



Minutes of the twelfth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North at 10.05am on Tuesday 8 December 2009.

PRESENT Crs DB Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, MC Guy, GP Murfitt (to 12.00pm), PW Rieger, and RG Walker.

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Bailey, Chettleburgh (from 10.16am), Main, and Plowman
Area Engineer Mr D McKee
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (to 11.30am and from 2.46pm)
Environmental Management
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr J Foxall (Area Engineer Southern from 11.00am), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager Land to 11.30am), Mr J Greer (Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry to 12.20pm), Mr M Pedley (Ratepayer from 11.15am to 12.20pm), Ms L Jackson (Manawatu Standard to 2.24pm), and Ms C Webb (ratepayer from 1.56pm).

APOLOGIES An apology was received from Cr Murfitt for the afternoon part of the meeting (attending Council business), and apologies noted from the Chief Executive (attending Council business), Cr White (attending preparing for One Plan Hearing-Water), and Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations – unwell).

RD 09-100 **Moved** **Gordon/Meads**

that an apology be received from Cr Murfitt for the afternoon part of the meeting.

CARRIED

The Chair advised that as the Group Manager Operations was unavailable, Mr McKee and Mr Foxall would be available to answer questions of clarification on some items contained in the agenda.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Ms Jackson, Manawatu Standard, and Mr Greer, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Members' conflict of interest issues.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RD 09-101

Moved

Gordon/Meads

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 7 October 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

Cr Walker noted that the Commodore, Sailing Wanganui had not received any response to their letter tabled at the October Catchment Operations Committee meeting.

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 09-191

This report was to update Members on progress on Council's Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) spoke to the report and highlighted several points including: the pleasing progress in regard to the target of completion of Whole Farm Plans, the implementation of the SLUI data base, the summary of Implementation Grants, an audit on the process for Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS), the upcoming review on progress against SLUI targets, gave an update on progress with the AGS applications, and explained a significant contractual change to the Hill Country Erosion Fund (HCEF) contract with the introduction of a five hectare rule, which in essence precluded forestry 'investment' out of HCEF (SLUI) funds for areas over five hectares.

There was discussion around the damage caused by a localised weather system to an area of land located in the Ruapehu district. The GMEM distributed photos outlining the extent of damage.

Mr Greer (MAF) was available to answer Members questions of clarification around the HCEF funding, the request by Horizons for a variation of contract to address several issues, the upcoming validation against progress of SLUI against targets, and the introduction of a minimum five hectare rule to future HCEF contracts.

Mr Mitchell, Mr Greer, and Mr Cooper (Environmental Manager Land) were available to answer further questions of clarification on matters of interest to Members.

RD 09-102

Moved

Meads/Murfitt

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-191

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 09-199

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the three-month period 1 October 2009 to 30 November 2009.

Cr Meads, Mr McKee, and Mr Foxall were available to answer Members questions of clarification on various points of interest in the report including: staff difficulty in concluding various

agreements around land entry, progress on a draft management plan for the Taringamotu Stream, clarification on Scheme reviews and rating systems, an update on the Turakina River Management Plan, over-topping of the Makino Stream stopbank, and progress on the Moutoa Floodgate electrical upgrade.

In regard to the naming of two lookouts ~~downstream~~ **either side** of Fitzherbert Avenue bridge, the four city representatives have recommended they be named as: Pauline Keys and Kitty Siefert. Cr Bailey commented on the positive comments received at the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group meeting held on 1 December in regard to the enhancement works on the Manawatu river.

The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT (continued)

Report No. 09-199

Further comments and questions of clarification were asked around: the Linton Main Drain-Stopbank Upgrade, comment on the low attendance rate at the Tutaenui and Porewa Scheme Liaison Committee meetings, an update on meetings held with objectors in regard to the proposed flood protection upgrade work on the Ohau River, an update on the issues discussed at a meeting of the Hokio Progressive Society.

There was discussion around ongoing problems relating to erosion issues with affected landowners in regard to the intended remedial measures near Mateongaonga Stream. Cr Walker commented on meetings he had attended with the affected landowners and advised that there was considerable disagreement between Horizons staff and the affected landowners. Cr Walker tabled a copy of a formal complaint against Horizons from an affected landowner. Members discussed the issue at length and requested that an update on the current state of the restoration plan, and any other recent issues, be reported on at the next Council meeting. Recommendation (c) was included accordingly.

RD 09-103

Moved

Walker/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 09-199;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection; and
- c. **requests** an update on progress with the restoration works on the Mateongaonga Stream and an update on the current problems with slumping of areas for the next Council meeting.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH PROJECT

Report No. 09-194

This report was to obtain the Committee's endorsement for a programme of City Reach Project upgrade works for the 2009-10 construction season.

Mr McKee, Area Engineer spoke to the report and updated members on negotiations around consent issues with affected parties in the Napier road area. Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification.

The Chairman and Mr McKee drew Members attention to the intended programme of works outlined in the report, all of which had some dependence on a resource consent being granted. Members discussed the works programme, along with the element of risk involved, and agreed with the recommendations to proceed.

There was discussion around demands on staff resources and a suggestion made to have a review of the staffing levels of the Catchment Operations team.

RD 09-104

Moved

Guy/Rieger

- a. **receives** of the information contained in Report No 09-194;
- b. **notes** the recommended programme of works to be undertaken within the City Reach Project in 2009-10 as follows:
 - a. Rock lining immediately downstream of Napier Road Drain outlet (resource consent application lodged);
 - b. Gated culvert structure at Napier Road Drain outlet (resource consent not required);
 - c. Raised highway formation – SH3 (resource consent not required);
 - d. Stopbank/floodwall to link SH3 with the terrace to the north of the highway (consent may be required);
 - e. Further erosion protection walls on Mangaone Stream;
 - f. ~~for raising to the new design level at a later date;~~
- c. **acknowledges** the minor risks involved in proceeding with that programme; and
- d. **endorses** the programme subject to the execution of agreements as appropriate.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – RURAL UPGRADE PROJECT OROUA RIVER WORKS/TAONUUI BASIN IMPACTS

Report No. 09-193

This item was to update the Committee on progress with the planning and consenting aspects of proposed major works on the Oroua River at Kopane.

The Chairman spoke to the report and commented on the formal request made by the hearing panel for additional information to be provided.

There was discussion on the demands on staff time and scheme funding as a result of addressing the extra detail requested. It was agreed that staff proceed with the initial programmed tasks and present a progress report before the end of December 2009. Members considered there was value in forming a small subcommittee to regularly review progress of the overall process of the Lower Manawatu Scheme upgrade, including progress on the resource consent. It was pointed out that a lower standard of protection could be a possibility for the Oroua River and Taonui Basin part of the Scheme. On behalf of Cr Burnell and herself Cr Bailey asked that ~~she~~ **they** be kept fully informed on progress as reported by the subcommittee. Ultimately recommendation (b) was changed to reflect the discussion.

RD 09-105

Moved

Gordon/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-193;
- b. **agrees** that staff proceed to present the initial progress report as discussed with the Commissioners;
- c. **reconsiders** the position periodically but particularly once findings from phase one of further investigations are understood; and
- d. **appoints** members to a small Sub-Committee comprising Crs Guy and Meads, to receive regular reports on progress and provide input to the affected party consultation process.

CARRIED

MOUTOA DRAINAGE SCHEME: BOWLER PUMPSTATION CAPITAL WORKS

Report No. 09-192

This item was to update the Committee on issues relating to the proposed capital expenditure within the Moutoa Drainage Scheme on a new pumpstation at Bowler's property and to seek approval for the work to commence.

Mr Foxall, Area Engineer Southern summarised the report and was available to answer questions of clarification.

The Chairman thanked Mr Foxall for his hard work and efforts.

RD 09-106

Moved

Rieger/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-192;
- b. **approves** the construction of the new pumpstation at Bowlers'; and
- c. **notes** that the proposed modification to the Moutoa Drainage Scheme rating classification will be included in the Draft 2010-11 Annual Plan.

CARRIED

ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Report No. 09-197

The purpose of this item was to inform the Committee of progress in addressing the significant issues raised at the annual meetings for river and drainage schemes that were held during April 2009.

Also included in the Schedule were issues raised at liaison committee meetings subsequent to the annual meetings.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification on various points of interest.

RD 09-107

Moved

Meads/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-197 and Annex A.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

In regard to the recent tour of the Tiraumea Catchment, Cr Guy requested that councillors be included in any future such tours.

There was discussion and questions of clarifications asked around a recent meeting held in regard to the impacts of the Taonui consent conditions on the Burkes Drain Pumpstation.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN