



Minutes of the thirteenth 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 10.02am on Tuesday 9 February 2010.

PRESENT Crs DB Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, MC Guy, GP Murfitt and, PW Rieger.

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Bailey (from 10.07am), Chettleburgh, Main, Plowman, and White
Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
(at various times throughout the meeting)
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook (to 2.08pm)
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (from 1.55pm)
Environmental Management
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design from 11.35am to 12.25pm), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer from 11.10am to 12.25pm), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Manager Land from 2.20pm), two Members of the public (from 11.40am to 12.25pm), and Ms C Webb (ratepayer from 1.42pm to 2.20pm).

APOLOGIES

RD 10-108 **Moved** **Gordon/Meads**

that an apology be received from Cr Walker (business commitments).

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items advised.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Members' conflict of interest issues.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Group Manager Operations noted the following amendment:

- Under Resolution RD 09-104 (b), delete (f) for raising to the new design level at a later date.

RD 10-109

Moved

Meads/Murfitt

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8 December 2009, be confirmed as a correct record, with the following amendment:

- *Resolution RD 09-104 (b), delete (f) for raising to the new design level at a later date.*

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 10-06

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the two-month period 1 December 2009 to 31 January 2010.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and was available to answer questions of clarification on points of interest.

In response to a question around the ongoing discussions with Manawatu Golf Club, the GMO advised that although the Club had declined a formal offer to purchase the land either underneath or to the river side of the stopbank immediately downstream of Albert Street, discussions were still ongoing with the Club to achieve a desired outcome in regard to the proposed flood protection and river side amenity improvements for the City.

There was discussion on the issue of a small number of property owners in the Whitehouse Drive area affected by the HF category rate in the new Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) rating classification. The GMO explained the reasons why an HF rate was applied to those properties. He further explained that if the major residential development proposed for the adjoining Anders Road area occurred, then the area concerned would very likely be included within the Palmerston North City category for LMS rating purposes, and the HF rate would therefore not apply. As a possible solution the GMO said he had suggested to the complainants that they might like to make a submission to the 2010-11 Draft Annual Plan (DAP) in anticipation of a change in the City category boundary, requesting that the area concerned be shifted into the PN rating category. There was further discussion by Members on whether Horizons should indicate the proposal in the DAP, or wait for submissions to be received from the public. After further discussion it was ultimately agreed that the Council should indicate in the DAP its intention to amend the HF category boundary in the Anders Road and White Horse Drive area, and spread the resulting impact of that change across the entire LMS rating system on a pro rata basis, such that HF category rates were not significantly increased.

RD 10-110

Moved

Murfitt/Meads

- a. indicates our intention in the Draft Annual Plan 2010-11 to amend the HF category boundary in the vicinity of Anders Road / White Horse Drive area, and spread the impact of the change across the entire Lower Manawatu Scheme rating system on a pro rata basis such that HF category rates are not significantly increased.*

CARRIED

In discussing the issues being experienced in the Kahuterawa Stream due to property owners undertaking channel works to address their own problems, the GMO advised that in order to help overcome those issues there was a need for a comprehensive investigation and assessment of options, particularly for erosion risk mitigation. It was proposed that a report in that regard would be prepared under the on-Scheme investigations budget provision, probably early in the 2010-11 year.

In response to a question around the timeframes for consultation with the community for Stage 2 of the Whanganui flood protection works, the GMO advised that a strategy to start the consultation process would be developed in 2010-11, consultation with the community to commence in 2011-12, with the proposal to be included in the 2012-13 Long-term Council Community Plan. Cr Main asked that the timeframes be clarified by way of a press release to the community and recommended that the Wanganui District Council and staff be kept informed of the timeframes.

The River and Drainage item was set aside to receive Item 9, Report No. 10-03, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Rural Upgrade Project.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.40am
The meeting reconvened at 11.45am*

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – RURAL UPGRADE PROJECT

Report No. 10-07

The purpose of the item was to update the Committee on progress with planning and consenting aspects of proposed major works on the Oroua River and to seek endorsement for a proposed shift in priorities for upgrade works within the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) Rural and City Reach Projects.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the item and distributed a draft letter which would be sent to LMS ratepayers with property affected by flooding from the Oroua River, in the event that Council adopted the proposed recommendations. Essentially, it was proposed that the Taonui Basin consent application be put on hold in the meantime, and that a staged or fall-back approach be adopted to further upgrade work on the Oroua. It was felt that by taking the necessary time to address the issues, the risk of incurring unnecessary scheme costs around mitigation and compensation would be minimised.

Members fully discussed the item and asked questions of clarification. While Members agreed that a temporary hold be put on the Taonui consent application, it was proposed that a timeframe of approximately 18 months be indicated. It was requested that the timeframe be included in the letter for distribution to LMS ratepayers. Recommendation (b) was altered accordingly.

RD 10-111

Moved

Guy/Murfitt

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No 10-07;
- b. **endorses** the proposal to put the Taonui Consent application on hold temporarily for approximately 18 months;
- c. **endorses** the proposed staged approach to further Oroua River flood protection works;
- d. **endorses** the proposed shift in priorities for upgrade works within the Lower Manawatu Scheme Rural and City Reach Projects; and

- e. **notes** the intention to advise affected Lower Manawatu Scheme ratepayers of the changes.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm
The meeting reconvened at 1.00pm.*

The Committee continued with consideration of the River and Drainage Engineering Report.

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT (Continued)

Report 10-06

The GMO was available to answer further questions on points of interest.

There was discussion around the ongoing problems relating to erosion issues with affected landowners in regard to the intended remedial measures near Mateongaonga Stream. The parties concerned had an expectation for substantially more extensive structural work to be undertaken than was currently proposed. There was considerable discussion around a way forward and preference was shown by some Councillors to perhaps engage a mediator, rather than wait for any possible legal action against the Council that may be considered by the affected parties. The GMO noted that the report outlining the situation written by Peter Blackwood (Manager Investigations and Design) was now two years old. He indicated that it was possible that the situation could have altered over the past two years and suggested that Peter Blackwood be asked to review the original report, and advise if the current proposal required modifying. If that was the case, a revised proposal could then be presented for consideration by the affected parties. Members agreed with the proposal of presenting an updated report. There was discussion around funding options for the updated report and any possible mediation or legal action that may arise if agreement on a way forward was not reached.

The GMO updated Members on progress with the Lower Whanganui Scheme contract works, located on the true right bank of the Whanganui River at Balgownie and presented a series of photographs outlining progress so far. He advised he was available, if required, to meet with Wanganui Constituency Councillors on a two-weekly basis to facilitate site inspections and to answer any questions.

RD 10-112

Moved

Guy/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 10-06;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

CARRIED

PAKIHI VALLEY SCHEME REVIEW

Report No. 10-01

The purpose of the item was to seek the Committee's approval of a Draft Review of the Pakihi Valley Flood Control Scheme in Ruapehu District for the purpose of stakeholder consultation.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and advised that the review was prompted by a request to investigate rating for the Scheme, and the possible extension of the Scheme to encompass a lengthened section of the Mangahowhi Stream. The GMO noted that the pie-chart displayed on page 40 was incorrect, and would be replaced with the correct data.

The GMO was available to answer questions of clarification on points of interest.

RD 10-113 **Moved** **Gordon/Guy**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 10-01 and Annex;
- b. **notes** the proposed consultation programme; and
- c. **appoints** members of a Special Hearing Committee, to sit if required.

CARRIED

TURAKINA RIVER – PROPOSED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Report No. 10-05

The purpose of the item was to update the Committee on progress with the establishment of a river or catchment management scheme for the Turakina River.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) drew Members' attention to the attached copy of a letter which had been distributed to all property owners in the Turakina Catchment. The letter outlined the proposals for the development of a river management scheme, feedback received from meetings held, proposed funding and Scheme rates, and the consultation timeline.

The GMO noted the possibility of addressing the heavily congested section of the upper reach near Rangiwaea by way of Environmental Grant-assisted work in advance of the Scheme being established. Members considered the request for Environmental Grant assistance for the proposed work and recommended that a maximum dollar limit be included in the recommendation. Ultimately recommendation (b) was modified to reflect the discussion.

RD 10-114 **Moved** **Guy/Meads**

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No 10-05 and Annex;
- b. **approves** an enhanced level of Environmental Grant, of 60 percent to a maximum of \$30,000, in respect of a comprehensive willow clearance project in the Collier's Junction to Rangiwaea reach of the Turakina River;
- c. **endorses** the Chairman's recommendation for Councillors Main (Chair), Meads and Gordon to sit as a Special Committee to hear submissions on the Turakina Catchment Management Scheme Proposal.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 10-03

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

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) introduced the report and highlighted the validation review that was due to be undertaken by the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry on 15-17 February 2010.

Members asked questions of clarification around issues being encountered with the SLUI database, and around timeframes for the Whole Farm Plans (WFP) where landowners had agreed to start a work programme. The GMEM advised that the work programme for the WFPs would be commenced on 1 July 2010.

As requested at the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on 8 December 2009, the GMEM circulated a list of the 87 (approximately) WFPs on the waiting list.

RD 10-115 **Moved** **Rieger/Meads**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-03.

CARRIED

POPLAR AND WILLOW BREEDING PROGRAMME

Report No. 10-04

This report was to update Members on the Poplar and Willow Breeding Programme funding and governance.

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) distributed a report containing further information that had been received from Plant and Food Research in regard to Poplar and Willow Breeding Programme.

The GMEM was available to answer questions of clarification.

RD 10-116 **Moved** **Meads/Murfitt**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 10-04.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) was available to answer questions of clarification in regard to the priority list for Whole Farm Plans, and clarification on the individual implementation cost per Whole Farm Plan.

The GMEM was pleased to report that the Food and Safety Authority had recently clarified its position on the use of the Vertebrate Toxic Agent 'brodifacoum' in bait stations provided industry best practices were adhered to.

The meeting closed at 2.41pm

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN