



Minutes of the seventh 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 10.07am on Tuesday, 13 September 2011.

#### **PRESENT**

Crs EB Gordon (Chairman), JJ Barrow, LR Burnell (from 10.07 – 10.12am, 10.19am - 2.07pm), 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 M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary	Ms G McRae

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information), Mrs C Rowe (Media and Communications Manager), Mr T Collé (Chief Financial Officer), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science), Mr A Beveridge (Environmental Manager Biodiversity), Mr G Neilson (Corporate Asset and Project Manager), Ms Rachel Houlbrooke (Office of Treaty Settlements) and Ms Rebecca Lloyd (Ministry for the Environment).

#### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to be accepted.

An apology from Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations) was noted.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

The Chair noted that an amended version of the Manawatu River Leaders' Accord – Proposed Workplan for 2011-12 had been distributed. He noted that there were slight changes included in the new version from what was printed in the agenda.

**SP 11-36**

**Moved**

**Gordon/Walker**

*That the amended report: Manawatu River Leaders' Accord – Proposed Workplan for 2011-12 be accepted as a modified late item for consideration at Item 6.*

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

The Chair spoke to the Committee about a letter he had received from AgResearch seeking a nomination for appointment to the AgResearch Grasslands Animal Ethics Committee (as enshrined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 part (6)). He informed members that the sitting member was Mr Bill Bly and that a new nomination or re-nomination of Mr Bly was possible.

**SP 11-37**                      **Moved**                      **White/Chettleburgh**

*That Mr Bill Bly be nominated by the Horizons Regional Council to sit on the AgResearch Grasslands Animal Ethics Committee.*

**CARRIED**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

*Councillor Burnell left the meeting at 10.12am*

**SP 11-38**                      **Moved**                      **Chettleburgh/Rieger**

*That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2011, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

## **MANAWATU RIVER LEADERS' ACCORD – PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2011-12**

*Report No. 11-160*

*Councillor Burnell returned to the meeting at 10.19am*

This report updated Members on the proposed work plan for the Manawatu River Accord funding for 2011-12 and provided an opportunity to present Council formally with a copy of "Ours. The Manawatu River Leaders' Accord Action Plan". There was concern that an updated report had been circulated and it was agreed amongst staff and Councillors that a press release would be issued alerting the public that an updated version of the report was available on the website.

Clarification was sought on why a new water quality monitoring site was required on the Oroua river, downstream from the Awahuri monitoring site. Dr Roygard, supported by Mr Carlyon explained that the extra site in the lower Oroua was to provide better context of the overall water quality of the Oroua before it entered the Manawatu, and if it had improved or degraded from the upstream site at Awahuri bridge that was heavily impacted by the effects of **Feilding** Fielding sewage. As **Feilding** Fielding sewage improved, the water quality downstream of it would too. It follows that understanding more about the water quality in that part of the catchment would be of further interest and use. Officers agreed to clarify this in the final work plan.

Further clarification was sought around the priorities for spending, concerns about the total amount of money being spent across the region on water quality improvements and measures of success as the scientific data was being collected. There was concern about the Committee being 'kept up to date' with what other organisations were achieving with their funding.

Cr Chettleburgh suggested that a further recommendation be included to ensure Council was kept advised of proposed works by all signatories. Cr White further suggested that reporting be by way of an annual report to be received as soon as possible following the December meeting of the River Accord Leaders' Group.

Councillor McKellar proposed an amendment to recommendation (b). Members discussed the amendment and provided their views.

To ensure clarity on what was being proposed the recommendations were separated.

**SP 11-39**                      **Moved**                      **White/Chettleburgh**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

a.        **receives** the information in Report No. 11-160.

**CARRIED**

**SP 11-40**                      **Moved**                      **McKellar/Plowman**

b.        **endorses** the proposed work plan for the Manawatu River Accord action plan for 2011-12;

i.        **subject** to endorsement of fish barrier removal part of work programme by independent scientific panel to Manawatu River Accord workshops (at least Dr Death and Dr Scarsbrook) in line with Manawatu River Leaders Accord Action Plan.

**LOST**

**SP 11-41**                      **Moved**                      **McKellar/Plowman**

b.        **endorses** the proposed work plan for the Manawatu River Accord action plan for 2011-12;

ii.       **subject** to all work programmes for 2011-2012 having an agreed work programme of at least 50% financial contribution from funds outside of Horizon Regional Council before proceeding with that individual programme.

**LOST**

The original motion (b) then became the substantive motion and was put to the meeting with the addition of a new recommendation (c) as proposed earlier.

**SP 11-42**                      **Moved**                      **White/Chettleburgh**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

b.        **endorses** the proposed work plan for the Manawatu River Accord action plan for 2011-12;

- c. **agrees** to keep Council advised in a formal report of the works proposed by all signatories to the Manawatu River Leaders Accord with an Annual Report to be received following the December meeting of the River Accord Leaders' Group.

**Against:** Crs McKellar, Plowman and Walker  
**CARRIED**

The Chair advised that Item 8, Presentation by the Office of Treaty Settlements would be taken next. There were no objections.

## **PRESENTATION – OFFICE OF TREATY SETTLEMENTS**

Ms Rachel Houlbrooke from the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) and Ms Rebecca Lloyd from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) addressed the Committee and provided a power-point presentation.

The presentation outlined the Treaty Settlement process, principles, scope and impact of treaty settlements and the agencies involved. It also highlighted the progress in settling claims in the Horizons region, and the requirements and opportunities for engaging with iwi at a local government level. Specific reference was made to progress in Whanganui River iwi claims.

Councillors asked questions of clarification regarding the size of treaty settlement packages, impacts on private property rights and contesting claims from different iwi or hapu. Councillors thanked Ms Houlbrooke and Ms Lloyd for their presentation and discussed how they had found the information very useful.

**SP 11-43                      Moved                      Gordon/White**

*That the presentation on Treaty Settlements be received.*

**CARRIED**

The Chair advised that Part Two – Public Excluded Section would be taken next. There were no objections.

**SP 11-44                      Moved                      White/Barrow/**

*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 10 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.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 12.19pm and resumed at 12.25pm.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.26pm.  
The meeting reconvened at 1.15pm.*

## **COUNCIL VEHICLE FLEET REVIEW**

*Report No. 11-163*

This report summarised the findings of a review on Horizons motor vehicle fleet with a purpose of benchmarking its processes and policy. A verbal overview of what was contained in the report noting the 2007 review and identified savings was provided by Mr Grant (Group Manager Corporate and Governance) and the Chief Executive. There was full discussion and a range of views were presented by Councillors regarding whether it was appropriate for Council vehicles to be included as part of remuneration packages, what was 'fair and reasonable use', and how prescriptive the policy should be.

**SP 11-45**                      **Moved**                      **Rieger/White**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a.        **receives** the information in Report No. 11-163, Council Fleet Vehicle Review.

**CARRIED**

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Cr Walker requested that a disability park be installed at the Whanganui Regional House. He was informed that the car-park had been recently re-sealed and painted parks were due to be installed shortly. He was assured that this would include a disability park.

Cr McKellar asked for clarification regarding a review of the policy on the implementation of the proposed One Plan with particular regard to dairy conversions. The Chair informed him that there was going to be a workshop on that issue and that as Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee Cr McKellar could expect to be involved.

Cr Barrow asked about progress in reopening the Manawatu Gorge and the Chair responded that this was directly related to unsafe cliffs, rather than new slips, and that he had spoken to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and assured them that they had the Regional Council's support to get the road reopened. Cr Barrow also asked about the Palmerston North City Council discharges into the Manawatu River. The Chair advised that the item would be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting the following day.

The Chief Executive updated Councillors on the recent ruling on the Whirokino breach which had come back in the Council's favour. He said he was waiting to see the full judgement but expected to be able to share more detail of the ruling in the near future.

The meeting closed at 2.07pm.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN