



Minutes of public meetings of the Strategy and Policy Committee to hear submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 held in the Council Chambers of Ruapehu District Council, Taumarunui on Monday, 24 May 2010 at 11am, at Horizons Regional Council offices, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North on Wednesday, 26 May, from 9.30am to 1.09pm, and Thursday, 27 May 2010 at 10.00am, and at the Wanganui Racecourse on Wednesday, 26 May 2010 from 3.00pm to 4.50pm.

PRESENT: 24 May 2010
Taumarunui Crs GP Murfitt MNZM JP (Chair), L Bailey, LR Burnell, EB Gordon, MC Guy, AK Main, DB Meads, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO, RG Walker and JJ White.

26 May 2010
Palmerston Nth Crs GP Murfitt MNZM JP (Chair), L Bailey, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, EB Gordon, MC Guy, AK Main, DB Meads, M Plowman, PW Rieger QSO (from 9.35am), RG Walker and J J White.

26 May 2010
Wanganui Crs GP Murfitt MNZM JP (Chair), L Bailey, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, EB Gordon, MC Guy, AK Main, DB Meads, MW Plowman, RG Walker, and JJ White.

27 May 2010
Palmerston Nth Crs GP Murfitt MNZM JP (Chair to 4.01pm), L Bailey, LR Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, EB Gordon (to 5.30pm), MC Guy, AK Main (to 2.36pm), DB Meads, M Plowman, PW Rieger (Chair from 3.30pm), RG Walker JP, and JJ White.

Monday, 24 May 2010 (Taumarunui)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Group Manager Corporate & Governance
Committee Secretary

Mr M J McCartney
Mr C Grant
Ms K Booth

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), and Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner).

Wednesday, 26 May 2010 (Palmerston North)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Group Manager Corporate & Governance
Committee Secretary

Mr M J McCartney
Mr C Grant
Ms K Booth

LATE SUBMISSIONS

A supplementary paper to the submission by the Central King Country SPCA Volunteer Team was supplied with a request for it to be read out on behalf of the SPCA Volunteer Team which was unable to attend the Submissions Hearing.

SUBMISSIONS TO DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010-11

Report No. 10-60

This item provided the background and introduction to the submissions made on the Draft Annual Plan 2010-11 (DAP) (Amendment to the Community Plan 2009-19). It was agreed that the recommendations would be discussed at the end of the Submissions Hearings.

FORMAT FOR ORAL SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 10-59

This report set out a timetable to hear oral submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2010-11 (Amendment to the Community Plan 2009-19). Forty-nine (49) requests for oral submissions were received.

The Chairman explained to submitters that five minutes had been allocated for them to highlight significant points in their submissions or elaborate on particular details, and this would be followed by 10 minutes for Councillors to ask questions of clarification. There would be no debate on submissions at that stage and all submitters would receive a detailed written reply to their submissions in due course.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to Council on behalf of their submission.

Ms Pauline Love (Team Leader Strategic Development) and **Ms Anne Marie Westcott** (Team Leader Environment) appreciated Horizons' councillors travelling to Taumarunui to hear submitters. They spoke in support of the submission from **Ruapehu District Council** (RDC). Ms Love said the DAP was well set out and easy to read. They highlighted areas of concern noted in the RDC submission. These included a strong request for Horizons to increase biosecurity funding, especially for Tutsan. RDC strongly advocated continuation of the possum control programme, and funding for rook control. There was strong support for the introduction of consents in the field, and for RDC and Horizons working together to share information, solve problems, lower costs and get efficiencies. In response to a question about Animal Health Board (AHB) funding, Ms Love reiterated that it was important to control pests by the best means possible, and acknowledged there was private good involved. Members also asked for clarification around the comments on the One Plan in the submission, and the request for 100% resource consent user charges to be for serious non-compliance only.

Mr Richard Steele reinforced the request in his submission for ongoing funding to the AHB and for the amount to be increased to \$750,000 rather than the \$580,000 proposed. He provided statistics to demonstrate the improvement over the years through Tb vector control and said he did not want any of that progress to be lost. He also commented on the marvellous effects on biodiversity through Tb control. In response to questions, he explained he wanted the AHB to practice efficiencies and ensure the funding from regional councils was spent on vector control. As an alternative to the regional council collecting the levy, he suggested funding could come from every tourist through a National Park user fee. Mr Steele pointed out that the government's share of funding to complement funding from regional councils, had partly come from levies on the farmers.

Mr Leith Chick, Chairman of **TBfree Waikato**, explained the Waikato TBfree Committee was concerned that a shortfall of funding to AHB might impact on Tb control in the Horizons' Region and adjacent catchments. TBfree Waikato encouraged full payment of Horizons' regional share

and he said this was supported through farmers' submissions to the DAP. He referred to good progress with vector control in the Hauhungaroas and said there was an excellent opportunity to eradicate Tb in New Zealand. Mr Chick believed the risks associated with decreased funding were huge and referred to the contribution by central government to regional council share. He clarified that the regional share was collected on rateable land that was being worked and was not always the same percentage each year. Members asked further questions of clarification.

Mr Dean Gower supported increased funding to the AHB and explained the AHB programme had eradicated Tb from his farm and many others in the area. Financially, Tb was a huge burden on farmers and if it returned it could be crippling. He said the control programme had slowed down and he noticed that possums were coming back into the area. Currently there were no farms under movement control in the area and they needed to keep it that way, otherwise it was waste of all money spent to date. He spoke of the benefit to the biodiversity in the area through eradication of possums, and that this benefit was also enjoyed by urban people. In response to questions, Mr Gower said that he and other farmers were aware of the maintenance programme carried out by Horizons following AHB control work, and while he had not thought of alternative ways of funding the AHB, he wanted the programme to continue.

Mr Roger Beck, Chairmain of **TBfree Manawatu-Wanganui** acknowledged the huge rewards in his part of the region through the regional council's contribution to the AHB programme. He urged that full funding of \$750,000 be made as there were still some farms on movement control in his area. He believed Horizons had under-funded the programme in the last few years. The other funders to AHB were central government and the industry. Government funding would decrease if Horizons' contribution decreased. He said it made business sense for Horizons to fully fund as more funding would then be obtained from government. He said the TBfree Committees had an important role in ensuring the AHB worked efficiently, and it received reports from other organisations that AHB worked with, such as DOC, Asure Quality, the vector management team. Members asked questions about AHB surplus funds in the past, AHB administration costs, and further explanation on his comment that Horizons had under-funded. When asked if the AHB should be the only organisation charged with Tb and possum control, Mr Beck said he agreed for Tb control, but that AHB was not interested in killing possums. He also commented that AHB was still operating under the old Strategy while the new National Bovine Tb Pest Management Strategy was before the Minister for consideration. Mr Beck answered further questions.

Mr Don Dempsey reinforced the comments in his submission and said he had seen the devastating effects on the land from possums. He said Horizons' support was vital as it would enable eradication to be achieved sooner, and Tb vector control would help Horizons' own pest control programmes. He commented on the loss of government funding if Horizons did not fully fund the AHB programme. Mr Dempsey reiterated that he voluntarily kept the possum bait stations going following the 1080 campaign some years ago, and this had kept possums out of his farm. He referred to the improvement in his land, bush, gardens, flora and fauna, with the added benefit of no rats or stoats. In summary he urged Horizons to continue with funding to make use of government funding while it was available. It was to New Zealand's advantage to get rid of possums and Tb. It was Horizons' role to look after the environment and this was an excellent way. In response to questions, he agreed there should be some public funding of possum control.

Mr Dave Colling spoke to the submission from the **Horowhenua District Health Transportation Trust**. He added there had been a change of officers and location of the Trust. He highlighted there were extra costs in running the service because a lack of doctors in the area had meant more people were travelling out of the area for medical treatment resulting in a higher demand on transport. He said a favourable response to their submission would be very welcome. He added that the Trust was run as a business and the aim was to make it efficient. He clarified that a contribution had been received from the MidCentral Health Board. Members asked for further explanation about other organisations providing similar services and receiving an increase in concessionary fares. Mr Colling understood it was on a mileage basis, and

referred Members to the extra service to cover Levin/Foxton/Shannon/Levin. The Trust was asking for an increased concessionary fare from \$4 to \$5 per person. Members asked about the increase in passenger numbers. Cr Burnell thanked Mr and Mrs Colling for their ongoing work with the Horowhenua District Health Transportation Trust.

The meeting adjourned at 12.50pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.50pm.

Mayor Sue Morris (Ruapehu District Council) welcomed everyone, and said how nice it was to see Horizons Regional Council in Taumarunui.

Mr Cliff Tombleson spoke to his submission, explained he had been farming for 30 years, and highlighted the points in his submission. He urged Horizons to continue to fully fund the Animal Health Board for Tb and vector control (\$750,000) so the area did not return to the previous high levels of Tb through increased vector population. He highlighted that every \$1 funded by Horizons was matched by \$9 from central government. He asked why Horizons was involved in road safety, and asked Council to get back to its core business. In response to questions, he highlighted his concern that government funding would decrease if Horizons' level of AHB funding decreased and the work still needed to be carried out. He wanted to see as much spent on Tb control as possible.

Mr John Topp commented on his submission. He believed that control of possum numbers helped to control Tb. He said that ten years ago there were no possums, but he was concerned at the recent appearance of possums on the road at night and urged that maintenance be kept up. He asked Horizons to meet the AHB's request for \$750,000. Mr Topp mentioned the increase in native birdlife and flowering rata because of the vector control. As a farmer his concern was controlling Tb. He believed that everyone should contribute through rating, including forestry companies. He also believed that only one organisation should be fighting possums, and questioned why Horizons stepped into an area to maintain, once the AHB pulled out.

Mr David Seifert spoke to the submission on behalf of himself and the owner of the veterinary practice. He had been a veterinarian for 35 years and they were concerned at the proposal to not fully fund vector control. The area was a 'hot bed' for Tb and he commented on the huge effort by AHB, veterinary surgeons, and Horizons Regional Council to get on top of Tb, and did not want to see the area revert through a decrease in vector control. Mr Seifert asked for pressure to be kept on the Hauhungaroa Ranges which was heavily infested. He strongly urged Horizons to continue with its maintenance to get a multiplier effect for Tb control via vector control. As a farmer, he knew the huge effort put into Tb testing. He responded to questions about residual trap catch percentages, and AHB's reliance on the current funding model.

An apology was received from the **Central King Country SPCA Volunteer Team** and the Chairman read out a statement supplied by the Team in support of their submission.

Mr John Beck spoke in support of the submission of himself and his wife. He said their property had been Tb free for 13 years and the implications of having Tb in an area with its effect on farming and movement control, was a headache. He referred to the involvement of Federated Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Regional Animal Health Committees, Horizons, and veterinarians to develop a strategy to eliminate Tb, and said the scheme had been excellent with good results. There was strong advocacy to keep pressure on these organisations to keep the area Tb free. Mr Beck did not believe the job had yet been completed as there were signs of increased possum numbers. He supported Horizons funding \$750,000 to gain leverage for more funding and believed its reluctance was intolerable. When asked if he agreed with a proposed targeted rate on properties four hectares and over, Mr Beck believed the funding should come

out of the general rate. He also responded that once possum numbers were down or eradicated, that would be the time to consider what should happen next.

The meeting adjourned at 3.17pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.35pm

NZ Forest Managers Ltd (NZFML) was represented by **Ms Jackie Egan** (Environment Planner) and Mr Colin Dunstan (Operations Manager). Ms Egan said NZFML was generally in support of the Draft Annual Plan. She reinforced two points made in the submission. One was support for the development of the Turakina Catchment Management Scheme, but concerns around collection of funds, and opposition to forested land within the catchment being captured in the rating proposal as the forest already provided the mitigating factors. She referred to a solution suggested by NZFML in the submission. The other point was NZFML's opposition to Horizons Regional Council collecting a levy for bovine Tb on behalf of the AHB. Ms Egan noted that Horizons had asked for feedback on this matter. Members asked questions of clarification around mitigating factors already provided by the forest, riparian vegetation, guidelines followed by NZFML when harvesting, the area and age class of Craigdean Forest. Mr Dunstan clarified that the AHB possum control work was for Tb and NZFML's view was that the benefit for Tb control was totally for the agricultural sector, and therefore the company should not be rated on the same basis as agricultural land. Members asked further questions about rook control, and control of Old Man's Beard.

An apology was received from **Mr Ross Richards** and his written submission was considered by Members.

The Chair of Council thanked Mayor Morris for the use of the Ruapehu District Council facilities.

*The meeting at **Taumarunui** adjourned at 4.25pm.*

*The meeting resumed in **Palmerston North** at 9.30am on Wednesday, 26 May 2010.*

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

APOLOGIES

An apology was noted from Cr Rieger for the Submissions Hearing at Wanganui.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to Council on behalf of their submission.

Mr Barry Stevenson spoke to his submission and highlighted his concern that Horizons was not proposing to fully fund the AHB programme. He commented that the farming community, through its submissions, had said Horizons' proposal was not sound and he asked Horizons to listen to them, especially the veterinarians. He highlighted his concerns and comments in his submission about the possible consequences when there was a reduction in funding of disease control. He mentioned businesses that had to move away from this area because of lack of leadership, and as examples he mentioned the National Salmonella Laboratory, and the Animal Health Laboratory. In response to questions, he supported the eradication of Tb, but believed it would take 20-30 years to finally eradicate the disease out of New Zealand. He clarified Members' questions.

Mr Philip Hoskin said the main part of his submission was the issue of Canada Geese and the problems they cause. They fouled pasture and created a huge cost for farmers. If numbers of Canada Geese continued to increase he believed they could cause water quality issues. Mr Hoskin also asked about the real cost of passenger transport as it appeared heavily subsidised. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mayor Chalky Leary spoke to the submission of **Rangitikei District Council (RDC)**. **Mayor Leary expressed the support of Rangitikei District Council for the Turakina River Scheme.**

He referred to paragraph 1 of the submission and asked Members to ignore comments relating to Old Man's Beard (OMB). He said that while some people believed it was too late to try to control OMB, he did not agree. He referred to the good work carried out by the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG), however he said they were only able to contain the pest plant at this stage. Mayor Leary referred to the concern expressed by the REG that Work and Income NZ (WINZ) funding could be reduced or could cease, and said he would try to keep that funding going. Members asked about possible funding support by RDC for OMB. They also asked for clarification on the comment that the DAP was overly complex.

Dr Chris Teo-Sherrell expressed his appreciation of the effort from the transport staff in securing funding for additional services in Palmerston North. He then showed Members a powerpoint presentation on oil production from 1970 to the present time and how oil consumption was increasing to the point where we now used more energy from oil versus electricity. He said that more people needed to be encouraged to use buses rather than their own motor vehicles and believed Horizons' bus routes needed to be more direct. He said more passengers meant cheaper tickets. He suggested Horizons think about fare-free buses. He asked for bike racks to be put on buses, especially the Feilding route, as people were often happy to bike one way. He also asked for more bus shelters. Members asked Dr Teo-Sherrell about his comments on point source discharges. They also asked for his thoughts on the time a bus trip should take to get into the centre of Palmerston North.

The meeting adjourned at 10.40am.

The meeting resumed at 11.05am.

Mr Andrew Day, Ms Lyn Neeson, and Ms Tessa Mills representing the Manawatu-Rangitikei, Tararua, Wanganui and Ruapehu provinces of **Federated Farmers of New Zealand** spoke in support of their submission. Mr Day said they appreciated their allocation of speaking time and would each speak on different topics. The three key points were Tb vector control, consideration for their request for remissions on UAGCs, and clarity around the prompt payment discount. Mr Day referred to the proposed 4.99% rate increase and the concern of all the communities, given the current state of the economy. Ms Neeson asked for consideration to be given to the remission of UAGCs on non contiguous rural land that was used as a contiguous enterprise but which was not necessarily owned by the same person or group. She referred to a map to demonstrate their request. She also referred to the current requirement for an annual application for a remission and suggested that, once granted, a remission continue until change of ownership of that rateable unit. In response to questions she mentioned other territorial authorities that had good policies in place, and clarified further questions on this matter. Ms Mills said Federated Farmers strongly supported the continued payment to the AHB for bovine Tb, as it was a big risk to this region. She referred to other submitters who supported an increase from the proposed \$580,000 to \$750,000 and said Federated Farmers supported this. Ms Mills answered further questions in relation to the review of the National Tb Strategy and Federated Farmers' submission to that review, Horizons' proposal to target rate properties over four hectares, and Federated Farmers' recognition of the public good that possum control benefitted everyone. There were further questions and comments about AHB's accountability for the levies it received, the success of the vector control programme and the desire to see it continue, and the maintenance work undertaken by Horizons. Ms Mills then referred to the

APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Crs Burnell and Rieger.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to their submission.

Mr David Johnston said he was on the TBFree Wanganui Committee and spoke in support of his submission which asked Horizons to fully fund the 12.5% share of the AHB vector control programme for 2010-11. He believed that urban residents received a benefit and suggested 50% urban rate. He commented on the success of the early AHB programme and said that if funding was reduced by Horizons, it would be detrimental to the work previously carried out. He advised that the export sector did not want Tb animals and just one reactor animal on a property meant no animals were accepted from that property. He believed a targeted rate on properties over four hectares missed a lot of small landowners and suggested a minimum rate for them be included in the levy. In response to questions, he personally believed there should be a regional share, and he also believed that once the benefit was explained, urban ratepayers would be willing to accept a rate increase if the full \$750,000 was paid to the AHB,. He clarified further questions on the rating split and on the proposed targeted rate. He also supported the fact that Horizons moved into an area to undertake maintenance work once the AHB moved on.

Mr Jim Howard spoke to the submission of the **Rangitikei Environment Group (REG)** and highlighted that the WINZ funding might not be as secure as it had been. The REG was optimistic but was being proactive in approaching Horizons for funding. He took the opportunity to thank Horizons for its ongoing support for the work the REG was doing, and commented on the cooperation of Council staff especially Alistair Beveridge. He asked Members for their questions. It was suggested that he talk to Mayor Chalky Leary (Rangitikei District Council) about funding. Further questions were asked about whether the responsibility for funding lay with the regional council or the district council.

The Bushy Park Forest Trust was represented by **Mr Jim Howard**. He spoke about the two positions of Conservation Officer and Fence Security and said the Trust was seeking funding for those salaries. He believed that the conservation work carried out at Bushy Park benefited, not just the Wanganui area, but also the wider community. He highlighted that Bushy Park was not yet self-sustainable, that WINZ funding was reducing as Bushy Park generated income, and while the kiwi crèche was undertaking great conservation work, costs were becoming unsustainable. Mr Howard advised that since the submission was written, the Bushy Park Trust Board had decided to discontinue the kiwi crèche, although it was a good attraction for visitors, and instead look at sustaining a breeding kiwi population. In response to questions he clarified there was income from the visitors, the Homestead business and the café and agreed these could generate more income for the future. Mr Howard clarified the number of non-financial supporters and volunteers on the ground. He also clarified that the Trust Board decided not to proceed with a submission to WDC on the grounds it was not likely to succeed, however they had been in discussions with WDC staff during the year. Mr Howard commented that all 'predator fence' organisations were having similar funding problems. He saw Bushy Park as a regional benefit, if not a national benefit.

An apology was received from **Wanganui District Council (WDC)**.

DCP 10-04 Moved

Bailey/Walker

*that the Committee **receives** the further information from **Wanganui District Council**.*

CARRIED

Copies of the additional statement to their submission were distributed at the meeting. Members discussed the contents of the letter from Mayor Michael Laws which referred to rates,

intergenerational equity, and information. The Chairman confirmed that the information sought by Mayor Laws in the original submission had been supplied within the time frame requested. Members discussed the percentage comparisons of Horizons and WDC rates set out in the letter which, when converted into dollar comparisons, showed the Horizons' rates had a lesser impact on ratepayers than rates set by WDC. The Chairman said the matter would be discussed further during Deliberations.

The Wanganui Grey Power Association (WGPA) was represented by **Mr Tony Grant-Fargie** who distributed information to the Councillors in support of the submission. There were six Grey Power members also at the Hearing. In response to questions, he said that WGPA members were concerned about ongoing increases in Horizons' rates (more than the CPI), and they did not believe that Horizons was listening to their concerns. They were the most vulnerable group in the community, many on fixed incomes, yet the rates continued to rise. They were not in support of Stage Two of the Whanganui River Flood Protection plan. They believed Horizons should pay for Stage One first, and then commence Stage Two.

Mr Dave Tulloch spoke to his submission and asked about availability of submission forms, as some people had not received them. It was clarified that these forms were in the community paper. Mr Tulloch said he did not support the building of the stopbanks in Stage One of the Whanganui River and believed Horizons was interfering with nature. He said the stopbanks would cause lagoons to form in a flooding situation and referred to the New Orleans experience. He also referred to Horizons' initiative of fencing off swamps and creeks and planting trees and asked about the consequences in 100 years when trees rotted, fell over in a storm and blocked the creeks. Mr Tulloch said that public transport should be 'user pays' and not included in rates. He did not agree with staff using Council vehicles to travel to and from work. Members asked questions of clarification.

The Wanganui Rural Community Board was represented by **Mr Andrew Collins**. He said he was a farmer who was involved in the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) and who wanted to work alongside Horizons. He said the majority of ratepayers were right behind the work that needed to be done on the land. He strongly urged Horizons to allocate funding of \$750,000, rather than \$580,000, to the AHB for Tb vector control and stressed the importance of that work, for urban ratepayers as well as rural. He acknowledged that could result in a rates increase, but believed that if it was itemised on the rates invoice, it would be accepted. Mr Collins also highlighted the request in the submission for Horizons to consider adding wild peacocks to its pest animal control programme and explained how difficult they were to control. He offered his assistance to Horizons in this regard. Mr Collins provided clarification to Members on points in his submission. He commented that Canada Geese were also starting to be a problem.

Jango spoke to his submission and said there was not a lot to congratulate Horizons on. He spoke about the increase in his rates since 2003 and asked Horizons to stick to its core tasks. He noted the One Plan was still 'proposed' and asked about cost to date of implementation. He referred to a staff vacancy advertisement for a Field Officer to provide sustainable farming advice and said farmers should pay for their own advice. He asked that Horizons did not increase its number of employees. Jango asked why Horizons was involved with Transport, and believed road safety promotions should be a function for the Police. He wanted a reliable bus service. He suggested that if central government wanted Horizons to deliver a programme, then they should fund it through GST. He asked Horizons to lobby central government about the raising of GST, and ask for 2.5% funding back in some way to keep rates down. He commented that from his experience, central government offered funding for different initiatives, however the funding ceased once the initiative started and he asked that Horizons not take on initiatives that would cost the ratepayers. He did not support the Green RIG and instead suggested a website for schools to visit. He disagreed with the forming of a Holding Company to hold the funds from the sale of Port of Napier shares and said they should remain with Council for transparency. He also asked for transparency around Council and Committee meetings; not to be held in public excluded. He asked that Council respect the wishes of the majority of Wanganui residents and revisit its decision to include the 'h' in Wanganui once legislated. Jango was concerned by the

investigation of WDC into unitary authorities, and the apparent focus on what percentage of regional council assets could be transferred to WDC. He wanted to see more direct input into the running of the Wanganui and Ruapehu areas and asked Horizons to listen to its ratepayers. Jango asked for an answer in writing about whether Council paid for a Christmas dinner for Members.

The meeting adjourned at 4.50pm.

*The meeting resumed at **Palmerston North** at 10.00am on Thursday, 27 May 2010.*

Thursday, 27 May 2010

APOLOGIES

No apologies were noted at this time.

The Chairman invited the first submitters to speak to Council on behalf of their submission.

Mr Hugh Moleta addressed his submission and said he considered the spread of rates for rural ratepayers in the new rating system for the Lower Manawatu Scheme to be unfair, inequitable, inconsistent, and the differentials between F1 and F5 were too great and did not reflect the level of protection received. He spoke of the difference in rating between rural ratepayers compared to urban ratepayers for the same level of protection. In response to the explanation that the scheme reviews were based on degrees of benefit received, Mr Moleta responded that it was a community scheme and believed that the spread of direct benefit rates should be equal across urban and rural ratepayers. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mr Derek Hanson spoke to his submission and said he would like to see a subdivision policy included in the Draft Annual Plan. He believed careful consideration should be given to where subdivisions took place and that to subdivide prime agricultural land could have a major impact on the environment. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mr Matthew Hall and **Mr John Dalziell** spoke to the submission of the **Animal Health Board (AHB)**. Mr Dalziell highlighted the request to Horizons to increase the regional funding contribution toward bovine Tb vector control under the Tb Strategy to approximately \$750,000. He pointed out the importance of continued support in relation to the ongoing eradication of Tb in the area. He outlined the possible implications of reduced funding from central government should the full amount of \$750,000 not be provided for in the DAP. It was pointed out to Mr Dalziell that Horizons' agreement in regard to funding obligations to the AHB concluded two years ago, and concern was expressed that the AHB was still reliant on that funding model. Mr Dalziell said the AHB was in the process of undertaking a review of funding options going forward. Members asked questions of clarification around the role of the AHB to acknowledge to the ratepayer the contribution made by Horizons, and how its performance could be improved to demonstrate the value in the funds provided. Mr Dalziell responded that the Crown was currently undertaking a review of AHB activities and he would be happy to provide Horizons with an update, and answer questions on the review when completed.

The meeting adjourned at 11.25am

The meeting reconvened at 11.40am

Mayor Maureen Reynolds, Tararua District Council addressed her submission and acknowledged the work and sharing of information in building a better relationship between the

two councils. She outlined her support for the Mangatainoka River Management Scheme and the proposed funding for Tb vector control, and requested that further information be provided in writing to explain the impacts of the targeted rate, especially in regard to retired blocks. She regarded the agrichemical collection as an important service and asked that consideration be given for funding to be retained. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Ms Elaine Reilly and **Mr Mark Maxwell** spoke to the submission of **Vision Manawatu**. Ms Reilly outlined her concerns around economic development in the Region. She said that Horizons was positioned well as an organisation to address economic development issues and Vision Manawatu was keen to establish a closer working partnership with Horizons. Members asked questions of clarification around points raised and enquired about the development of relationships between Vision Manawatu and other territorial authorities

Ms Clare Wishart spoke to her submission and strongly opposed the poisoning of rooks. She highlighted the problem of an epidemic of cluster flies and said that rooks were nature's solution to controlling them as flies and fly larvae comprised 80% of the rook diet. Ms Wishart clarified Members' questions around the breeding habits of cluster flies. Ms Wishart thanked Council for providing a valuable and worthwhile submissions process.

Mrs Rosemary Adams asked for Members' indulgence to allow her to have ten minutes of speaking time followed by five minutes of questions. She highlighted her concern around the 4.99% rate increase, and commented on a statement contained in the DAP "Our business supports your social and environmental growth". She believed there were serious deficiencies in meeting that objective, specifically around: iwi engagement and Maori policies; environmental management, community relationship activity, strategic management activity, and transport activity. She believed that Horizons was not supporting its own policies and therefore failing to meet the objectives of its business. She spoke in particular about the Turitea Wind Farm Hearing held by a Board of Enquiry and reiterated that she believed there were serious deficiencies in the way Horizons Regional Council prepared its submission. She believed Horizons failed to submit on its own policies, and failed to engage with submitters from the Huatau Marae who had submitted extensively around cultural issues. Mrs Adams said that in the past she had not received any feedback about her concerns. She asked that she be given an answer in writing to address her submission points. Members discussed and asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mr Malcolm Guy addressed his submission and supported the continuation and increase in funding to the AHB for Tb control. He spoke in support of the Horowhenua Health Shuttle and acknowledged the services provided by volunteers to help the community in smaller towns in regard to hospital services. He asked if there was any way that volunteers could be compensated for expenses incurred. Cr Chettleburgh advised that the Passenger Transport Committee was unaware that any assistance was required. Cr Bailey commented that funding to date had been adequate. Of concern was the economic climate which was making their situation more difficult in terms of adequate funding.

Cr Murfitt (Chair) advised he would vacate the Chair after the scheduled afternoon tea break at approximately 3.45pm and hand control of the meeting to the Deputy Chairman, Cr Rieger.

Crs Main and Gordon advised they would be leaving the meeting early.

The meeting adjourned at 1.00pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.45pm.

Mr Ross Linklater spoke in support of the increase in funding to \$750,000 for the AHB for the 2010-11 year and beyond. He believed that Tb control was a nationwide problem and a nationwide approach was desirable. Members asked questions of clarification.

Ms K W Osborne supported the continued funding to the AHB for Tb control. She pointed out the importance of continued support in relation to the possible human health risks associated with bovine Tb. Members asked questions of clarification on points raised.

Mr John Whitelock spoke to his submission and believed it was essential that an objective be recorded in the DAP, page 29, after the audit section, under the heading 'Forecast', to give reference to the principle of total catchment areas for respective rivers and tributaries. He would like to see the principle of a total river and its tributaries catchment incorporating a total rating formula to be pursued. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mr Trevor Donaldson highlighted the points in his submission. He strongly objected to Horizons collecting rates for Tb control on behalf of the AHB. He believed it was the Council's responsibility to fund and manage pest control in the Region. He spoke of an outstanding issue from last year around removing the channel management payment from his rates. He said he did not receive any benefit from it and therefore did not want to continue to be rated for something he did not receive. He said he was disappointed at rate money being used to build a replacement Taonui bridge and believed it was the responsibility of the Manawatu District Council. He said that ratepayer funds should be used to repair and bring the stopbanks up to standard before replacing the Taonui bridge. Members asked questions of clarification around the value of the Taonui bridge and where the responsibility to replace it should ultimately lie.

Cr Main left the meeting at 2.36pm.

Mr Andrew Peters spoke to the submission of the **Taihape and Districts Branch of the Deer Farmers Association**. **Mr Peters said he and other farmers in the area still shot a large number of possums.** Mr Peters spoke of the serious risk of bovine Tb to the deer industry and outlined how financially disastrous it would be to allow the disease to become re-established. He therefore urged Horizons to continue funding the Tb vector control programme as requested from the AHB. Members asked questions of clarification.

DCP 10-05 Moved

Rieger/Chettleburgh

*that the Committee **receives** the submission from Mr John Bent in his absence.*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3.00pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.30pm.

The Chairman of Council, Cr Murfitt vacated the chair and the Deputy Chair of Council, Cr Rieger, assumed the chair.

Mr John Adams elaborated on his submission. He highlighted his request for Horizons to stick to its core business to avoid continual rate rises that he believed were squandered. Among other points, he referred to Tb vector control, road safety, electronic timetable information systems, education activities, investigation of Kahuterawa and Turitea Streams, as examples of

what was not core business, but empire building. He found the DAP document was hard to read due to small print size. He asked Horizons to challenge the roles assigned to it from central government. Questions of clarification were sought on his comments on peak oil issues, Kahuterawa and Turitea Stream investigations, a policy on landscape issues, and other matters raised in his submission. Members noted his request for satisfactory answers to the points made in his submission.

The Chair of Council, Cr Murfitt left the meeting at 4.01pm.

Mr Peter Everton spoke to the submission of **Lakeview Farm Ltd** and highlighted key points. He supported Horizons' continued funding of \$580,000 to the AHB for Tb vector control and said it was Horizons' decision whether to fund \$750,000 as requested by other submitters. He believed Horizons should operate lean management practice as other businesses did, with no rate increases this year. Mr Everton also highlighted the communication issues identified in his submission. In response to Members' questions, he asked them to consider a rates remission on wetlands and native bush that had been fenced off, and he referred to the request in the Federated Farmers' submission for remission on UAGCs and explained his own situation. Mr Everton highlighted a major problem with Canada geese and believed they were noxious pests. He asked for them to be treated in the same way as possums. Cr Rieger advised that several other submitters had mentioned the same problem.

Mrs Jenny Olsson asked for definitive answers in writing to the five questions in her submission. She said that in the past she had received no feedback to her submission. Mrs Olsson highlighted her concern that Horizons did not appear to supervise roading contractors to ensure traps were set up to catch sediment. Nor did Council appear to monitor dust pollution from subdivisions. Mrs Olsson referred to page 79 of the DAP and suggested that Council correct the wording about the Transport Committee.

Mr Noel Olsson highlighted section 7 in his submission about the Ashhurst Stream Scheme. When he read the DAP, it appeared there was a need for more consultation and he offered his own services in that regard. As Chair of the Ashhurst Action Group, he offered to facilitate public meetings, and advised that the community paper 'The Village Voice' was well read and was available for publicity and advertising purposes. He believed that potential developers of subdivisions in Ashhurst had overlooked the effects of the 2004 floods on Ashhurst, and there was a need to remind them of the vulnerability of the Ashhurst Stream. Members asked questions of clarification.

The meeting adjourned at 4.50pm.

The meeting resumed at 5.30pm.

Cr Gordon left the meeting at 5.30pm.

DCP 10-06 Moved

Rieger/Chettleburgh

that an apology be received for Cr Gordon.

CARRIED

Mr Steve Haylock and **Mr Mike Trail** spoke in support of the submission of the Residents of White Horse Drive. They advised that the submission was signed by all 16 households in White Horse Drive. They strongly objected to the rate increase on the majority of ratepayers in White Horse Drive and requested a review. Mr Haylock referred to a letter from Horizons to Lower

Manawatu Scheme (LMS) ratepayers dated 23 September 2008 which mentioned a 10% rate increase in both 2009-10 and 2010-11. However, examples of the rates increases they received were 130% and 150%. He said the new rates charges levied in 2009 for the LMS flood charge were in contrast to what was specified in that letter, and he asked Council to review and modify the model so that rate increases were between the notified rates of 2% to 10%. In response to questions, Mr Haylock said the current rating was placing a big burden on all the households and they believed they were being asked to pay a disproportionate share of the flood protection. Although the 23 September 2008 letter should have included an indicative rates assessment, neither of the submitters recalled receiving it. Cr Meads referred to a letter which they should have received in March 2010 outlining a proposal that the city boundary line be redrawn and include White Horse Drive within the city for purposes of rating, rather than in the rural area. He said the proposal would be considered during Council's deliberations process, and the DAP was scheduled to be adopted by the end of June 2010.

This was the completion of the oral submissions. The Chair and Members acknowledged the contents of the written submissions had been considered and discussed during the course of the Submissions Hearings, as time allowed.

SUBMISSIONS TO DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010-11

Report No. 10-60

Members discussed the Report. They commented on the point made by many submitters that the letters they received in response to their submissions, did not address the specific points they had made in their submissions. Members commented that the opinion expressed in the Report that community paper advertisements were well received, was not held by everyone. There was discussion about the value of the advertisement.

Members discussed the recommendations and included a new recommendation (d).

DCP 10-07 **Moved**

Meads/Walker

- a. **acknowledges** with pleasure the input made by sector groups and individuals to the Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011;
- b. **acknowledges** all submissions have been acknowledged; and
- c. **instructs** the Chief Executive to forward a copy of the adopted Annual Plan 2010-2011, to all those making submissions.
- d. **instructs** the Chief Executive to ensure that all points submitted on, are addressed at the conclusion, as promised.

CARRIED

DCP 10-08 **Moved**

Chettleburgh/White

*that the Committee **receives** the oral submissions in Report No. 10-59.*

CARRIED

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Report No. 10-58

The Members considered all written submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011, and asked questions of clarification where required.

Written submissions were received from:

Margaret Jeune
Mr W M Crouch
Robert Goddard
Alan P Larsen
Michael Proude
Konrad Schwa
Martin How
Robert Craig
Bridget Percy
Brent and Noeline Bishop
Simon Redmond
Wilf B Vickers
Mike Burmeister
Brian Rush
Michael Dee
Alan Bardsley
Alan Bisset
D Dunford
E F Foley
James Christensen
B & N Boothroyd
David Wood
R M Bennett
Gerald Cosgrove
Chris Baines
John Dermer
Geoff Duncan
Shaun and Susan Morgans
Charles Earle
Mrs L Pearson
Danny Mickleson
Alistair Tatton
A W Vincent
Brent Greig, (Ruatiti Greig Farms Ltd)
Stephen Schofield
C H Ramsay
PH and DV Wilson
Mrs Josephine Rangooni
Ian Fountaine
Geoff Burton
Peter McDonnell
Warren Plimmer, (Motukawa Land Co Ltd, Kelly Land Co. Ltd, Black Hill
(Taihape) Ltd)
Mike Rogers
Richard Gower
Angus and Sarah Lourie
Tim Poulton
Eric Constantine
Jim and Audrey Walker
Jeremy Stubbs
Steven Austin
Dr Robert Holdaway (MidCentral Health)
Ian Wishart

L C Soler
Annie Carmichael
Brian McNeill, John Gordon, Miles Abernathy
Tim Sklenars
GA and KT Lynch
N J Perry
AAB Brown
George Searle
Brian Guy, Chairman, Lower Manawatu Scheme Liaison Committee
Scott Gower
Julie Hartley
Owen and Sherie Batley
D W Buchanan
Alex Neeson
Martin Hartley
A H Allen
Peter Hawkins
Gary Thomas
Mayor Jono Naylor, Palmerston North City Council
Brian and Sharon Sherson
John and Jane Mason
Kevin Vile
Mark Patrick
Trevor and Barbara Townsend
Ted Bates
Alfred Sivyer
Laura Sivyer
David Speedy
James Truebridge
Eric Franklyn
John Benton
John Chambers
Takaro Sports Club
James Howell
V A Cullen
P W Soler
Barbara Wright
Christine Donald
Horizons Regional Council Staff Submission

DCP 10-09 Moved

Bailey/White

*that the Committee **receives** and **considers** the written submissions in Report No. 10-58.*

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN