



Minutes of the third 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 10.09am on Wednesday 13 April 2011.

PRESENT Crs JJ Barrow (Chairman), LR Burnell, EB Gordon, MC Guy, PW Rieger, RG Walker JP.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Operations Mr AD Cook
Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Crs VJF Chettleburgh, GL Cox, GM McKellar, CI Sheldon, and J White, Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management), Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory), Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations & Design), Mrs C Rowe (Media & Communications Manager), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager-Land), Mr W Wheeler (Design Engineer), Mr Greer (Ministry for Agriculture & Forestry), four Massey students, and a member of the press.

APOLOGIES There were no apologies.

LATE ITEMS There were no late items.

The Chairman noted the tabled Public Excluded minutes of the 9 February 2011. These were omitted from the main agenda.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Sheldon noted a possible Conflict of Interest in regard to:

- Item 10, Lower Manawatu Scheme-Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Project, Report No. 11-57
- Report No. 11-19, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Grazing Lease, contained in the Public Excluded minutes of 9 February 2011.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

There were no requests for public speaking rights.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COP 11-18

Moved

Rieger/Walker

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

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 11-50

This report updated Members on the progress on Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) referred to the joint meeting held with the Ministry for Agriculture & Forestry and Horizons governance group on 29 March and said a copy of the final draft of the new contract document for the second application to the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) would be presented for formal signing to a future Council meeting.

The GMEM introduced Mr Greer (MAF) who was available to answer Members questions around the HCEF, the Afforestation Grant Scheme and the future of the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Members asked questions of clarification on points of interest.

COP 11-19

Moved

Guy/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 11-50.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 11-51

This item reported on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 February to 31 March 2011.

A series of photographs, and a short video clip on "A Day in the Life of Catchment Operations" was shown to Members throughout the meeting in support of items in the report.

Members fully discussed the report and the Group Manager Operations (GMO) provided clarification and expanded on areas as required. Discussion ensued as to when a report on the potential registration for the Emissions Trading Scheme with respect to woodlots owned by river schemes, would be presented. The GMO and Chief Executive proposed a report could be presented to either the next Strategy & Policy Committee or an Audit, Risk & Investment Committee meeting.

Cr Cox declared a possible conflict of interest in regard to the Mateongaonga restoration works. He outlined his reasons as to why he believed the report in paragraph 111 of the item was

obscure and slightly misleading. The GMO expressed his understanding of the history around the restoration works and his position of where costs should fall for the flood damage. He said it was his intention to present a proposal to the Chief Executive for funding from the non-scheme activity budget, rather than fund the works from the Matarawa Scheme.

There was full discussion and concern expressed around the lack of progress about the erosion threatening the road near Totara Reserve. The GMO said he was advised by roading personnel at the Manawatu District Council that the project did not at present have a sufficiently high priority to trigger funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency. Ultimately, to express and document the Committee's concerns about the issue, two new recommendations, (c) and (d), were proposed.

Members acknowledged the very good work undertaken by the GMO and his staff in regard to the Balgownie works.

The GMO further expanded on and clarified Members questions around areas of interest.

COP 11-20 **Moved** **Guy/Walker**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 11-51;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection;

CARRIED

COP 11-21 **Moved** **Burnell/Walker**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- c. **writes** to the Manawatu District Council expressing its concerns about the erosion threatening the road near Totara Reserve and offers advocacy assistance to resolve the matter; and
- d. **directs** the Chief Executive to ensure that this concern is expressed in Horizons submission to the Manawatu District Council Draft Annual Plan.

CARRIED

SEPTEMBER 2010 FLOOD DAMAGE UPDATE

Report No. 11-47

This report provided the Committee with an update on progress with reinstatement work and funding implications associated with flood damage to scheme assets incurred during the widespread heavy rainfall/run-off event that occurred on 5-6 September 2010.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the report and he and the Chief Executive answered questions of clarification about the funding surplus following completion in 2009 of flood damage reinstatement works relating to the February 2004 floods, which was currently retained in the reserve account.

COP 11-22

Moved

Guy/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and **notes** the information contained in Report No. 11-47;
- b. **approves** the application of funds remaining in the 2004 flood damage reinstatement suspense account to fund the deductible that is ultimately applied to the September 2010 flood damage insurance claim, with any surplus to be applied to Rangitikei Scheme damage reinstatement costs;
- c. **requests** the Group Manager Operations to undertake a review of flood damage risk management for scheme assets in advance of the 2012-33 Long-term Plan development.

CARRIED

MOUTOA DRAINAGE SCHEME AUDIT

Report No. 11-48

This report informed Members of the outcomes of an audit of the Moutoa Drainage Scheme.

Mr Wheeler, Design Engineer was asked to provide an explanation as to how the present rating system worked and how the alternative rating system as proposed by the ratepayers would work. Ultimately, it was not considered fair and equitable to introduce an alternative system. Accordingly it was proposed to explain to the ratepayers the reasons as to why the existing rating system should be recommended for confirmation.

The wording in recommendation (e) was altered slightly to recommend that the current system be recommended for confirmation.

COP 11-23

Moved

Burnell/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **notes** and receives the information in Report No. 11-48;
- b. **notes** that the audit confirms that the Scheme is being well managed at present;
- c. **notes** that the scheme costs will continue to be monitored and the relative proportions in the rating system will be reviewed periodically to ensure the split between drainage and pumping remains as originally intended;
- d. **agrees** that an alternative 'whole scheme' rating system would not be fair and equitable and is not recommended;
- e. **agrees** that the current rating system be recommended for confirmation, including amendments to the direct benefit category proportions relating to the Bowler pumpstation as described in the audit report; and

- f. **agrees** to the proposed consultation with ratepayers.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm
The meeting reconvened at 12.45pm*

**TARINGAMOTU RIVER
DRAFT RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Report No. 11-49

This report sought Committee approval for the purpose of public consultation, of options for a managed approach to channel maintenance and improvements for the Taringamotu River.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) outlined the strong expression in interest from the community to provide better management of the Taringamotu River. Accordingly, comprehensive investigations had been undertaken to identify and understand the nature of the problem and a draft management proposal had been prepared which identified the need for significant vegetation management. It was now intended to consult with landowners and stakeholders in relation to the findings of the report.

COP 11-24

Moved

Rieger/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 11-49;
- b. **approves** a process of consultation with landowners and stakeholders in relation to the findings in the report and in particular the proposed establishment of a scheme to manage channel improvements and ongoing channel maintenance along the Taringamotu Stream; and
- c. **notes** that any river management proposal emanating from that consultation process will be included in the Draft 2012-22 Long Term Plan.

CARRIED

TIRAUMEA RIVER – NGAWAPURUA RAILWAY BRIDGE

Report No. 11-56

This item informed the Committee of actions taken with respect to erosion risk at the Ngawapurua railway bridge.

The Chairman advised he had previously brought the matter to the attention of the local member of parliament and would be raising the matter with him again. It was suggested that a copy of the report under discussion be provided for the attention of the local member of parliament. Members agreed that the matter needed to be publicised in order to raise awareness.

The Chair of the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) undertook to write to the RTC Chairs of both Hawke's Bay Regional and Greater Wellington Regional Council, expressing concerns on behalf of Horizons Regional Council RTC.

Ultimately after further discussion, a new recommendation (c) was suggested for the Chief Executive write to KiwiRail/OnTrack expressing the concerns of Horizons Regional Council.

COP 11-25

Moved

Walker/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-56; and
- b. **notes** the actions taken by staff to inform Kiwi Rail of river erosion risks to rail assets in the Tararua area;
- c. **requests** that the Chief Executive write to KiwiRail/OnTrack informing him of Council's concern regarding the risk to the Woodville to Wellington railway line.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – RURAL FLOOD PROTECTION UPGRADE PROJECT

Report No. 11-57

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on progress with obtaining consents for proposed major LMS upgrade works on the Oroua River, with particular emphasis on the effects of the works in the Taonui Basin.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) briefed Members on the background to gain resource consents to divert additional floodwater into the Taonui Basin. He identified the area on the map and showed the location of spillways and areas of water storage and ponding. He expanded on the adverse effects from upgrade works to the Oroua Stopbanks which would divert more water into the Basin and outlined proposals for mitigation.

The GMO responded to Members questions of clarification.

Ultimately after further discussion, a new recommendation was proposed to form a Subcommittee comprising Crs Guy and Barrow to monitor progress with the Taonui Basin investigations.

COP 11-26

Moved

Burnell/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 11-57 and Annexes;
- b. **appoints** a Subcommittee comprising Crs Guy and Barrow to monitor progress with the Taonui Basin investigations.

CARRIED

As advised earlier under conflicts of interest, Cr Sheldon noted a possible conflict of interest in regard to Report No. 11-57, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Rural Flood Protection Upgrade Project. She remained in the meeting during discussion of the report.

COP 11-27 Moved

Guy/Burnell

that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Catchment Operations Committee 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 Minutes of Meeting held on 9 February 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 public excluded part of the meeting at 1.42pm and resumed at 1.46pm.

As advised earlier under conflicts of interest, Cr Sheldon noted a possible conflict of interest in regard to Report No. 11-19, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Grazing Lease, contained in the Public Excluded minutes of 9 February 2011. She remained in the meeting during discussion of the minutes.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

PX COP 11-03

Moved

Burnell/Rieger

that the minutes of the confidential part of the meeting held 9 February 2011, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

Members commented on points of interest in the minutes.

PX COP 11-04

Moved

Walker/Rieger

that the Committee move out of public excluded.

CARRIED

The public excluded section of the meeting concluded at 1.45pm.

PRESENTATION: MR A COOK, GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSET INSURANCE

Mr Cook provided a powerpoint presentation on Infrastructural Asset Insurance and was available to answer Members questions of clarification.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr White requested (as Chairperson of the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Disaster Relief Fund Trust) a letter from the Chief Executive confirming that the policy of the Council was for the Chair of Council to represent Horizons Regional Council on the Trust. Therefore, Chairman of Council, Cr Bruce Gordon would fulfil the role as Horizons Regional Council representative on the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Disaster Relief Trust.

The meeting closed at 2.21pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN