



Minutes of the tenth 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 Wednesday 7 October 2009.

PRESENT Crs D B Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, M C Guy, RG Walker.

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Bailey (from 10.10am), Chettleburgh, Plowman, and White
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (to 11.28am)
Environmental Management
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr J Foxall (Area Engineer Southern (from 1.10pm), Mr P Lord (Revenue Recovery Officer (from 1.10pm to 2.02pm), Mr M Pedley (~~Member of the Public~~ **Ratepayer**), Mr Alan Proude (ratepayer from 1.27pm to 2.02pm), and a Member of the Press (from 10.27am).

APOLOGIES An apology was received from Crs Murfitt and Main, and an apology noted from the Chief Executive.

RD 09-90 *Moved* **Meads/Gordon**

that an apology be received from Crs Murfitt and Main.

CARRIED

DEPUTATION

The Chairman advised there would be a deputation from Mr Alan Proude at 1.30pm on issues in regard to the Mangahouhou Stream.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Guy advised of a possible Conflict of Interest, **due to his appointment as a Commissioner to hear the Taonui Basin consent**, in regard to Report No. 09-153, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Rural Upgrade Project Oroua River Works/Taonui Basin Impacts, and said he would withdraw from discussions when that item was presented.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RD 09-91

Moved

Meads/Guy

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 15 July 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 09-152

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

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and elaborated on items of interest, and answered Members' questions of clarification on the programme involved for the 41 separate projects identified for the balance of the 2009-10 year, and reported that good progress had been made in relation to many of those. He commented on the number of enquiries received by staff in relation to the new Lower Manawatu Scheme rates and noted that in responding to those enquiries, staff had found a need to rework the criteria for the inclusion/exclusion of some houses in the HF category. He said there were some issues to be considered by the Committee before a final decision on that was made. The GMO displayed a map of the Proposed Realignment at Anzac Park Cliff, and updated Members on a recent meeting held with representatives of Tanenuirangi Manawatu Incorporated.

The GMO further clarified Members' questions around:

- The completion of end of year asset management inspections.
- A review of the Pakihi Valley Flood Control Scheme.
- The level of flood protection provided by Stage Two of the stopbank upgrade work at Tangimoana.

The River & Drainage item was set aside to receive Items 11 and 12 on the Agenda.

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS – LAND ACTIVITY

Report No. 09-148

This report was in response to Members' questions relating to Environmental Grants (E-Grants) targeted at the Land Activity and whether funding should be reduced, withdrawn entirely, or directed at other higher priority activities.

The Group Manager Environmental Management spoke to the report and said that the E-Grants supported a large group of ratepayers, in a cost effective manner, and fulfilled a need that was currently well supported and fully subscribed. The E-Grant activity was targeted at ratepayers outside of the priority area of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI), eg. coastal land, and farmers, who were not included in the **priority** SLUI catchments.

Several councillors noted that the work in relation to E-Grants was an important part of the functions carried out by Horizons Regional Council.

Cr Walker advised he did not support E-Grants targeted at the land activity, and would be voting against the resolutions.

RD 09-92 **Moved**

Guy/Gordon

- a. **receives** this Report No. 09-148; and
- b. **notes** the current E-Grant financial review process and the high priority status of land activities within the organisation; and
- c. **recommends** that E-Grant (land) budgets remain unchanged for the 2009-10 operational year.

Against: Cr Walker

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 09-147

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

The Group Manager Environmental Management spoke to the item and elaborated on points of interest. He was pleased to report the completion of one whole farm plan for the start of the new financial year.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of clarification around the data displayed outlining progress and implementation to date, an update on funding applications to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, research on different species of trees used for planting, 'managed retirement' and retirement of marginal land areas.

The table below includes the updated data for progress on implementation, as requested at the meeting.

Table 2: Implementation Progress

Implementation Progress				
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Total WFPs Completed (cumulative)	45	133	213	214
Works Programmes Target (90%)		40	120	192
Actual Works Completed		39 (86%)	146 (109%) * ¹	
Individual New Projects Completed (Jobs)	13	67	99 * ²	3

Note 1: exceeded targets due to plans being implemented 1 year earlier than forecast or budgeted.

Note 2: records only new claims or projects

RD 09-93

Moved

Gordon/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-147.

CARRIED

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

The GMO continued with his report and further clarified Members' questions in relation to:

- Issues around vegetation clearance along the river banks and berms within the city.
- Progress on construction and design of the proposed new bridge and road approaches at Kopane. The GMO outlined that a consent for the bridge construction had been granted, however it was expected that the tendering process associated with the bridge project would not be progressed further until the more substantive consent application for diversion of floodwaters had been heard.
- The verbal approval from New Zealand Transport Agency to proceed with raising of a section of State Highway 3 in the vicinity of the Napier Road Drain, as part of the preferred option for closing off the flood path at the upstream end of the city, and progress made around negotiations with affected land owners.

The GMO updated Members on an infringement notice issued to the Operations Group with regard to some adverse effects in relation to environmental grant assisted work undertaken earlier in the year in the Hautapu Stream.

There was discussion around the naming of the new enhancement elements, both upstream and downstream of Fitzherbert Avenue bridge, and recommendation (c) was included accordingly.

RD 09-94 Moved

Meads/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 09-152;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection; and
- c. **requests** that the four City representatives bring a recommendation to the Strategy and Policy Committee on naming of the new enhancement elements, downstream of Fitzherbert Avenue bridge, if appropriate.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.10pm

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

Report No. 09-153

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.

As advised earlier in the meeting, Cr Guy withdrew from discussion during this item.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) advised that a consent for the demolition of the old bridge and construction of a new bridge at Kopane had been granted. Design work on a new bridge had been completed, however expressions of interest from contractors would not be sought until some certainty around an application for a consent to dam and divert additional flood waters into the Taonui Basin had been issued. A Submissions Hearing for that consent was set down for 4-6 November 2009.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification around mitigation options to adequately address the adverse effects, and progress on discussions in regard to compensation measures.

RD 09-95

Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-153.

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – CITY REACH PROJECT UPDATE ON DESIGN AND CONSENT ISSUES

Report No. 09-150

This report was to update the Committee and Council on progress on the investigations and consultations that are required before consent applications can be lodged for the Palmerston North City Reach Project.

The Group Manager Operations reported the progress on investigations and consultations with affected parties in regard to Napier Road, Staces Road / Aokautere, Turitea, and Longburn.

Members considered the report and asked questions of clarification around identifying mitigation options in order to provide 1% AEP rural flood protection standard to several houses in the Staces Road area; the level of flood protection that could be offered to affected parties; and progress on reaching agreement from landowners.

RD 09-96

Moved

Walker/Gordon

- a. **receives** and notes the contents of Report No 09-150; and
- b. **notes** that consultation is proceeding with parties potentially affected by the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Upgrade Project works.

CARRIED

DEPUTATION: MR ALAN PROUDE – MANGAHOUHOU STREAM

Mr Proude addressed the Committee and made reference to an account from Horizons Regional Council for his share of channel improvement works completed last year on the Mangahouhou Stream on his property in Lakes Road, Ohakune. He also commented on the loss of access to a leased block of land in Burns Street, Ohakune, as a result of the 2004 floods. Mr Proude was disputing payment of the account and outlined his reasons for that to the Committee. Members asked questions of clarification.

MAKERUA DRAINAGE SCHEME PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHEME AREA AND TARGETED RATING SYSTEM

Report No. 09-149

This purpose of this item was to report on the outcomes of the submissions hearing on the proposed changes to the Makerua Drainage Scheme rating system.

There was comment made around the benefit in providing a more detailed newsletter to proposed new ratepayers, and the importance of providing clear information to all effected parties.

There was considerable discussion around one submitter's suggestions of a wider catchment rating model, and specifically around whether it was appropriate for a recommendation to be added in that regard. Ultimately recommendation (e) was included to reflect the discussion.

RD 09-97 **Moved**

Meads/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **adopts** the Proposed New Rating System, amended in accordance with recommendations of the Hearing Committee, as set out below; for inclusion in the Draft 2010-11 Annual Plan:

Recommendation 1: *That the differentials in the Makerua Drainage Scheme rating system be amended as per the table at Paragraph 24 in report NO. 09-149.*

Recommendation 2: *That the existing Makerua Drainage Scheme be dis-established and re-established under Section 504 of the Local Government Act 1974 and Section 15 of the Interpretation Act 1999.*

Recommendation 3: *That the new Scheme Boundary be extended to include all land that drains to and through drainage channels and pump stations managed as part of the Makerua Drainage Scheme.*

Recommendation 4: *That the Speirs-Kingston drainage, pumping, and capital rating category areas be extended to include all properties benefiting from Scheme works.*

Recommendation 5: *That two new rating categories be introduced to enable rates to be collected from all properties in the enlarged Scheme area in recognition of their contribution to the need for the Scheme.*

Recommendation 6: *That the present differentials applying to drainage categories for the area east of Linton Main Drain be retained.*

Recommendation 7: *That the Lower Manawatu Scheme Manager be reminded of the need to effectively manage the Tokomaru Stream Channel so as not to adversely affect Makerua Drainage Scheme drainage.*

Recommendation 8: *That it be made clear in the rating system reports that the Capital Rating categories are to fund capital works associated with pumping benefits and not gravity drainage benefits.*

Recommendation 9: *That a Newsletter explaining Contributor Rates be included with the 2010-11 rate demands.*

- b. **requests** that appropriate provision be made in the Rating Impact Statement in the Draft 2010-11 Annual Plan, for the Makerua Scheme rates in accordance with the Proposed new Rating System;
- c. **notes** recommendations 7 to 9 requiring action as appropriate;

- d. **instructs** the Chief Executive to advise all submitters of the outcome of the submissions hearing process; and
- e. **requests** the Chief Executive to consider and present options for the rationalisation of indirect benefit, contributor and general rating on a catchment wide basis through the next funding policy discussions.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME RATING PROJECT

Report No. 09-151

The purpose of this item was to present for Councillors' information, the final report on the development of a new rating system for the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS).

The Group Manager Operations spoke to the item and answered Members' questions of clarification.

Cr Gordon asked that reference be included on page iv of the report to acknowledge the efforts of the Hearing Committee. Recommendation (b) was included accordingly.

RD 09-98 **Moved** **Meads/Walker**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and notes the contents of Report No. 09-151 and Annexes.

CARRIED

RD 09-99 **Moved** **Meads/Gordon**

- b. **adds** to page iv of the Lower Manawatu Scheme – Development of a New Rating System, an acknowledgement to the Hearing Committee.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Cr Chettleburgh commented on the inconsistency in Council policy in regard to works / maintenance carried out on streams in the Region. The Group Manager Operations explained that Horizons Regional Council had a responsibility to identify flooding and eroding hazards, to inform the communities concerned, and to provide them with mitigation and funding options. However Council had no legal responsibility to undertake works if the communities concerned chose to accept the risks involved. As for the maintenance of water courses within urban areas, it was generally accepted that urban storm water systems were the responsibility of the respective territorial local authorities, while streams that had rural catchments and were within schemes, were the responsibility of the Regional Council. In Palmerston North City, specific agreement had been reached around watercourse maintenance, and similar agreements could be drawn up in other urban areas if that became necessary.

Cr Walker tabled a letter and photo from the Commodore of Sailing Wanganui highlighting a safety issue on the Whanganui Riverbank in the vicinity of the launching ramp. He asked the Group Manager Operations to respond

The meeting closed at 2.50pm

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN