



Minutes of the fourteenth meeting of the eighth triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.00am on Tuesday, 29 November 2011, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell, Cr 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** Chief Executive Mr MJ McCartney  
Acting Group Manager Mrs S Craig  
Corporate and Governance  
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** At various times during the meeting:  
Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services & Information), Mr C Grant (Acting Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Ms K Ritani (Communications Advisor), Mr B Gilliland (Appeals Project Manager), Mr T Collé (Chief Financial Officer), Mr R Wong and Mr D Walker (Palmerston North Airport Limited), Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design), Mrs D Punnet, Mrs S Byrne (Customer Services Officers), Mr and Mrs G Preddey, a member of the public, and a member of the Press.

#### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

The Chairman noted that a request for public speaking rights had been received but was declined as the applicant was unsure of the subject he wished to speak to.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

The Chairman advised that a late item would be considered in Part Two – Public Excluded Section.

#### **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr White said as her husband was the Palmerston North City Councillor representative on the Passenger Transport Committee she was unsure of whether she should take part in discussions on Item 10, Report 11-206, Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021. The Chairman ruled there was no conflict of interest in that regard.

Cr Chettleburgh noted his wife was chair of the Restorative Justice Manawatu Committee.

#### **PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS**

There were no petitions/deputations.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On page 13 under the Strategy & Policy Committee, reference was made to the prosecution advisory *committee*. It was noted that the correct name was the prosecution advisory *group*.

Under Members' Reports and Questions:

- Cr Guy, second line, change to: He **chaired** the Lower Whanganui...
- Cr Cox, first line, change to: He **attended** a meeting for ...

**11-205**

**Moved**

**White/Guy**

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record, with the following amendments to Members' Reports and Questions:*

- Cr Guy, second line, change to: "He **chaired** the Lower Whanganui..."
- Cr Cox, first line, change to: "He **attended** a meeting for ..."

**CARRIED**

In response to a query the Chief Executive explained the functions and delegations of the Prosecutions Advisory Group and clarified who could attend those meetings. The Chief Executive undertook to liaise with Mr Grant (Acting Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory) and organise a mock prosecutions advisory group operation with fictitious cases to enable Councillors to observe the process.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive (CE) drew Members' attention to two awards received by Horizons Regional Council: the Manawatu Contact Centre Awards 2011; and the Association of Local Government Management 2011 Award. Both awards related to the call centre set by Horizons Regional Council in February 2011 in response to the Christchurch earthquake. The CE highlighted the significant achievements and impressive efforts from staff and members of the public in setting up and maintaining the call centre.

The CE expanded on key issues in his report and provided detail on meetings attended. He noted the resignation of Mr B Holmes (Area Engineer Northern) and also Ms Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist). A decision about the two vacant positions would be made in due course. The CE responded to Members' questions on matters raised.

**11-206**

**Moved**

**Gordon/Walker**

*That the Chief Executive's report be received.*

**CARRIED**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report and provided feedback on meetings he attended. He responded to Members' questions on matters raised.

11-207

**Moved**

**Gordon/White**

*That the Chairman's report be received.*

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' REPORTS AND QUESTIONS**

**Cr Barrow** commented on his attendance at the scheme liaison committee meetings. He noted his involvement with Landcare around the process of setting up a catchment care group in the Tararua area.

**Cr Burnell** attended the Moutoa Drainage Scheme Liaison Committee meeting, and met with the District Council and Wayne Rider in regard to Shannon Sewage, and had discussions with Ian Easton.

**Cr Chettleburgh** attended various Christmas functions, a Zone 3 meeting, the Esplanade Scooter roadsafety programme, and attended meetings with the Palmerston North City Council.

**Cr Cox** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops, had discussions with the Chair of the Strategy and Finance Committee, Wanganui District Council about debt levels, and attended a meeting of the Lower Whanganui River Scheme Working Party.

**Cr Guy** attended a seminar in Hamilton on emissions trading and said he was happy to provide a verbal presentation to interested staff and councillors at a suitable time. He was involved in a discussion with mitigation measures for the Taonui Basin, he attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops, the One Plan Advisory Group, and attended meetings in regard to MWRC Holdings Limited. He commented on his attendance at six scheme liaison committee meetings, he attended a meeting at Massey with property representatives/owners of the Turitea Science Campus, and attended the Lower Whanganui River Scheme Working Party. He went to Putiki Marae and consulted with potential affected parties in regard to rating, he attended a meeting with LandVision, and the Sustainable Land Use Initiative Advisory Group meeting. He referred to scheme assets and said further discussion was needed at some stage on the type of assets that needed to be insured.

**Cr McKellar** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops, an Integrated Freshwater Solutions Workshop held at Massey, attended the Rangitikei River Forum meeting, and spoke about Field Horsetail at the Manawatu District Council meeting. He attended the Lower Kiewitea Scheme Liaison committee Meeting, the Manawatu Rangitikei Federated Farmers Provincial meeting, and the Sustainable Land Use Initiative Advisory Group meeting.

The Chairman adjourned Members' Reports and Questions until later in the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION: PROFESSOR GEORGE PREDDEY CLIMATE CHANGE**

Cr White welcomed and introduced Professor George Preddey and his wife Elspeth.

Professor Preddey spoke to his Submission 5 on climate change. During his presentation Professor Preddey referred to several books and reference material he considered would be useful, and distributed a copy of NewScientist dated 22 October 2011.

The Chairman thanked Professor Preddey for his presentation and material.

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm  
The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

## RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

11-208

**Moved**

**Gordon/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
PX1 Presentation from Palmerston North Airport Limited	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 1.00pm and resumed at 1.42pm.

## REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021

*Report No. 11-206*

This report approved the Horizons Regional Council Proposed Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP/the Plan) 2011-2021.

The Transport Planner highlighted that submissions received were generally positive and supportive of the direction of the Plan. Submitters requested that a number of the options outlined for future improvements to services be implemented sooner rather than later. The Transport Planner highlighted the specific type of improvements for implementation, subject to availability of funding and demand. Members asked questions of clarification about funding and installation of bus shelters, funding for an investigation report, and asked about the funding split for total mobility.

11-209

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Barrow**

*That the Council*

- a. **receives** the report on the Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021;
- b. **approves** the Regional Public Transport Plan 2011-2021.

**CARRIED**

## UPDATE TO COUNCILLORS – LOWER WHANGANUI RIVER SCHEME:

**Mr A Cook, Group Manager Operations, Mr P Blackwood, Manager Investigations & Design, And Ms K Ritani, Communications Advisor**

- Wanganui Flood risk and Mitigation
- Stage 2 flood Protection Proposals
- Stage 2 Consultation Strategy

Mr Cook and Mr Blackwood provided an update on the background to the Lower Whanganui River Scheme and an explanation to technical aspects behind the Scheme.

Ms Ritani concluded with information on the proposed consultation strategy for Stage 2 of the Scheme.

Members fully discussed the proposed consultation strategy. It was proposed that a newsletter would be distributed before Christmas containing four options for ratepayers' consideration, with feedback on those options required to be back by 20 January 2012. There was debate and concern expressed around the timing of sending out the newsletter as it coincided with the Christmas Holiday period.

Ultimately after further discussion around the timing for sending out the newsletter, the following recommendation was proposed.

**11-210**

**Moved**

**Guy/Cox**

*That the Council*

- a. **distributes** the newsletter with options for Stage 2 of the Lower Whanganui River Scheme on or about 15 January 2012 with feedback required in approximately three weeks time.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT FROM APPEALS ADVISORY GROUP

*Report No. 11-208*

This report updated Council on progress made to resolve appeals to the Proposed One Plan as Amended by Decisions. The report covered the period 14 October 2011 to 10 November 2011. .

Mr Gilliland (Appeals Project Manager) spoke to the item and advised that the newly appointed Judge, Jude Thompson had appointed several court dates: 20 December 2011 to hear legal arguments about the Terrestrial Biodiversity rules; 16 April 2012 for Sustainable Land Use/Accelerated Erosion and Coast; and 30 April to hear Non-point Source Discharges. Mr Gilliland elaborated on the budget and said he was confident that the project would be completed significantly under budget, and provided cost estimates of presenting evidence to the Court.

Cr White congratulated staff on their incredible efforts.

**11-211**

**Moved**

**White/Sheldon**

*That the Council*

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-208, Appeals Advisory Group.

**CARRIED**



**11-214**                      **Moved**    **White/Rieger**

*That the Council*

- a.            **receives** the information in Report No. 11-204;
- b.            **notes** that the Regional Territorial Authorities' Forum Registration Brochure will be distributed in February 2012.

*Against: Cr Walker*

**CARRIED**

## **WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**

**11-215**                      **Moved**    **Chettleburgh/Walker**

*That the Council*

- a.            **notes** the Workshop attendance 21 September to 23 November 2011.

**CARRIED**

## **ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **STRATEGY & POLICY COMMITTEE**

Cr Sheldon referred to her presentation of her attendance at the International Riversymposium, Brisbane, 26-29 September 2011 where she suggested that consideration be given to merging the Environment and Catchment Operations Committee in 2012. The Chair advised that the Bulletin for 2012 would be considered at the December Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

**11-216**                      **Moved**    **Guy/Walker**

*That the Council **receives, and adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Strategy & Policy Committee meeting held on 8 November 2011.*

**CARRIED**

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cr White asked that additional wording be included on page 117, fourth line – Dr Roygard reported that work on the draft **report on methodologies modelling the effectiveness of ...** .

Cr McKellar referred to page 116. He noted an error in the transcript of discussions which was to be attached as addendum to the Environment Committee minutes of 14 September 2011. In the second paragraph, Cr McKellar, second line – change **that** to **if**.

Discussion ensued around the appropriate place to address changes to wording and corrections to minutes. It was noted that Committee recommendations were included for endorsement and adoption by Council and the appropriate place to ensure the correctness of reports was at the appropriate Committee meeting.

11-217

**Moved**

**White/Chettleburgh**

*That the Council **endorses and adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on 9 November 2011.*

**CARRIED**

## **PASSENGER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman commented that a clear message be sent to the Passenger Transport Committee to ensure that an effort is made to achieve a 50% farebox recovery rate from each of their services.

11-218

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Sheldon**

*That the Council **endorses and adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting held on 15 November 2011.*

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' REPORTS AND QUESTIONS (Continued)**

**Cr Plowman** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops. He attended the Pakihi Scheme meeting, and an Animal Health Board meeting. Cr Plowman reported that the Animal Health Board was keen to contribute toward funding of the Green RIG and they believed it would be a useful vehicle to promote possum control.

**Cr Rieger** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops. He provided an update on a Summit called by the Mayor of Wellington which he attended on behalf of the Chairman.

**Cr Sheldon** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops. She attended a workshop on Integrated Freshwater Solutions at Massey, Zone 3, One Plan Appeal Advisory Group, and a sustainability talk held at the Palmerston North City Library. She attended three scheme liaison committee meetings, and a Department of Conservation barbecue. She met with a group at the Institute of Natural Resources at Massey, and attended the Massey stakeholders gathering. Cr Sheldon said she wrote an article on the value of wetlands which was well received and an article on stormwater issues at Ohau.

**Cr Walker** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops. He attended a meeting with the Castlecliff Ratepayers' Association who provided him with a CD showing photographs of butchered stock found on the walkway at Castlecliff and photographs of trucks dumping rubble. He attended a meeting with the sailing club.

**Cr White** attended the usual Horizons' meetings and workshops, the One Plan Appeal Advisory Group meeting, and attended part of an Integrated Freshwater Solutions workshop. She commented on a lecture held during Manawatu Local History week from Dr Catherine Knight on the environmental history of Totara Reserve.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Cr Chettleburgh commented on a recent announcement of a \$1M government grant received by the Palmerston North City Council. The grant was for a research project to develop a chemical process for recovering Alum from the sludge produced at the Palmerston North City Waste Water Treatment Plant. He distributed some information to Councillors outlining background information on the Wetox Trial project. Cr Chettleburgh suggested that the Council write to the Palmerston North City Council and congratulate them on receiving the grant.

The Chief Executive clarified questions about a document, "Whanganui iwi and the Crown, Record of Understanding in relation to Whanganui River Settlement".

**RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

**11-219**

**Moved**

**Walker/Guy**

*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:*

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PX2 Confirmation of Minutes of 26 October 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.
PX LATE ITEM Civic Assurance Proposed Capital Raising  <i>Report No. 11-214</i>	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX3 Council to <b>consider</b> whether any item in the Public Excluded minutes can be moved into the public domain, and <b>define</b> the extent of the release.		

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 4.20pm and resumed at 4.35pm.

The meeting closed at 4.36pm.

Confirmed

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN