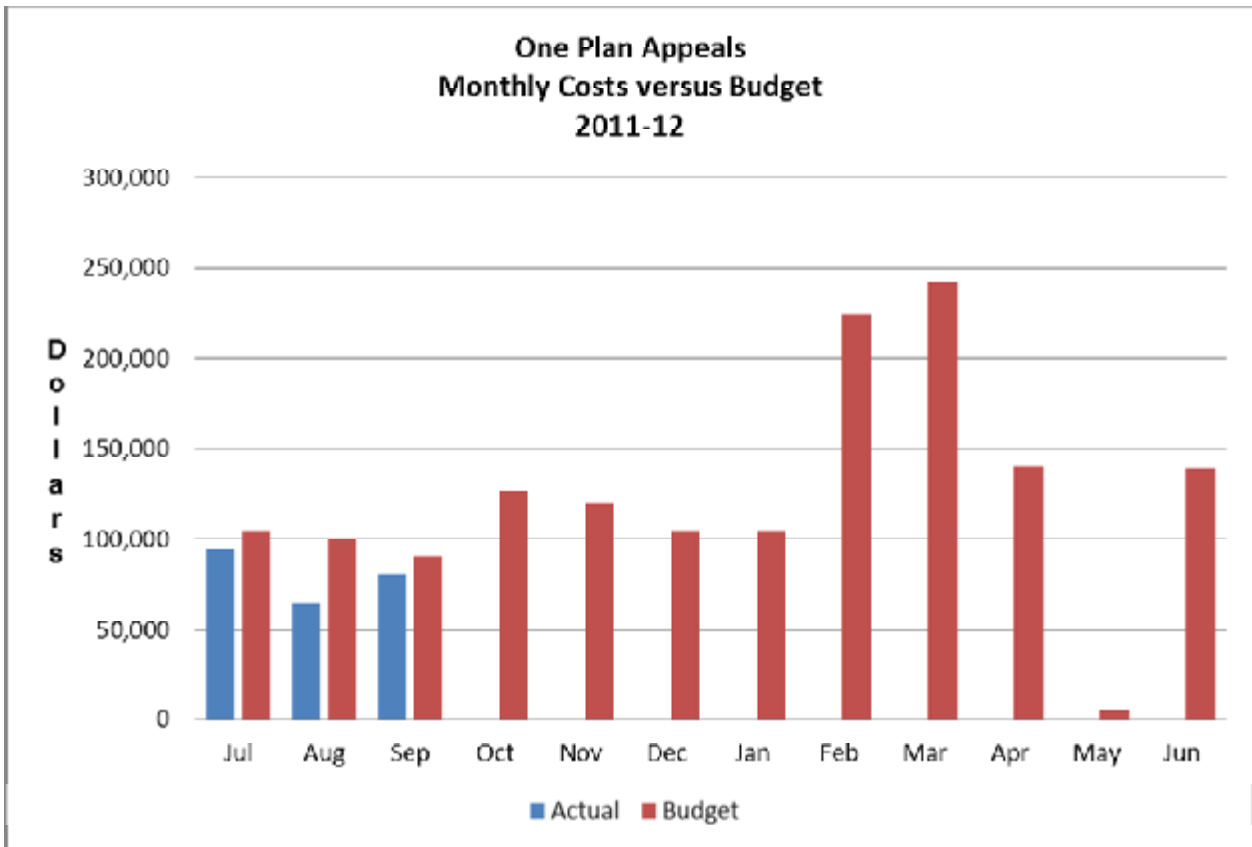
On behalf of

Bruce Gordon
CHAIRMAN

Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNEX

- A Summary of Costs versus Budget



A Significant decision? <i>If Yes</i>	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	Y

Item No: 10
Date: 26/10/2011
Report No: 11-191
File No: 0/0/GEN

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TEAM

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

PURPOSE

1. This item provides Members with responses to matters raised at the Compliance Workshop held on 29 June 2011 and subsequent follow-up meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. There is no financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. The Community is able to see this information either in the agenda or on the Council's website.

COMMENT

4. All action items listed below have been discussed during the Compliance Workshop with Council and two follow-up meetings that have been held.

STATUTORY FUNCTION

5. Members were advised that Horizons Regional Council (HRC) has a statutory requirement under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the rules in its plans that have effect in our Region. HRC has a duty to enforce the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6. One member voiced concern in the matter around conflicts of interest for staff or Councillors engaged in compliance processes. The existing guidelines and policies will be examined to ensure that Horizons employees or Councillors are not able to be engaged in matters where a conflict of interest is present. A further item will be brought forward as an agenda item.

STAFF JUDGEMENT

7. Staff during the course of their inspection process exercise judgement in relation to actual or potential non-compliances. Documentation around this judgement is now a regular inclusion in the Environment Committee Agenda item. Judgement that is exercised around other activities groups will be formulated throughout the monitoring year.

INFRINGEMENT NOTICE DELEGATION

8. The delegation to issue infringement notices is to remain with the Environmental Protection Manager.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

9. Horizons Regional Council will formulate a Restorative Justice Policy based on a nationally accepted methodology. HRC will actively engage with the court to establish a framework which can be publically identified for restorative justice. It is important to note that based on previous case law, restorative justice can only occur where a defendant has acknowledged their guilt by entering a guilty plea at the earliest time. The defendant must also be remorseful and have taken substantial steps to mitigate the impacts of their offending.

NEW MONITORING PROGRAMMES

10. Over that past three years the Environmental Protection Team has adjusted or commenced a small number of monitoring programmes. A model that has worked is one where there is a period of information and assistance prior to monitoring inspections and formal reporting being undertaken. The Environmental Protection Team will formalise this current process in a policy document.

INCENTIVISING BEST PRACTISE

11. It has been recognised that across a number of resource consent activity groups there is significant work being undertaken to not only comply, but exceed resource consent conditions. There are a number of options for incentivising and supporting good compliance history. Staff will continue to bring recommendations for acknowledging and incentivising good behaviour to Council for determination on a case-by-case basis.

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

12. The period of notice prior to an inspection being undertaken will continue as currently programmed. It is to be noted that HRC is among the minority, as the majority of Regional Councils do not give any prior notice before commencing inspections.

DAIRY EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

13. An agenda item on the dairy excellence programme will be presented once the criteria has been formalised and circulated to industry representatives.

DAIRY SURVEY

14. The dairy survey was presented to Councillors and subsequent amendments have been made. The survey was recirculated to the Councillors involved and will be sent out next month.

OFFSHORE CONSENT HOLDERS

15. Over the past year matters have arisen with resource consents being held by offshore consent holders. The Consents Team is aware of these issues and has developed procedures where company addresses will be fully scrutinised prior to any granting or transferring of resource consents.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – CONSENTS TEAM

16. Since 2009 the Consents Team have developed a customer service approach that involves considerable contact with the applicant. The Consents Team have continued this customer service approach and when required utilise the support of other teams within Horizons Regional Council.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – COMPLIANCE TEAM

17. Over the past three years significant effort has gone into improving education to consent holders through customer service and communications. There has been, and continues to be, positive feedback particularly around the new dairy inspection process.

STAFF JOB TITLES

18. It has been raised by one Councillor that the Senior Investigator job title evoked some degree of disconcertion with members of the public. The Senior Investigator position came into effect on 1 July 2007 with the focus on investigations into alleged breaches against Resource Management Act (1991). It is understood the continued use of this title was generally supported.

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY RELATIONSHIPS

19. The management of Territorial Authority relationships, in relation to the assessment of activities that are undertaken that are covered by resource consents was raised. Non-compliances when identified through inspections and report assessments have been and will continue to be reported as they arise in the Environmental Committee Agenda item.

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

20. The process around incident and non-compliance investigations will be presented in a further item to outline the procedures that are undertaken and the legal requirements that HRC have to fulfil in these situations.

EXTRA-ORDINARY EVENTS

21. A formal process will be developed around the determination of an extra-ordinary event (drought or weather-bomb), when compliance inspections will be affected. The process will involve stakeholders across activity groups and the decision will be publically reported when an extra-ordinary event is determined.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

22. It has been the Regional Council's practice for some time to engage with the consent community, stakeholders or industry leaders where new regulations, practice techniques or technologies are developed. HRC will continue this engagement practice and will formalise and adopt a policy to ensure clarity around this matter.

CONSENT INFORMATION

23. Council endorsed HRC's operational approach to be the lead agency for consent condition information and education. HRC will continue on its current path with continued development in this area of business.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

24. The complaints procedure was presented and endorsed by Council. The process involves assessment of the complaints and recognises a willingness from HRC to resolve any issues that are founded. This process provides assurance to the community that issues are being followed through.

DAIRY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

25. The criteria for assessing dairy significant non-compliance and non-compliances were presented to Council and are now included in agenda items.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. It is recommended that the Council:
- a. **notes** and **receives** the Compliance Workshop responses and proposed actions contained in this report.

A F Russell
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MANAGER**

C A Grant
**ACTING GROUP MANAGER REGIONAL
PLANNING AND REGULATORY**

A Significant decision? If Yes	N
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy (contained within the LTCCP)	

Item No: 11
Date: 26/10/2011
Report No: 11-189
File No: PRD 3 06

PROPOSED TARINGAMOTU RIVER SCHEME

PURPOSE

1. This report is to inform the Council of the outcome of the Submissions Hearing on the proposed Taringamotu River Management Scheme (the proposed Scheme), and to seek its recommendation for the adoption of a proposal, including amendments recommended by the Hearing Committee, for inclusion in the Draft 2012-2022 Long-Term Plan (LTP).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. The proposal recommended in this item will have the following financial impact. Annual Scheme rates for an initial 10 year works programme would be about \$48,000 (excluding GST) with a 20% Regional Contribution of about \$12,000. There is no loan requirement. Subsequent years would involve about half these amounts. The work involved in finalising a draft rating system will be funded from existing non-Scheme activity budgets. Apart from that there would be no financial impact until 2012-13.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. Taringamotu landowners and other stakeholders will be informed of the outcome of the non-statutory consultation process and the proposed inclusion of a new Scheme for management of the Taringamotu River in the 2012-22 Draft LTP.

BACKGROUND

4. On 13 April 2011 the Catchment Operations Committee received a study report on proposals to manage the Taringamotu River and approved a non-statutory process of consultation on the establishment of a Scheme.
5. The new Scheme and rating system, including any amendments arising from the consultation process would then be included in the Council's 2012-22 Draft LTP.

CONSULTATION

6. On 25 July 2011 a letter outlining a proposed River Management Scheme was sent to some 175 landowners and stakeholders in the Taringamotu catchment. The letter included details of a proposed channel design, a proposed works programme, a proposed rating system for funding the works, and the consultation process ahead. Ratepayers were invited to discuss any issues or concerns with staff and to provide a written submission to a Hearing Committee.
7. A public meeting was held on 22 August 2011 at the Ngakonui Community Hall to discuss the proposed Scheme. Some 34 landowners attended the meeting as well as a representative from the Ruapehu District Council (RDC).

8. A reminder letter and questionnaire was sent on 8 September 2011 to encourage feedback from the 60 or so landowners along the lower 32 km of the Taringamotu River itself.
9. Several landowners contacted Jeremy Cumming, Senior Engineering Officer and Warren Wheeler, Design Engineer to discuss the proposals and clarify issues. Jeremy also accompanied Brent Holmes, Area Engineer Northern to a hui at Ngakonui Marae on Sunday 18 September 2011.
10. All submitters were sent a copy of the Hearing Agenda to inform them of staff recommendations to the Committee regarding the submissions.

SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

11. A total of 25 written submissions were received from individuals or organisations, including one late submission that was forwarded to the Hearing Committee after the Hearing Agenda had been sent out.
12. The majority of submissions generally supported the need to properly manage the river, but many were concerned that the proposed Scheme is not affordable and is not fair to those who have carried out their own river works over the years.
13. A Submissions Hearing was held on Thursday 29 September 2011 at 10.30am at the Taumarunui RSA in Marae Street, Taumarunui. The Hearing Committee members were Cr Murray Guy (Chair), Cr Mike Plowman and Cr Greg Cox. Staff in attendance included Warren Wheeler (Design Engineer), Jeremy Cumming (Senior Engineering Officer), Brent Holmes (Area Engineer Northern) and Rachel Pinny (Operations Group Secretary).
14. Nine submitters who had indicated they wished to make a verbal submission spoke at the Hearing in support of their submission and answered queries from the Hearing Committee.
15. Several other submitters and interested parties also attended the Hearing. One of these submitters took up the opportunity to address the Committee and a verbal submission was also presented on behalf of local Maori.
16. The Hearing adjourned at 12.21 pm and the Committee reconvened at 1.30 pm to consider the submissions, including those written submissions that had not been heard.
17. Each submission was considered by the Hearing Committee, together with staff comments on the issues summarised in Report No. 11-173.

ISSUES RAISED BY SUBMITTERS

18. The main issues raised by submitters were as follows:

GENERAL

- a. There should be a vote of affected landowners on whether the proposal should proceed or not.
- b. Council should be accountable for the willows and poplars planted along the river under previous Government and Catchment Board policy.
- c. Why should landowners who already do their own river works have to pay for others who do not? Each landowner should look after their own section of river,

with help and advice from Horizons (including Environmental Grant funding) as at present.

PROPOSED WORKS

- d. A planted 10 m buffer zone would unduly impinge on small holdings.
- e. The proposed works are too costly. Other options should be explored, such as 50:50 cost sharing basis.
- f. The Scheme should have a definite cut off date (say after seven years) following which the Scheme would only continue with the consent of the Scheme Liaison Committee.

GLOBAL CONSENT

- g. Gravel extraction needs to be properly managed and monitored, without unduly affecting landowners and with due allowance for each landowner's right to extract 50 cubic metres per year for their own use.

SCHEME LIAISON COMMITTEE

- h. The Scheme Liaison Committee should be democratically elected and should have effective control of the Scheme.

RATING

- i. A uniform rate per kilometre along the length of the channel would be more fair and equitable, especially for landowners in the congested Middle Reach where much of the benefit is to downstream properties.
- j. Severe erosion in the steep forested hill country has been caused by past logging, so the entire catchment should be included in the contributor rating.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

- 19. After considering the submissions and staff recommendations on the submissions, the Hearing Committee adjourned the meeting until 12 October 2011. Staff were requested to report back on the potential reduction in benefits if the cost (and scope) of the works was reduced, particularly in the heavily congested Middle Reach.
- 20. On 12 October 2011 the Hearing Committee reconvened at Regional House in Palmerston North and considered a report prepared by staff. Both Warren Wheeler and Jeremy Cumming were in attendance to answer any queries.
- 21. The Committee noted the report involved a reassessment of the works required in the Middle Reach. The revised approach recognised that the three principle landowners have already abandoned kilometres of their river frontage and would therefore receive little benefit from major vegetation clearance. Works would therefore be limited to clearing debris and any trees at immediate risk of falling into the channel. Potential problems to downstream properties would therefore be mitigated.
- 22. Initial works in the Middle Reach would effectively be halved and would result in similar average costs as the Lower and Upper Reaches. Overall cost savings would be 30%, with little or no reduction in benefits to the downstream ratepayers, so long as debris

from the Middle Reach was kept to a minimum. This would involve on-going clearance of trees that progressively fall into the channel and may result in higher maintenance costs in later years.

23. The Committee also considered a number of funding options including a 75% local contribution to erosion control works, provision for major erosion works at five or six existing problem sites, extending the initial works over ten years instead of the proposed seven and 20 year loan funding for initial works completed in just three years.
24. On balance the Committee agreed that the best option in terms of benefit and affordability would be for the Scheme to be established primarily for channel clearing and vegetation control, with the revised initial works spread over 10 years and a 75% local contribution for light erosion protection works (including tied tree protection, riparian planting and fencing). Any major erosion protection (such as rockwork, channel training or heavy live tree erosion protection works) would continue to be solely funded by the affected landowner or stakeholder (such as RDC).
25. A late submission was also received from Tame Tuwhangai on behalf of the Taringamotu Maori Committee and local hapu. The Committee noted the points raised with respect to relationships with local Maori were largely operational matters that would be addressed by the Scheme Manager.

RECOMMENDED OUTCOMES

26. The Committee agreed the following **recommendations** (with comments shown in italics):

Amendments to Proposed Scheme

- a. Adopt the proposed Scheme, with the following amendments (as set out in Annex B and C).
 1. Reduce the initial clearing works in the congested Middle Reach by approximately half to effectively reduce the overall costs by approximately 30%;
 2. Extend the revised initial works programme over 10 years instead of seven;
 3. Erosion control work to be funded from the general rate contribution (20%), Scheme rate (20%) and local contribution by the affected landowner (60%);
 4. Combine the proposed T1, T2 and T3 direct benefit rates as a uniform T1 rate along the full 32 km length of channel.

*The Committee **noted** that:*

- *the revised channel clearance programme results in a more uniform spread of costs and benefits along the river;*
- *erosion protection was largely for the benefit of adjoining landowners so it was fair that they contribute directly to any such works;*
- *Scheme Rates and General Rate contributions would effectively provide a 40% subsidy for light erosion works, which compares favourably with the current 30% Environmental Grant regime;*

- *extending the initial works programme to 10 years delays the full benefits of the Scheme but reduces the annual rates to a more affordable level and allows the Scheme to gather its own momentum as the benefits of the works become apparent to ratepayers;*
- *local Maori would be represented on the Scheme Liaison Committee or otherwise actively engaged by the Scheme Manager to help ensure the success of the Scheme;*
- *the effective T1 benefit rate would be approximately \$1,500 per kilometre (excluding GST) and the 20% catchment-wide contributor rate would be approximately \$0.80 per hectare (excluding forested areas).*

Name of Scheme

- b. Adopt the name “Taringamotu River Scheme” for the implementation of the Taringamotu River Management Scheme.

*The Committee **noted** that:*

- *this would be consistent with other river Schemes managed by Horizons.*

Engagement with the Community

- c. Inform submitters and ratepayers of the outcomes of the current submissions process and the subsequent steps to set up the Scheme:
1. A circular letter explaining the revised proposal, including rating impacts, and informing ratepayers of the forthcoming LTP submissions process be sent to all riparian property owners along the river.
 2. Assuming the proposed Scheme is ultimately adopted through the 2012-22 LTP, that a public meeting be held in early July 2012 to confirm a work programme for Year 1 and to establish a Scheme Liaison Committee.

27. A copy of the Minutes of the Hearing is attached at Annex A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

28. It is recommended that the Council:

- a. **notes** the contents of Report Nol 11-189;
- b. **endorses** the recommendations of the Hearing Committee established to hear submissions on the Proposed Taringamotu River Management Scheme, as set out in paragraph 26 above;
- c. **approves** the proposed Taringamotu River Scheme for inclusion in the Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) 2012-22;
- d. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to finalise a draft rating system and prepare the rating database for the Taringamotu River Scheme in time for striking the rates in 2012-13;

- e. **notes** that all submitters and other affected landowners will be advised of the outcome of the current non-statutory consultation process and of the opportunity to further submit through the forthcoming LTP process.

A D Cook
GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

W T Wheeler
DESIGN ENGINEER

ANNEXES

- A Submissions Hearing Minutes – Proposed Taringamotu River Management Scheme
- B Revised Assessment – Reduced Works in Middle Reach
- C Revised 10 Year Programme of Works

ANNEX A TO ITEM 11
Report No. 11-189

Minutes of the Submissions Hearing Committee Meeting for the Proposed Taringamotu River Management Scheme held at the Taumarunui RSA, 10 Marae Street in Taumarunui on Thursday 29 September, at 10.35 am.

PRESENT: Cr Murray Guy (Chair)
Cr Greg Cox
Cr Mike Plowman

APOLOGIES: Allan Cook, Group Manager - Operations

IN ATTENDANCE: Warren Wheeler – Design Engineer Officer
Jeremy Cumming – Senior Engineer Officer
Brent Holmes – Area Engineer, Northern Area
Rachel Pinny – Group Secretary - Operations

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked submitters for taking the time to attend and give presentations. He introduced the Panel and officers present and explained the general way in which the hearing would be undertaken.

The Chairman outlined the general consultation process which has been undertaken to date and what outcomes were expected from the Hearing.

ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Graham Waller

Graham Waller spoke to the Panel clarifying his written submission in that Horizons Regional Council (HRC) needs to address the damage already done to the river first before taking on further works as proposed in the Scheme. Graham Waller acknowledges work needs to be done, but the proposed costs for the whole Scheme are far too high and un-economical for him. At present Graham Waller addresses river clean-up himself by cutting down, stock piling and burning the trees causing a nuisance. Graham Waller would like to see the wood cleared off the land and not dumped on the river bank until the next flood comes along and carries it into the river and downstream.

The Panel posed the question to Graham Waller “what is your involvement to the river” to which Graham Waller replied “I stock pile and burn”.

The Panel posed the question “do you believe there is a general feel among the community that this is a community issue and is there are community spirit around the issue” to which Graham Waller replied “yes”.

Cr Guy thanked Graham Waller for his submission.

Margaret Hawthorne (in place of Peter Till) – Ruapehu District Council

Margaret gave apologies on behalf of Peter Till.

Margaret Hawthorne spoke to the Panel clarifying Ruapehu District Council’s (RDC) written submission that in principle RDC understand residents are in support of the proposed Scheme, and the bulk of people are in support of works being done. Ruapehu District Council have been keen to have the river management issue looked at for sometime now.

Since 2009 works have been done and works are continuing with HRC. However, concerns around costs being too high have been noted by residents. Council (RDC) has some specific problems with the meandering river bed. Firstly, the gravel under the Waitangi Access Road Bridge threatens to overtop the bridge. Secondly, there are two bridges on the northern branch of the river whose abutments are under threat.

The Panel posed the question to Margaret Hawthorne “have RDC undertaken a quick assessment of what a Scheme would cost per kilometer”? Margaret Hawthorne doubted this had been done but believed this area would be where HRC Engineers come into play and not RDC as they do not have the expertise.

The Panel posed the question to Margaret Hawthorne “what is the feeling from ratepayers”? Margaret Hawthorne expressed the bulk of the residents were in support of the Scheme going ahead but the high costs was the main concern. Maybe the costs could be spread over a longer period of time?

The Panel posed the question to Margaret Hawthorne “the two bridges being threatened would this not be eliminated as the Scheme would address the issues, in a separate question “are RDC prepared to contribute”? Margaret Hawthorne would not assume that the proposed Scheme would eliminate this problem and would propose engineers look at this in the plans and if it did not remedy the problem, RDC would have to look at other options. If HRC did not address these issues RDC would have to address it themselves. Ruapehu District Council would support the Scheme with possible contribution towards costs.

Cr Guy thanked Margaret Hawthorne (Ruapehu District Council) for her submission.

Graham Sinnamon and Nigel Blair (Landcorp)

A joint submission was read out by Graham Sinnamon and Nigel Blair clarifying while they are in support of tidying up the river they are both opposed to the Scheme in its current format especially the costs involved.

Together, they own 2500 ha of farmland along 12 km (around 6 km each) of the T2 section of the Taringamotu River Scheme Plan. In past years they have undertaken their own annual river maintenance programme that has been done on the basis of delivering a return, be it economic or environmental. Based on their experience the Scheme costs for their stretch has been significantly overstated.

A small portion of the river is fenced on Meringa (Landcorp’s land), and the majority of the Waitangi stretch is fenced to exclude stock. Any remedial works along these stretches will deliver minimal advantage to the landholder.

Together they believe the proposed staggered rate over the initial seven years is totally unacceptable as the benefit will be equal for the entire length of the river. In addition, there needs to be an end date to the maintenance works. After that time a new programme could be initiated if necessary.

The issue with paying for both banks of the river when they may only be farming 40-100 m between the river and the road was raised. The extra rates far exceed any economic return they could earn from this narrow piece of land.

The Panel asked Graham and Nigel “what measures they have put in place to mitigate issues affecting Landcorp and downstream owners; what would they like to see to

adequately mitigate the issues (have HRC got the rating methodology incorrect?); and do Landcorp have any specific ideas on how to cost the Scheme”

Landcorp expressed that they have removed willows (own man power) from sites at a far less cost to them than in the proposed Scheme. Not a lot more has been done as they felt “scared” of doing anything in case of being penalised by HRC. Landcorp suggested a part remedy to the methodology could be that those to gain more pay more, but extending the time to 10 years would still mean this would pay the same.

The Panel asked whether Landcorp would be willing make a financial contribution towards any Scheme in addition to their own mitigation works if the cost issue was addressed. Both Graham and Nigel expressed costs would need to be significantly reduced.

Cr Guy thanked Graham Sinnamon and Nigel Blair for their submission.

Barry and Margaret Leslie

Barry Leslie came to the table with immediate neighbour Campbell-Wright.

Barry Leslie thanked the Panel for the opportunity to speak. Both Barry Leslie and Campbell-Wright oppose the Scheme mostly because of the high costs over their stretch for the duration of the Scheme. Barry Leslie and Campbell-Wright noted that only a small amount of remedial work is required in their view, is not urgent and does not warrant the high costs proposed in the Scheme. There is no economic benefit. The river channel needs to be realigned, metal extraction done to improve speed of water these are things they would support in a proposal and would be willing to contribute to those costs. Department of Conversation and forestry should pay into the Scheme as they contribute debris etc.. Campbell-Wright reiterated that there is very little to be done, and what work needed can be done by himself instead of paying someone to do it and within a shorter time frame.

The Panel asked “how much metal and willow DOC and Forestry contribute to the river”? Neither Barry Leslie nor Campbell-Wright knew the answer to this question they expressed the answer would need to come from those companies. Even though willow is not found in Forestry they are still a contributor with regards to debris/ rubbish in the water, and therefore should be a financial contributor to the Scheme.

Panel expressed that you cannot charge rates to DOC because they are government owned. Forestry has a beneficial effect to the flow of runoff and therefore is not paying rates as a Contributor.

Barry Leslie and Campbell-Wright expressed a much less costly proposal needs to be explored and acted upon before this proposal goes ahead.

Cr Guy thanked Barry Leslie and Campbell-Wright for their submission.

Ian and Karenne Borck

Donald Borck appeared in place of Karenne Borck.

First concern raised by Ian and Donald was with regards to the Liaison Committee spoken of in the proposal. “Do the landowners who put the most money into the Scheme get the most rights to what happens, how is the Liaison Committee established”. Before these questions went any further, Cr Guy gave an explanation to the floor as around the make-up of the Liaison Committee. It was noted that voting rights would not be based on the value or the size of landowner’s property but decisions will be made on what the Liaison

Committee recommends to the Council. The Liaison Committee is made up of those people who put their names forward. If that were to be everyone, then everyone would form part of the Liaison Committee.

Ian and Donald spoke to their concerns over the costs involved and the amount would be very hard to finance. The world is in a financial difficulty and it is not very responsible to put people into a financial position that they cannot afford. They believed it was not economic to clear the willows, so they had written-off their (congested) river land and fenced on higher ground.

The Panel asked whether they were both against the Scheme in its entirety. Ian and Donald are in favour of the river being cleaned up but the Scheme in its present form is too costly. When asked how the work could be completed at a reduced cost, Ian and Donald relayed that they would prefer to do any clearance work themselves.

Cr Guy thanked Ian and Donald Borck for their submission.

George Conrad

George would like to see the river cleaned up for future generations and in that respect is in support of the proposed Scheme but it is too expensive. George Conrad raised the issue that old native logging operation's in DOC and secondary forest areas have caused severe slips and erosion contributing to the rivers present state and believes landowners should not have to pay for this problem but instead those responsible for that particular activity should be contributing towards the Scheme. A photo was presented to the Panel of the slips. George commented that RDC should take responsibility for the willows and poplars causing problems to the river. George would like to see the land owners being able to extract gravel for personal use and RDC should call for tenders to extract, stockpile and crush gravel to use on rural roads. He suggested a royalty on gravel extraction could substantially reduce costs to Scheme ratepayers.

An estimate of cost reductions was presented by George to the Panel detailing if the Scheme works cost \$400,000, then a royalty of \$5/m on 50,000 m³ would leave only \$150,000 to be funded by ratepayers.

George clarified to the Panel that he was not aware of any royalties currently being paid by local extractors, but that he felt it must have value.

Cr Guy thanked George Conrad for his submission.

Ian Burling

Jo Burling accompanied Ian Burling at the table.

Ian Burling clarified his submission to the Panel with regards to being in support of need to clear the river up and quickly, but was concerned over the major costs involved. He was against a general rating scheme and queried how costs can be shared fairly and equitable when some maintenance and improvement work is already being undertaken by landowners.

The Panel confirmed he was not opposed to the Scheme if costs came down.

Cr Guy thanked Ian Burling for his submission.

Evelyn Kereopa in attendance for Andrew Martin (Trustee)

Evelyn Kereopa came to the table with Farm Manager, Barry Takawe

Evelyn Kereopa clarified the Trustee's were in support of the Scheme but that costs were too high. Evelyn expressed that at present property owners' clear river debris at their own costs as and when they see fit. The Trustees do appreciate that the middle reach needs something done as the bottom end collects a lot of debris which they are forever pulling out. The Trustees agree that they need to get on board with the other landowners and get a solution. When posed with the question from Panel "do you agree the river needs management", Barry agreed yes the river needs management, although there was disagreement about whether the river should be allowed to meander, he felt that would only create more problems and that the river needs a channel. Concerns that eel and fish would not survive if the river was made too shallow (wide and meandering) were also raised.

In response to a query from the Panel about the priority of major capital works, Barry felt this should be done second, after clearing. The Panel asked by RDC was not extracting gravel here, to which Barry replied that to his knowledge there was no commercial extraction along the whole length.

Cr Guy thanked Evelyn Kereopa for her submission.

Ross Richards

Ross Richards clarified his written submission to the Panel with regards to the Scheme being too expensive and uneconomical. Ross felt that all properties in the catchment area should be rated as everyone contributed waste regardless of whether forested or not. He proposed a volunteering group to assist with river clean up in order to reduce costs. The Panel appreciated hearing options from the submitters on how to manage the clear up of the river. The Panel posed the question "would you be in agreeance with a 50% landowner contribution and a 50% Scheme contribution"? Ross felt that this would be more acceptable.

Cr Guy thanked Ross Richards for his submission.

Jane Fraser – late speaker

Jane Fraser and family advised the Panel they have just purchased their property and were aware of the problems facing the river upon purchase. They feel if you own it, you look after it. They are only a contributor towards the Scheme but very interested in the process. Jane raised the point that when a need arises to do something to clean up the river they are uncertain of the rules and regulations around what they can and cannot do and some confirmation around the rules and regulations would be beneficial to all. The commercial extraction completed to date on their section of river helps keep the river straight. A royalty of \$1.50 per cubic metre was paid to previous landowner. Jane was concerned over the administration costs proposed and believes landowners could do the same for a lot cheaper. The Panel asked whether Jane was for or against the proposed Scheme. Jane was for the proposed Scheme but to a limited extend believing that the voices of the landowners needed to be heard.

Cr Guy thanked Jane Fraser for her submission.

Rangimoeke Haupapa – late speaker

Rangimoeke Haupapa was a late verbal submitter. Rangimoeke raised concerns over the high costs for the proposed Scheme. Numerous photos were shown to the Panel of damage to land and river caused not only by erosion but by past river diversion and gravel extraction. Rangimoeke felt that government should be involved along with; DOC, Forestry, RDC and HRC. It was pointed out by Rangimoeke that the valley was under an inquiry for a Maori Land Claim.

Rangimoeke advised the Panel a hui will be held on New Years Day to sort out the matter with the people and that they are willing to work with the community for a solution. The Panel was pleased to hear this comment.

Cr Guy thanked Rangimoeke Haupapa for her submission.

Cr Guy explained the Panel would now adjourn and submitters would be written to with the outcome of the hearing.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.21 pm

The committee reconvened at 1.30 pm.

DELIBERATIONS

The committee discussed all other submissions received in writing from those not present at the Hearing.

Michele and David Bolstad: - submission read and concerns noted.

Mike Hayes and Debbie Harcourt (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

Graeme Croy (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

Kevin Vile (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

A.C and S.A Jones (oppose) – submission read and concerns noted.

Roger Allen (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

Kahi Dickinson (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

B.F and L Smith (oppose) – submission read and concerns noted.

Neil Kelland (oppose) – submission read and concerns noted.

Karen Hill (oppose) – submission read and concerns noted.

Suzanne Nikoia (oppose) – submission read and concerns noted.

Karin Kahu (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

Colin and Glenn Jackson (support) – submission read and concerns noted.

D R and T A Sherson (oppose) – late submission accepted, read and concerns noted.

The Panel asked Senior Engineer, Jeremy Cumming and Warren Wheeler, Design Engineer for their opinion on the submissions received in particular to the strong opposition on costs. Is there anything that could be done to drop the annual costs for years one to seven? In an effort to reduce costs it was suggested prioritising 75% of works that needed to be done straight away and postpone indefinitely the other 25% of works. It was suggested in completing 75% in the first seven years and the final three years to 25% stretching Scheme out over 10 years to equalise rates over the river.

The option to set up the Scheme as a management plan was raised giving those who wanted to do their own work the opportunity to do so, allowing landowners to apply for environmental grants if they needed. Horizons Regional Council could contribute 60% and landowners 40% then reduce on an annual basis. The potential of an initial rush of environmental grants applications to HRC would incur its own problems.

It was acknowledged that the success of the Scheme (to take quick action when necessary to clear blockages) would depend on the Scheme Liaison Committee Chair and Scheme Manager.

Jeremy advised the Panel that metal was a major cause of erosion and metal management was required in his opinion. Deposits of metal are in small lots and it is not economical to remove as such. The removal of metal from the river would need to be economical and so it was suggested removing metal from say 4 beaches to one stockpile would solve this issue.

The Panel believed it was hard to justify forest blocks being included in the CN Contributor category. It was also noted that there were no significant plantings along the river to cause debris problems. The Panel considered what benefit RDC bridges would receive from the Scheme and noted that this was difficult to quantify.

Jeremy advised that transporting cleared material away from the river site would incur huge costs. The best solution was to cut and burn. The option of cutting, dropping and rotting was explored, although this would cause a risk were there to be a flood in the time it took for the waste to rot. Mulching was not an option given the size of the trees.

The Panel recommended that Jeremy and Warren go away and compile a report on a series of percentage reductions (20, 30, 40, 50) in Scheme costs together with the pros and cons each would impose on the Scheme.

The Panel agreed that the deliberations would reconvene on 12 October 2011.

Hearing closed at 3.20pm.

Deliberations reconvened at 3.45 pm, Wednesday 12 October at Regional House, Palmerton North with Cr Murray Guy, Cr Greg Cox, Cr Mike Plowman, Warren Wheeler, Jeremy Cumming, Allan Cook, Group Manager Operations and Rachel Pinny present.

Cr Guy reiterated to the Panel that there was support from a number of submitters from the Hearing in Taumarunui on 29 September, the majority supported the proposed Scheme if HRC could get reduce costs.

The Panel discussed at length the report provided by Warren Wheeler and Jeremy Cumming.

The Panel noted the report involved a reassessment of the works required in the Middle Reach. The revised approach recognised that the three principle landowners have already abandoned kilometres of their river frontage and would therefore receive little benefit from major vegetation clearance. Works would therefore be limited to clearing debris and any trees at immediate risk of falling into the channel. Potential problems to downstream properties would therefore be mitigated.

Initial works in the Middle Reach would effectively be halved and would result in similar average costs as the Lower and Upper Reaches. Overall cost savings would be 30%, with little or no reduction in benefits to the downstream ratepayers, so long as debris from the Middle Reach was kept to a minimum. This would involve on-going clearance of trees that progressively fall into the channel and may result in higher maintenance costs in later years.

The Panel also considered a number of funding options including a 75% local contribution to erosion control works, provision for major erosion works at five or six existing problem sites, extending the initial works over ten years instead of the proposed seven and 20 year loan funding for initial works completed in just three years.

On balance the Panel agreed that the best option in terms of benefit and affordability would be for the scheme to be established primarily for channel clearing and vegetation control, with the revised initial works spread over 10 years and a 75% local contribution for light erosion protection works (including tied tree protection, riparian planting and fencing). Any major erosion protection (such as rockwork, channel training or heavy live tree erosion protection works) would continue to be solely funded by the affected landowner or stakeholder (such as RDC).

A series of photos taken of the full reach of the river from Jeremy Cumming was presented to the Panel for viewing. Cr Guy thanked Jeremy for this and commented they were helpful to the decision process.

A late submission was also received from Tame Tuwhangai on behalf of the Taringamotu Maori Committee and local hapu. The Panel noted the points raised with respect to relationships with local Maori were largely operational matters that would be addressed by the Scheme Manager.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel supported a proposal going forward to Council in line with Option 2 (as set out in Annex B and C) for the Scheme to be extended from 7 years to 10 years. Erosion control work to be funded from the general rate contribution of 20%, Scheme Rate a further 20% and local contribution by affected landowners 60%. A uniform T1 rate to be adopted along the full 32 Km length of the channel. It was recognised that a recommendation for a Scheme Liaison Committee to be formed with membership open to all ratepayers was a must for the success of the Scheme.

The meeting closed at 4.43 pm.

Revised Assessment – Reduced Works in Middle Reach

Taringamotu River								
2010 Condition Assessment for Reach 0-32 km								Cost
Km Reach	Vegetation Clearance	Debris Clearance	Riparian Planting	Fencing	Tied-Tree Works	Layering	Gravel	Total
Unit cost	\$2,644.50	\$2,029.50	\$2.56	\$6.45	\$72.58	\$6.00		
	Unit	Unit	m	m	m	m	m3	
0-1	5.125	0.25	250	90	90		250	\$21,813
1-2	6.125	0.375	275	275	100		545	\$26,694
2-3	4.75	1.125	270	270			1270	\$17,277
3-4	7.25	0.25	140	100				\$20,683
4-5	1.25	0.25	110	30			11495	\$4,288
5-6	1.5		135	135			11835	\$5,183
6-7	3.875	1.25	50				500	\$12,912
7-8	2.25	1.625	60	30			3500	\$9,595
8-9	0.5	0.375	120					\$2,391
9-10	4	0.25	80		130		4680	\$20,726
10-11	7.625	0.25	70	30	354		15165	\$46,738
11-12	4.75	0.125	130					\$13,148
12-13	0.75	1.25	433		208			\$20,725
13-14	2	0.75	160				500	\$7,221
14-15	1.75	1	270	180				\$8,510
15-16	2.25	3.75			50		1160	\$17,190
16-17	10.25	1.125			130		280	\$38,825
17-18	7.75	1.75			50			\$27,676
18-19	1.22	1.625	0	0	0	0	80	\$6,521
19-20	2.72	3.375			0	0	250	\$14,039
20-21	1.52	0.5				0		\$5,031
21-22	1.89	1			80			\$12,844
22-23	11.50	4.5	75					\$39,737
23-24	3.88	0.75		150	150			\$23,624
24-25	1.43		110	110				\$4,760
25-26	0.26	1.25	80	80	40			\$6,855
26-27	1.65		0		0			\$4,363
27-28	1.69	1						\$6,492
28-29	7.25						1800	\$19,173
29-30	7	0.5						\$19,526
30-31	6.25				40			\$19,431
31-32	5.25							\$13,884
	127.25	30.25	2818	1480	1422	0	53310	\$517,874
	Sect 5.1	Sect 5.2	Sect 5.3	Sect 5.4	Sect 5.5	Sect 5.6	Sect 5.7	

A Significant decision? <i>If Yes</i>	No
Do recommendations meet Significance Policy and LGA requirements?	

Item No: 12
Date: 26/10/2011
Report No: 11-188
File No: OMS 5 00

AFFIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

PURPOSE

1. This paper reports on a document to which Horizons Regional Council's Common Seal has been affixed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

2. There is no additional financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3. The community is able to see this information either in the agenda or on the Council's website.

COMMENT

4. The Common Seal has been affixed to the following document:

- a. **Under Chief Executive's Delegated Authority:**

Lease Agreement 8/28
Lessee Name: Eastview Farming Partnership
Lease Area: 77.6654 ha
Lease Location: SH 56, Rangiotu

- b. **Under Urgency:**

Nil

- c. **To be Approved:**

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is recommended that the Council:
 - a. **acknowledges** the affixing of the Common Seal to the abovementioned document.

S Craig
ACTING GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE & GOVERNANCE



Report of the fifth 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 10.00 am on Wednesday, 14 September 2011.

PRESENT

Crs JJ White (Chair), VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, GM McKellar, MW Plowman, CI Sheldon, and EB Gordon (ex officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

Crs JJ Barrow, GL Cox, PW Rieger
Chief Executive
Committee Secretary

Mr M McCartney
Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT at various times during the meeting:

Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager – Land), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science), Mr P Taylor (Plan Implementation Coordinator), Mr R Munneke (Policy and Consents Manager), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mr B Martyn (Manager-Biosecurity), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), Mr A Beveridge (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality), Mr L Brown (Environmental Scientist – Water Quality), Mr I Lowe (Coordinator District Liaison), Mr P Hindrup (Senior Consents Planner), Ms A Russell (Manager Environmental Protection), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Dr Jonathan Procter (Chair of Lake Horowhenua Trust), Mr R Warrington and Mr M Wiremu-Matakatea (Lake Horowhenua Trustees), Mrs C Hadley (CE Rangitikei District Council), Mr B King (CE Tararua District Council), and Members of the Press.

APOLOGIES

The Committee noted an apology from Cr Guy.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair referred to her explanation at the previous Environment Committee meeting, that she would not take part in any discussions relating to either the Defence Force or the Manawatu District Council Feilding Sewage Treatment plants.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Chair referred to page 4, 2nd paragraph of the **Environmental Protection Team** section, 2nd line and suggested the word “issue” be replaced with the words “*inform them of the non-compliance*”. She mentioned the discussion at the August Council meeting about the wording, where it was agreed the appropriate place to change the wording was at this Environment Committee meeting. Members agreed to the change.

The Chair also noted on page 6 of the minutes, last paragraph, that the science café was run by Te Manawa, not Dr Roygard, and that Dr Roygard and the other people mentioned had spoken at the session.

In response to questions, the Chair advised that the report on stormwater treatment and discharge by territorial authorities would be brought to the November Committee meeting.

ENV 11-30

Moved

Plowman/Chettleburgh

*that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 26 July 2011, as circulated, be received and confirmed as a correct record, with an amendment to the word ‘issue’ page 4, 2nd paragraph of Environmental Protection Team section, 2nd line and replacing with “...**inform them of the** non-compliance notices”.*

CARRIED

Cr Gordon, Chair of Council, asked to speak about the Order Paper and made a recommendation about Item 10, *Palmerston North City Council – Sewage Treatment Plant*. He referred to the public interest following a media article the previous day, and believed it was very important that the public understand what the report meant. He had met with the Mayor of Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) who wished to understand the issues and Cr Gordon believed it was important for PNCC to have an opportunity to understand the issues and respond prior to any discussion by Members. He recommended that the report lie on the table and come to the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting or Council meeting, dependant on when the reports were able to be clarified.

ENV 11-31

Moved

Gordon/Chettleburgh

That the report, ‘Palmerston North City Council – Sewage Treatment Plant – Update to Councillors’ lie on the table and come to next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

Cr Sheldon said she would vote against the motion as there was nothing contentious in the recommendations. Cr Gordon said the issue was about the discussion of the report before there was a full understanding by PNCC. Cr McKellar said he would speak against the motion for the same reasons as Cr Sheldon and wished to ask a few questions. Cr Rieger strongly supported the recommendation and said that in his view the issue was not about the report which was a public document, but about deferring public discussion before the Mayor and Councillors of PNCC had an opportunity to consider and understand the report. He did not, however, wish the report to lie on the table for too long. The Chair wanted to have all the evidence in front of her, did not believe she had all the evidence at this stage, and was therefore happy to support the motion. Both she and Cr Rieger commented they did not wish the report to lie on the table for too long.

The Chair put the motion. As there was an equality of votes, she said she would use her casting vote to vote in favour of the motion. The matter would lie on the table until the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 11 October 2011.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Report No: 11-156

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 July 2011 to August 2011.

Catchment Management Activity

The Chair referred Members to the Exception Report/Executive Overview which highlighted features that might be of particular interest. She suggested that Members refer to this page during discussion of the full report.

Mr Grant Cooper reported on a recent Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) meeting where he provided an update on Horizons' progress with environmental grant works and also discussed riparian management and other areas of interest. Mr Cooper updated WRET on environmental grant applications received for this financial year and advised a funding application had been submitted to WRET for them to consider. He commented that as the timing of WRET annual meetings was not aligned with Horizons' annual planning and long-term planning processes, he had undertaken to consider how these could be better aligned. Members asked whether environmental grants were allocated to the best projects, or as they were received; the Chair asked for this matter to be discussed at the next Environment Committee meeting.

In response to questions, Mr Cooper clarified that Soil Health Plans provided opportunities for landowners not within SLUI or dairying areas, to access information on better management of the soils on their properties. The soil workshops being held would cater for a number of landowners. The Chief Executive advised the number of plans had been scaled back from some years ago. They looked at soils as a resource, and the objective was to help landowners manage the soil in a way to maximise the return from the land.

In response to a request for an update on the Akitio coastal restoration project, the Chief Executive advised an assessment of the activity would be brought to the next Environment Committee meeting.

Dr Roygard (Manager Science) responded to questions about the SLUI initiative. He advised that SLUI Whole Farm Plans looked at all areas of the farm, not just slopes above 20 deg, and a lot of land over 20 deg. had had some erosion control applied to it. Dr Roygard also provided full answers around catchment modelling and updated on meetings and workshops with AgResearch, NIWA, and Landcare as a part of the broader nationally funded research programme.

Water Quantity and Quality Management Activity

Mr Taylor (Plan Implementation Coordinator) responded to Members' questions about the activities discussed in the Rural Advisory Team report. He referred to a previous suggestion that a workshop be held on the effluent storage calculator, and suggested he arrange this workshop for October, which would include Members and other interested parties.

The Chair advised she would not allow a question from Cr Plowman as it was not appropriate for the Environment Committee which was a Committee of report. Cr Plowman continued to ask the question saying the Chair was out of order. The Chair rose to her feet and Cr Plowman was advised by another Member that in accordance with Standing Orders, he could not continue to speak while the Chair was on her feet. Cr Barrow asked a further question in line with that of Cr Plowman. The Chair then advised she was ruling Cr Plowman's and Cr Barrow's questions out of order as she did not believe it was an appropriate issue for the Environment Committee to discuss and asked for comment from the Chief Executive. He clarified that the Environment Committee was a reporting committee on the activities that the Council had undertaken over the last two

months. He believed the issues raised by Crs Plowman and Barrow were policy questions, and said once the questions were fully understood, they could be brought back to an appropriate Committee. The Chair asked Crs Plowman and Barrow to put their questions in writing to the Chief Executive. She also expressed disappointment at Cr Plowman's inappropriate behaviour and lack of understanding of what it meant when the Chair stood during a meeting.

A short video was played relating to the new priority catchment - Pukemiku Stream. Mr Beveridge (Manager – Biodiversity and Water Quality) clarified Members' questions around plantings.

The Chair advised that Dr Roygard would give a presentation on the '*Lake Horowhenua Review : assessment of opportunities to address water quality issues in Lake Horowhenua*'. She noted apologies from Mayor Brendan Duffy and Chief Executive David Ward from Tararua District Council, who had been invited. She welcomed Dr Jonathan Procter (Chairman of the Lake Horowhenua Trust) and Mr Robert Warrington and Mr Marokopa Wiremu-Matakatea (Trustees of Lake Horowhenua Trust) to the meeting. The presentation covered the overall goals of the review, the key aims of collating historical information, documenting 'lessons learned', identifying options for remediation of Lake Horowhenua, and providing recommendations on lake monitoring. The key findings were that restoration was possible, and that would be best achieved by multiple actions working together and a sound understanding of the science. Dr Roygard amplified on the key aims and findings during his presentation, and put forward some recommendations for the next step. He said he was seeking Councillors' permission to engage with stakeholders in the community around this, and he also sought Councillors' view on bringing together a comprehensive programme to restoring the Lake as part of the Long Term Plan function, which would provide options for Members to consider.

The Chair invited Dr Procter to comment. Dr Procter mentioned the successful 'owners' planting day, where children were taught how to plant trees, about the Lake and the stream, and of its history. He said 700 – 1000 plants were planted during the day, and over the following few weeks members of the iwi, Horizons' staff, Trustees, beneficiaries and owners had completed the planting. From the Trustees' point of view, and that of iwi, it had been a success, especially with the children being interested in the Lake, and the history of the Lake.

Members asked questions of clarification around information in the presentation. Dr Roygard explained the aim was not to restore the Lake to how it was in 1800, but through engagement with stakeholders, a way forward to restore the Lake could be agreed. Dr Procter outlined the importance of Lake Horowhenua: culturally; for drainage of the whole catchment; and for horticultural and agricultural activities. He was looking forward to working with Horizons, Horowhenua District Council, and the community, and also with the owners and beneficiaries of the Lake, to progress this through consultation and implementation. He stressed the importance of good science to provide good environmental management solutions and said that each small improvement to the Lake would no doubt see greater interaction from the community.

The Chair put forward a motion.

ENV 11-32

Moved

White/Chettleburgh

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the report;
- b. **requests** a formal item on the implementation options including comprehensive costs and in consultation with appropriate parties including the Trust Board and the District Council;
- c. **considers** the options and makes recommendations to Council.

CARRIED

The Chair thanked Dr Procter and Trustees of the Lake Horowhenua Trust for attending the meeting.

Dr Roygard referred to and distributed a copy of a report entitled, "*Benthic Cyanobacteria and Toxin Production in the Manawatu-Wanganui Region*". He provided Members with a summary of the report and suggested that after Members read the report, he was happy to answer their questions. The Chair asked Members to provide these questions in writing to Dr Roygard. The Chair believed it was important for this work to continue, and asked the Chief Executive to consider a budget for this work.

The meeting adjourned at 12.08am.

The meeting resumed at 12.55pm.

Living Heritage Protection

The Chief Executive advised no meetings had yet taken place in regard to Kitchener Park. Cr Chettleburgh asked for progress on Totara Park and Camp Rangi Woods. The Chief Executive provided an update on a successful diversion put in place around erosion of the roadside area, and noted it was Pohangina Valley East Road (not West). He also advised that due to restructuring within the Ministry of Conservation, the vesting issue had not yet been discussed by the Conservation Board but it was hoped this would happen in November. This would then need sign-off by the Minister. Cr McKellar provided more information on the 'Living Legends' planting. Members asked questions relating to the freshwater fish monitoring.

Environmental Reporting and Education

Dr Roygard highlighted the completion of the dissolved oxygen monitoring review, and advised a copy of the report from NIWA and Cawthron had been received. A copy of this report, "*Continuous measurement and interpretation of dissolved oxygen data in rivers*", was distributed to Members. In terms of key findings, he referred Members to Table 2 on page 19, and the paragraph above that table about ecosystem metabolism in the Manawatu River. He noted that only the Hopelands data had been collected by Horizons, all the other data was independent. The Chair asked Members to read the report prior to it coming to the next Environment Committee meeting.

The Chair advised that discussion would be adjourned on the Environment Management Progress Report until later in the meeting, as the Chief Executives from Rangitikei District Council and Tararua District Council had joined the meeting. She referred Members to the Regulatory Management Activity reports.

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Report No. 11-158

The Chair welcomed Clare Hadley (Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council) and Blair King (Chief Executive of Tararua District Council) to the meeting. The GMRPR commented that there had been discussion at Council about issues faced by territorial authorities (TAs) around infrastructural maintenance, management and upgrades. He said his team had been working with TAs in a positive way over the last year analysing the issues of the TAs and working with them on those issues. He commented that both Rangitikei and Tararua District Councils had communities of similar sizes, and were facing the same resourcing issues and infrastructure upgrade issues. He said that Mrs Hadley and Mr King had been invited to Council today to provide Members with an opportunity to hear about the TAs' experiences of the process in which they engage with Horizons on a day to day basis. The Chair asked if they wished to make any comments. Both Mr King and Mrs Hadley commented on the problems faced by their respective Councils in regard to infrastructure issues and non-compliances etc. They also commented positively on working with

Horizons' staff, and the good relationship that they enjoy with Horizons. Members asked about the progress the TAs had made towards compliance, and the timeframe for the future. Horizons' Chief Executive elaborated on some of the processes that TAs had to follow when applying to the Regional Council for resource consents, and variations to consents. He thanked Mrs Hadley and Mr King for their interest in addressing these issues, and the Chair thanked them for attending the meeting.

This report presented two items for the information of Members:

- a. Environmental Protection Team Report – 1 July 2011 to 31 August 2011
- b. Resource Consent Activities for July and August 2011

Environmental Protection Team

The Chair thanked the GMRPR and Ms Russell (Environmental Protection Manager) for responding to Members' requests for more information in this report. Ms Russell said that there were increasing calls from customers asking for suggestions for improvement. She commented that farmers were very grateful when the Environmental Protection team highlighted when they were at risk of non-compliance and made suggestions. She advised the Dairy e-newsletter had been sent out and it was suggested that if Councillors became aware of farmers who wanted to receive it, but had not, they ask the farmers to pass their details onto Ms Russell.

The Chair passed on a compliment she had received in regard to actions taken by Horizons over a spill at the Mangaone Stream, both for customer services, and also the assistance of the officer who attended the incident. There was some discussion over smoky fire complaints, both urban and rural. Members discussed the report of non-compliances and asked questions of clarification.

Cr McKellar was pleased to receive the improved reporting. He proposed an extra graphic to go with Fig. 2 'Detected Non-Compliance by Customer Type' which would provide extra information. He moved a motion to that effect. There was discussion on the information requested and whether or not it was necessary.

ENV 11-33

Moved

McKellar/Sheldon

*that the Committee **requests** a graphic from the Environmental Protection Team on Detected non-compliance by customer type as proportion of total number of consents held for that customer type.*

CARRIED

There was reference to Table 10 with a query about the descriptor wording. Following Ms Russell's explanation, she offered to amend if Members wished, however noted that each year Audit reviewed a random sample of non-compliances (and other samples) from Horizons with those from other regional councils to ensure consistency. In response to a suggestion of recognising dairy farmers' achievement, the GMRPR advised that regional council staff were currently working on a way to acknowledge dairy excellence in a way that would suit the respective landowners and provide encouragement for them to continue.

Resource Consent Activities

The GMRPR clarified that Horizons' policy about appointing commissioners to hearings was through a recommendation from officers to the Chairman. With regard to wind farm hearings, as they were joint hearings it had been agreed to have independent commissioners. Members asked further questions of clarification.

ENV 11-34**Moved****Chettleburgh/Sheldon***that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information contained in the Annexes to Report No. 11-158.

CARRIED**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT (cont)****Biosecurity Activity**

Mr Martyn (Manager – Biosecurity) referred Members to the map on page 72 of the Agenda about rabbit haemorrhagic disease survey results which showed no clear areas. He commented on research underway on calicivirus strains to isolate the strongest strain with a view to releasing in new areas. All conventional means of controlling rabbits were still able to be used. Members commented on information provided in the report, and asked questions of clarification. There was a question whether the same Horizons' staff could undertake both possum control and also pest plant identification, and Mr Martyn undertook to discuss further. Mr Martyn also undertook to change the highlighted colours in Table 14 to be more distinguishable.

ENV 11-35**Moved****Chettleburgh/Gordon***that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-156 and annexes.

CARRIED**ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD, VECTOR MANAGEMENT AND TB FREE COMMITTEE REPORT***Report No. 11-159*

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 July to August 2011. The Chief Executive advised that the Deed of Funding with AHB had been signed, consistent with resolutions of Council.

ENV 11-36**Moved****Sheldon/Chettleburgh***that the Committee:*

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-159 and Annex.

CARRIED**DISTRICT PLAN AND SUBDIVISION SUBMISSIONS***Report No. 11-161*

This report informed Members of the submissions that Horizons Regional Council had made as part of the District Liaison output over the period 1 December 2010 – 31 August 2011. Mr Lowe (Coordinator District Liaison) addressed the Committee regarding his report and answered

Members' questions. He noted that although it had been a long reporting period, he had tried to keep each Councillor updated on matters in their constituencies.

ENV 11-37 **Moved** **Sheldon/Plowman**

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-161 and Annexes.

CARRIED

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS – ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE JULY 2011

Report No. 11-157

This report provided responses to Members' questions and/or queries raised at previous meetings or Committees of Council. A map showing areas of Old Man's Beard was to be sent to all Councillors. The Chief Executive advised he had a meeting scheduled with the Conservator (Department of Conservation) in regard to Pukaha Mt Bruce.

ENV 11-38 **Moved** **Plowman/McKellar**

that the Committee:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-157;
- b. **notes** management's response to the queries.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Sheldon referred to a follow up to invite the Mayor and elected members of Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) to meet with the Committee for an update on compliance progress, and also referred to the paper, '*Palmerston North City Council – Sewage Treatment Plant – Update to Councillors*' that was resolved to lie on the table – and asked for an update. Both the Chair and Chief Executive responded that the report would go to the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting on 11 October 2011 and the Mayor and elected members of PNCC would have an opportunity to be present and hear the debate and questions.

Cr McKellar distributed some pictures he had googled of the PNCC outfall into the Manawatu River (taken in 2007) and wondered whether they would have a negative economic impact on tourism. The Chief Executive did not believe anyone in the room was qualified to answer the question, and provided his own personal viewpoint. Cr McKellar also distributed a picture of the Tutaenui Stream outfall and noted the green verges of the stream. He suggested the information could be passed onto PNCC as the councillors may not be aware of these pictures in the global domain.

Cr Barrow referred to dairy effluent consents, and asked if farmers could be informed that although a big pond might be required, it would not be required immediately. Cr Barrow agreed with the GMRPR's suggestion to send this information through the Dairy e-newsletter.

Cr Chettleburgh advised that an Horizons' staff member had been granted a Jaycee Scholarship to travel to Indonesia.

The meeting closed at 3.17pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIR

UNCONFIRMED



Report of the eighth meeting, eighth triennium of the Strategy and Policy Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 10.00am on Tuesday, 11 October 2011.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Acting Chief Executive	Mr C Grant
Acting Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mrs S Craig
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT

Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Mr T Collé (Chief Financial Officer), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science), Mr G Carlyon (Staff Member), Ms K McArthur (Environmental Scientist Water Quality), Ms K Ritani (Communications Advisor), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist), Ms A Russell (Manager Compliance), Mr R Munneke (Policy and Consents Manager), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner), Mr I Lowe (Coordinator District Liaison), Mr S Bayley (Manager Emergency Management), Mr and Mrs Paton, Mr B Judd, various interested groups and members of the public, and members of the Press.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended his appreciation for the interest shown by the various groups and members of the public.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Three requests for public speaking rights had been received: Mrs C Paton, Mr B Judd and Ms C Jordan (Fish and Game). The Chairman advised the public speaking rights would be heard at approximately 1.00pm.

LATE ITEMS

The Chair noted that an amended version of Annex C to Item 6, Report No. 11-186 – Palmerston North City Council Submission to Horizons Regional Council had been distributed.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**SP 11-46****Moved****Walker/White**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

In response to a query the Chairman gave a brief update on activities around the closure of the Manawatu Gorge. Members asked questions of clarification on points of interest.

PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT – UPDATE TO COUNCILLORS

Report No. 11-186 and 11-182

These reports informed Members on the progress made with Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) since the non-compliance with the city's sewage treatment plant which was reported to the Environment Committee in July.

Before discussion on the item commenced the Chairman read out some contextual and introductory comments and asked Members to take them into account when engaging in discussion around the item.

Ms Russell (Manager Compliance) gave a powerpoint presentation which expanded on the background to the consent, and provided her comments as Compliance Manager. Dr Roygard (Manager Science) displayed several slides depicting the location of the sewage treatment plant and monitoring sites, and a table displaying significant deterioration levels downstream of discharge. Since the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) had undertaken some upgrade work on the sewage treatment plant some improvement in the level of deterioration could be observed. Dr Roygard explained the science assessment around the deterioration levels and recommended that Horizons continued to work with the PNCC staff and consultants and share the science, agree on a monitoring programme for continued monitoring of the consent, and continue to work together around what upgrades would be required to reduce that significant deterioration between the upstream and downstream discharge points. Ms Russell clarified that based on the science assessment alluded to by Dr Roygard, PNCC had breached Condition 3 (f) of the consent – *'cause significant adverse effects on aquatic life'*, therefore a significant non-compliance grading had been issued along with associated fees to recover staff time, and also an abatement notice. She clarified that the abatement notice reaffirmed the condition in the resource consent and was not something new.

Dr Roygard, Ms Russell and Mr Carlyon clarified Members' questions about periphyton levels, the science used around assessing whether significant adverse effects had occurred, the conditions of the consent, and who and what circumstances could provoke a change in consent conditions.

The Chairman noted the tabled submission from PNCC and accordingly included a new recommendation (d). Cr Guy suggested an amendment to recommendation (c) to enable interested members of the public to be included in the proposed workshop discussions.

SP 11-47**Moved****Walker/Guy**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-186 and Report No. 11-162;

- b. **notes** the enforcement action undertaken by the Chief Executive as outlined in paragraph 13 of this report;
- c. **supports** the Chief Executive in developing a workshop for the authority's governance teams and interested members of the public to be brought up to date;
- d. **receives** the tabled submission from Palmerston North City Council.

Against: Cr Plowman
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10.40am
 The meeting reconvened at 10.45am

Mr Grant (Acting Chief Executive) introduced Mrs S Craig (Acting Group Manager Corporate and Governance). He advised Councillors to forward any governance related matters to Mrs Craig.

2012-22 LONG TERM PLAN – COMMUNITY OUTCOMES AND REGIONAL STATISTICS FOR POPULATION, DEPRIVATION AND INDUSTRY

Report No. 11-181

This report provided Members with proposed amended wording for the Community Outcomes for the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation. It also provided background statistical information on projected population, deprivation and industry in the Region.

Mr Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner) introduced the item and expanded on the main amendments as in line with workshop discussions. Discussion ensued on the positioning and wording of the community outcomes and further suggestions were put forward. Cr Plowman referred to the order for listing the wellbeings and believed it should be reviewed in favour of listing as per Section 10 of the Local Government Act. Mr Duggan replied that the order of listing in the Local Government Act was not ranked in priority order. They were all equal and Council was required to manage the interaction between them. Cr Plowman proposed a recommendation to review the order of the wellbeings.

Moved

Plowman/Barrow

that the Council review the wellbeings and adopt the wellbeings in order of Section 10 of the Local Government Act.

Discussion ensued and Members provided their views on the ranking order of the wellbeings. Cr McKellar proposed an amendment to the wording of the proposed recommendation as follows:

SP 11-48

Moved

McKellar/Walker

that the Council review the wellbeings and list the wellbeings in order of Section 10 of the Local Government Act.

CARRIED

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put to the meeting.

SP 11-49 **Moved** **McKellar/Walker**

that the Council review the wellbeings and list the wellbeings in order of Section 10 of the Local Government Act.

Against: Crs White and Guy

CARRIED

After further discussion on the level of information provided in the tables, data and graphs displayed in the annexes it was determined that the item would lie on the table and be referred for further discussion to a future workshop. Members were asked to liaise with Mr Duggan as to any further information/data they would like to see included.

WHANGANUI RIVER PATHWAYS INVESTIGATION SH4 RAIL OVER BRIDGE WANGANUI TO UPOKONGARO

Report No. 11-165

This report updated Council on progress with the implementation of a combined walkway/cycleway path between Wanganui City and Upokongaro. Mr Lowe (Coordinator District Liaison) spoke to the item and confirmed that Wanganui District Council would be the lead agency for the project. Horizons and other interested parties were to be invited to participate in a project team to see how the pathway could be progressed. Mr Lowe explained that funding for the project so far had been allowed for in the Annual Plan and signalled that if any further requests for additional funding were made, it would come back to Council as part of the Long Term Process. Members asked questions of clarification about activities that would be covered within current budgeted funding, and noted the importance of Wanganui District Council as the lead agency in the project.

SP 11-50 **Moved** **Guy/Barrow**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in report No. 11-165;
- b. **acknowledges** that Horizons may at some stage in the future be invited by the Wanganui District Council to participate within a pathways project team;
- c. **agrees** to Horizons supporting the project within current budgeted funding levels; and
- d. **notes** that should any support requiring additional funds be requested, that this will be advised to Council as part of the Long Term Plan process.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF HORIZONS' REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Report No. 11-164

This item brought to the attention of Council: that the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy (RPPMS) was due for review in the next 12 months, and that there were several prudent reasons for delaying the review.

Ms Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist) spoke to the report and expanded on the developments for delaying the RPPMS review. She clarified Members' questions around any funding implications associated with the review process.

SP 11-51 **Moved** **Burnell/Cox**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-164;
- b. **agrees** to delay the review of the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy; and
- c. **incorporates** future funding implications associated with the review process into the Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

COMPOSITION OF RATING DATABASE

Report No. 11-183

This report informed Members of the composition of the properties that Council rate across the Region. The analysis was based on the number and value of the properties Council rated for the 2011-12 Annual Plan year. It should be noted that a second report would be produced once all this year's territorial authority revaluations (Part Stratford, Ruapehu, Rangitikei, Tararua, Horowhenua) had been updated to the rating database and Quotable Value had produced the equalisation certificate (Late January).

Mr Duggan (Strategic Planner) referred to his report and expanded on the information in the charts attached at annex A. Members considered the information and asked questions of clarification. Mr Duggan distributed a sample assessment of the Rangitikei district for Members consideration.

SP 11-52 **Moved** **Guy/McKellar**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-183 and Annex.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.12pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Public Speaking Rights had been requested and granted to Mrs Christina Paton, Mr B Judd, and Ms C Jordan (Fish and Game) in regard to Item 6 on the agenda, Palmerston North City Council Treatment Plant – Update to Councillors.

The Chairman advised that Ms C Jordan from Fish and Game no longer wished to use her public speaking rights. She had been present at the meeting when Item 6, Palmerston North City Council – Update to Councillors was discussed, and was satisfied with the outcome of that item.

Mrs Christina Paton distributed a copy of her notes to Members. These related to her concerns with Discharge Permit 101829 – Discharge of Upgraded Effluent to Manawatu River issued to the Palmerston North City Council, and concerns about the inadequacy of information provided in the Palmerston North City Council Officer Report. Mrs Paton believed that a review of conditions for Discharge Permit 101829 should be undertaken and for any non-compliances to be assessed and prosecuted if necessary. She added that this should be undertaken with no political interference. Mrs Paton referred to the PNCC Wastewater Monitoring Group meetings and invited Members to attend.

Mr Bert Judd was supported by Mr Fred De Jager, President Waitarere Environmental Care Association Incorporated. Mr Judd distributed a copy of his notes to Members. He spoke about his concerns in regard to the compliance history of the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) sewage treatment plant, and concerns about leachate being recirculated through the PNCC sewage facility into the Manawatu River. Questions of clarification were asked about testing parameters for leachate upstream and downstream of the testing area.

SP 11-53

Moved

Chettleburgh/Burnell

That the Committee:

- a. **receives** the oral submissions and documents provided by Mrs C Paton and Mr B Judd.

CARRIED

RATE MODELLING CONFIRMATION

Report No. 11-184

This report confirmed: The Revenue and Financing policies Council wished to remain unchanged for the 2012-22 Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation process; The Revenue and Financing policies Council wished to change for the 2012-22 LTP consultation process; and the rates and user fees modelling Council required for the remaining Revenue and Financing policies.

Mr Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner) introduced the item and Members provided their views and asked questions of clarification on the requirements for the policies included in the three tables.

SP 11-54

Moved

Rieger/Barrow

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-184;
- b. **confirms** Councils intention to include the policies in Table 1 below in the draft Long Term Plan for public consultation as they currently exist;

Table 1

Policy Number	Policy Name	Page Number
1	Land Management – General	21
4	Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat	23-24
7	River & Drainage – Non Scheme	26-27
9	River & Drainage – Scheme excluding audit, and review and loan repayment periods	28-29
16	Consent Processing – Non Hearing	37-39
16	Consent Processing – Hearing	37-39
16	Consent Processing – Appeals	37-39
17	Resource Management Advice	39
19	Environmental Education Excluding Green Rig	40-41
21	Living Heritage – Regional Park	41-42
22	Living Heritage – Non Strategy	43
23	Community Relationships and Customer Services	43-44
24	District Liaison	44
25	Regional Emergency Management	44-45
26	Territorial Authorities Emergency management	45-46
27	Representation and Governance	46
28	Information	46-47
29	Iwi	47
3	Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)	23
30	Strategic Management (excluding One Plan loan repayment)	48
34	Investments	51
35	Event recovery	51-52
38	Living Heritage – Waitarere Community Biodiversity Project	53-54
New	Living Heritage – Rangitikei Old Man’s Beard	N/A
New	Land Water E Grants	N/A
New	Rural Advisory	N/A

- c. **confirms** Councils intention to include the policies in Table 2 below in the draft Long Term Plan for public consultation as they are proposed to be amended;

Table 2

Policy Number	Policy Name	Changed Policy
32	Transport Road Safety	Decrease government support from 75% to a range of 65% to 75%.
33	Transport Planning	Increase government support from 25% to a range of 40% to 50%.
33	Transport Passenger Services	Increase government support from 50% to a range 50 to 60%
New	Environmental Education – Green RIG	Increase outside sponsorship to 100% (no rate funding).

- d. **instructs** management to undertake the rate modelling as set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3

Policy Number	Policy Name	Modelling / Information requested
Environmental Rates		
10	Biosecurity – Production Pest Possums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50/50 Gen Rate / Per Ha Rate • 40/60 Gen Rate / Per Ha Rate • Extend target rate to 2 ha and above • Differential for properties over 500 ha
36	Biosecurity - AHB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/80 Gen Rate / Per Ha Rate • 10/90 Gen Rate / Per Ha Rate • Extend target rate to 2 ha and above • Differential for properties over 500 ha
11	Biosecurity Pest Rooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend target rate to 2 ha and above
12	Biosecurity Pest Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend target rate to 2 ha and above • 30% Gen Rate / 70% 2 ha and above & no UAC
13	Biosecurity – Environmental & Amenity Pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60/40 Gen Rate / UAC • 40/60 Gen Rate / UAC
20	Living Heritage General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60/40 Gen Rate / UAC • 40/60 Gen Rate / UAC
37	Manawatu River Water Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/80 Gen Rate / UAC
Compliance/Research Rates		
14	Compliance Monitoring - Compliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30/70 (& 20/80) Gen Rate / Fees for large industrial/commercial consents (with categorised fee structure) • 20/80 Gen Rate / Fees for other compliers
14	Compliance Monitoring – Non Compliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change, but to be considered with the rest
15	Pollution Incidents/Complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding fines to be given to Audit, Risk and Investment (done)
5	Water Quality Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 additional monitoring consents to be categorised separately and fees to be based on 30% (& 20%) of costs • 20/80 Gen Rate / Fees for other consents • 0 to 100 m³ to be one category rather than two above & below 50 m³ • Feasibility of fee based on per cubic metre consented (like water quantity)
6	Water Quantity Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/80 Gen Rate / Fees • Introduce tired rate based on L/s converted to Cubic metres (or should we change to L/s?) • Reduce non domestic hydro takes

Policy Number	Policy Name	Modelling / Information requested
Other Modelling		
8	River & Drainage Scheme Review & Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Level of service to once every ten years and then • 50/50 Gen Rate / Scheme Rate • 20/80 Gen Rate / Scheme Rate • 0/100 Gen Rate / Scheme Rate
9	River & Drainage Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorten loan length for Lower Manawatu and Lower Whanganui schemes.
30	One Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5, 10 year loan lengths
New	Model an "insurance" rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1- \$5m at \$1m steps • Tiered UAC vs. Gen Rate
N/A	Contiguous property policy for properties with one use but different property owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of what can be done by Council • Summary of what other Councils in the Region do • Policy options with costing

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members discussed issues raised in the submissions made by Mrs Paton and Mr Judd.

Members discussed the possibility of introducing an annual review process for the position of Chairman of Council, Chair of Committees, and Deputy Chair of Committees. After a show of hands it was determined not to proceed with the suggested review process.

SP 11-54

Moved

Plowman/Rieger

The public is to be excluded from the remainder of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the 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 13 September 2011.	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.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 1.52pm and resumed at 1.54pm

Members considered the public excluded minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011.

CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES

PX SP 11-16 Moved Rieger/Plowman

that the public excluded minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

PX SP 11-17 Moved Rieger/Plowman

that the meeting move out of Public Excluded.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 1.55pm.

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN

UNCONFIRMED



Report of the sixth 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 10.06am on Wednesday 12 October 2011.

PRESENT Crs MC Guy (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell (from 10.06am), GL Cox, EB Gordon (ex officio) (from 10.06am), PW Rieger, RG Walker JP (from 10.06am to 2.35pm).

IN ATTENDANCE Group Manager Operations Mr AD Cook
Secretary Ms GA McRae

ALSO PRESENT Crs VJF Chettleburgh (from 10.06am to 11.26am, 2.05pm to 3.30pm), CI Sheldon (from 10.25am), MW Plowman, and JJ White.

At various times during the meeting:

Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr J Foxall (Southern Area Engineer), Mr I McMahon (Senior Engineering Officer), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager - Land), Ms A Roehler (Communications Advisor), Crs Kelly, Linklater and McCann (Palmerston North City Council), and a member of the public.

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

The Chair advised that a presentation would be made to the Committee about the Whirikino stopbank failure judgment and an update on the Whanganui River Stage two consultation process. He advised that Item 8 would be taken first for the convenience of interested parties in the public gallery. There were no objections.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COP 11-46

Moved

Rieger/Walker

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 August 2011, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Plowman made a statement advising that he had a possible conflict of interest in respect of Item 13, Report No. 11-185, Splitrock Station, – Protection Mechanisms for Larger Scale Grants and Incentives. He stated that his interest was non-pecuniary and had come about as a result of

his tender for part of the wider property being discussed in this report. He wished to clarify for his colleagues that interest did not relate to the planted areas under discussion.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH PROJECT FLOOD PROTECTION AT TURITEA CAMPUS

Report No. 11-176

This item sought the Committee's endorsement of a proposal to undertake flood protection works at the Turitea Science Campus, for inclusion in Council's Draft 2012-22 Long Term Plan (LTP). The item was introduced by the Group Manager Operations (GMO) who outlined the proposal including the physical works proposed and the extension of the City Reach project to fund the project.

Cr Sheldon joined the meeting at 10.25am

There was general support around the table about the advantages of the project but some concern about how it would be funded and the rates burden it might pose. Questions about capital valuation in the area were answered, with the understanding that the area under discussion had great economic benefit to the region but did not have a high capital valuation. Discussion extended into whether the project could be 'rated in advance' but Councillors were reminded by the Chair of the Committee that a significant building project was about to take place on the site, subject to the flood protection work going ahead. There was wide support that alternative funding mechanisms be examined to try to impose a more realistic proportion of project costs on the directly benefiting properties at Turitea.

Based on the discussion had by the Committee an amended resolution was moved by Councillor Rieger that included an additional item (d) for the GMO to explore options for a rating differential to aid the funding of the project. Further discussion saw an amendment to resolution (b) stipulating agreement was 'in principle', and resolution (e) was accepted by the mover and seconder with no objections from the Committee, requesting that the GMO report back to the Committee with funding recommendations.

COP 11-47

Moved

Rieger/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-176;
- b. **endorses, in principle, the proposal to extend the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Project to provide 0.2% AEP flood protection to the Turitea Science Campus, with the extension to be funded by way of increased loans and an extension of the present Palmerston North Special Project rating area;**
- c. **requests** the Chief Executive to obtain confirmation of support for the proposal from Turitea property owners, prior to its presentation to the City Reach Working Party and inclusion in the Draft LTP;

- d. **requests** the Group Manager Operations to explore options for a rating differential on the Turitea Campus to compensate for the existing low property valuations; and
- e. **requests** the Group Manager Operations to report back to Council with recommendations for funding.

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 11-179

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 August to 30 September 2011. The Group Manager Operations (GMO) presented two videos made by field staff showing recent works completed or underway in the City Reach project, Ashhurst Stream Scheme and at the Kopane Bridge.

The Councillors moved through the item page by page seeking clarification on the various activities and projects and sections outlined in the report. Discussion included progress in the study of the Foxton Loop, stormwater outlets in Whanganui, gravel erosion in the South East Ruahine scheme and others. Cr White requested that a map be provided showing the progress in the Ashhurst scheme and the GMO agreed to provide this information after the lunch-break.

Cr Chettleburgh left the meeting at 11.26am

COP 11-48

Moved

Guy/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 11-179;
- b. **notes** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

CARRIED

TE KAWAU DRAINAGE SCHEME – CULVERT INSPECTION

Report No. 11-177

This item informed the Committee of the outcome of a recent programme of closed circuit television (CCTV) inspections of floodgated culverts under the Sluggish Main Drain stopbanks within the Te Kawau Drainage Scheme. CCTV footage was presented by the Group Manager Operations (GMO) and Mr Foxall (Area Engineer Southern) identifying significant problems that were not currently programmed for repair. It was highlighted to Councillors that as the problems had now been identified there was a responsibility to take action, and that the Scheme ratepayers needed to be consulted on how they wished to fund and proceed with repairs.

Councillors discussed the extent of the damage to the pipes and asked whether it could be expected that other culverts in the region would have equal amounts of damage in need of repair. Officers expressed that while there would be other culverts in need of repair they believed that the Te Kawau Drainage Scheme was one of the worst case scenarios due to the construction materials involved. Possibilities for repair were also discussed including collared concrete piping and internal PVC piping.

COP 11-49**Moved****Walker/Cox**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-177;
- b. **notes** that the findings of the culvert investigation, together with funding implications, will be discussed with the Scheme Liaison Committee and that funding provision will ultimately be made through the 2012-22 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.08pm.
The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm.*

On reconvening a brief presentation was made by Mr McMahon (Senior Engineering Officer) (as requested earlier during discussion of Item 6, Report No. 11-179), updating them on the progress made in the Ashhurst Stream Scheme. He used aerial maps to indicate where works were taking place and clarified questions about the limitations of the scheme.

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – RURAL FLOOD PROTECTION UPGRADE PROJECT KOPANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Report No. 11-178

This item proposed for the Committee's consideration a format for the official opening of the new Kopane Bridge. The item was presented by the Group Manager Operations (GMO) who noted that the construction of the Kopane Bridge was a significant and tangible milestone of progress in the Lower Manawatu Scheme. It was questioned as to whether there was any support in the community for an opening ceremony and the GMO confirmed that the suggestion had come from within the community. There was general support for the idea and it was proposed that this be used as an opportunity to reiterate the importance of the flood protection measures with the community.

COP 11-51**Moved****Burnell/Gordon**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-178;
- b. **agrees** with the concept of a formal opening ceremony for the new Kopane bridge; and
- c. **instructs** the Chief Executive to confirm arrangements.

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

Report No. 11-180

This item informed the Committee of progress with the preparation of a fifth generation of Asset Management Plans (AMP), and tabled for discussion a draft version of the AMP (Part A) that set out the asset management policies that are commonly applied across all Schemes, together with

two typical Scheme specific AMPs that detailed the Scheme specific policies and practices applicable for those Schemes. The item was introduced by the Group Manager Operations (GMO) in the absence of Mr Paul Joseph who was not present due to illness. The GMO spoke about the importance of the plans as Horizons were the custodians of significant community-owned infrastructure and must meet their duty of care in respect of those assets. He noted that the final budget and funding forecast figures had not been entered as these were not yet finalised.

Concerns were raised by Councillors about the legibility of some of the appendices, specifically pages 137-142, 197-205, and 254-266. The GMO apologised and said that while they were not material to the decision being made today, legible copies could be made available to anyone who requested them. He assured Councillors the problem would be fixed prior to the final documents being printed.

Councillors asked specific questions about information in the example documents provided. It was noted that asset management planning was a difficult issue to try and engage the community as it was often seen as quite 'dry'; however a greater effort would be made this year to obtain input to the process from the respective scheme liaison committees.

COP 11-52

Moved

Barrow/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-180;
- b. **endorses** the Part A and sample Part B Asset Management Plans for the purpose of stakeholder consultation;
- c. **notes** that consultation around levels of service in particular and plan composition in general will be undertaken through Scheme Liaison Committees; and
- d. **notes** that final draft plans will be presented to Council for adoption in December.

CARRIED

WHIRIKINO STOPBANK FAILURE - PRESENTATION

In response to a prior request by Councillors, the Group Manager Operations (GMO) made a presentation on the recent High Court judgement on *Eastern Agriculture Ltd/Everleigh Farming Ltd. v. Horizons Regional Council* regarding the Whirikino Stopbank Failure in 2004.

Cr Chettleburgh returned to the meeting at 2.05pm

The GMO outlined the background to the legal action, the stopbank design and mode of failure, and the plaintiff's claim. He took the Committee through the key issues identified by the Court and the findings in the judgement. He discussed with Councillors what the implications of the findings were for Council and proposed action that may need to be taken in the future.

It was noted that the decision was still in its appeal period.

LOWER WHANGANUI RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION - UPDATE

An update was provided to the Committee by the Chair of Catchment Operations about a Lower Whanganui Scheme Working Party meeting held earlier in the week with a focus on stage two of the flood protection upgrade project. Cr Guy informed Councillors that the group would meet again in about four weeks to work on ideas for consultation. In the meantime the Council intended to meet and discuss the scheme with people at the Putiki Marae.

It was noted by Councillors that they hoped the consultation garnered better feedback than previous attempts had done and that communication should be with both directly affected parties and all those within the Wanganui District boundary.

Cr Walker left the meeting at 2.35pm

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE – STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-12

Report No. 11-1182

This item presented to Members the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) – Strategic Plan for 2011-12. The report was presented by the Group Manager, Environmental Management (GMEM).

There was significant discussion around the voluntary nature of the programme and whether this contributed to its success. The GMEM reiterated that it was a voluntary programme and was considered successful by staff. There was no intention to make participation mandatory. A question was raised about whether the work done in the SLUI programme was within Horizon's mandate or whether it would be more appropriately dealt with at a district/city council level.

Following discussion an amended recommendation was moved and seconded instructing the GMEM to investigate and report on methods of accelerating implementation of SLUI.

COP 11-53

Moved

Guy/Barrow

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) – Strategic Plan 2011-12; and
- b. **instructs** the Group Manager Environmental Management to investigate and report on methods of accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 11-175

This report updated Members of the progress on Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI). The report was presented by the Group Manager, Environmental Management (GMEM).

The GMEM answered questions of clarification.

COP 11-54**Moved****Rieger/Barrow**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-175 and Annexes.

CARRIED

PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR LARGER SCALE GRANTS AND INCENTIVES

Report No. 11-185

This report provided Members with a background to larger scale and grants and incentives provided as part of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) and to outline the mechanisms that are available to protect any financial or physical contribution made as part of these grant or incentive initiatives. The item was presented by the Group Manager, Environmental Management (GMEM). He provided background information on the Splitrock Station venture in which Horizons had found itself an unsecured creditor and discussed the mechanisms that could be used in the future to avoid this.

An amended resolution was moved and seconded which included details of the mechanisms being endorsed and to give reference that it was only larger projects that would be subject to these mechanisms (where a financial threshold is triggered).

COP 11-55**Moved****Cox/Gordon**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-185;
- b. **endorses** the introduction of new financial protection mechanisms being a personal property securities register and/or a registered second mortgage, whereby Horizons secures any grants or cash paid in advance by way of a Register of Financial Interest where a financial threshold is likely to be triggered.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor McKellar requested further information about the source of information relayed in the Auditor-General's *Managing Freshwater Quality – Challenges for Regional Councils* report. His specific concern related to point 4.55, p 55: "Horizons Regional Council also notes that its primary non-regulatory programme for addressing sedimentation entering water from hill country (the Sustainable Land Use Initiative) might be less effective because the programme is voluntary". Officers undertook to try and provide him with that information.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

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