



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 10.06am on Wednesday 15 July 2009.

PRESENT Crs D B Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, M C Guy, P W Rieger QSO (to 12.15pm), RG Walker.

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Bailey, Burnell (from 11.08am to 3.20pm), Main (to 2.20pm), Plowman, and White
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook (to 12.15pm and from 2.17pm)
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (from 10.08am to 12.34pm)
Environmental Management
Chief Executive Mr M McCartney (from 1.06pm)
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (from 2.12pm), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (from 2.35pm to 2.30pm), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer from 11.24am to 12.15am), Mr P Blackwood (Manager Investigations & Design from 11.24am to 12.15am), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Management-Land 1.06pm), (Ms E Collins (Media Liaison Officer from 10.25am), Mr P Burke (Communications from 1.20pm), Mr John-Paul Praat (Handford & Associates Limited from 1.06pm to 2.17pm), Ms E Goodwin, Mr R Ervine, Mr A Finnigan, Mr J Lynch (Members of the Public, from 2.30pm to 3.10pm), and Members of the Press at various times throughout the meeting.

APOLOGIES An apology was received from Cr Murfitt (Leave of Absence), Cr ~~Guy~~ **Rieger** for the afternoon part of the meeting, and an apology noted from Cr Chettleburgh (Leave of Absence).

RD 09-79 **Moved** **Meads/Gordon**

that an apology be received from Cr Murfitt (Leave of Absence), and Cr Rieger for the afternoon part of the meeting.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Requests for public speaking rights had been received from Mr R Ervine and Mr A Finnigan in regard to Item 9, Lower Manawatu Scheme – Rural Upgrade Project Oroua River Works/Taonui Basin Impacts, Report No. 09-105. The Chairman advised that the item would be addressed at approximately 2.30pm.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest advised.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RD 09-80

Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 13 May 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 09-106

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 May 2009 to 30 June 2009.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and noted the emphasis placed on completing the annual Scheme reports which provided a detailed level of information and was valuable for Scheme audit and review purposes. He elaborated on items of interest and answered Members' questions of clarification around details relevant to the Local Authority Protection Programme disaster fund's ability to meet future claims, the ongoing frustrations experienced in respect to the proposed Lower Whanganui River Scheme flood protection works at Balgownie, commented on discussions held with Department of Conservation staff in regard to their submission to the One Plan around the Environmental Code of Practice for River Works, commented on the proposed joint purchase of land between Horizons Regional Council and Tanenuiiarangi Manawatu Incorporated, situated opposite the ANZAC Park Cliffs, noted the near completion of a digitised asset map on the Rangitikei Scheme and advised that similar maps would be prepared for all schemes over the next 12 months, and reported on the progress of silt removal in front of the Moutoa Sluiceways.

A series of photographs were shown to Members in support of items in the report.

RD 09-81

Moved

Rieger/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 09-106;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection

CARRIED

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

Report No. 09-107

This report updated the Committee and Council about Resource Management Act (RMA) consent requirements for the Palmerston North City Reach Project, work done to date in assessing adverse effects, and the additional investigations that are required before consent applications can be lodged.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the item.

Members discussed the item and the GMO and Mr Doull, Senior Design Engineer were available to answer questions of clarification around the history of Palmerston North Flood protection, the standard of flood protection required for the future, adverse effects to specific areas, mitigation options for houses that would experience increased flood depth, and how best to progress with investigations and negotiations with the affected parties. . It was agreed that consultation with affected parties be undertaken as soon as possible. The work involved covered an important area of the Palmerston North City and it was therefore suggested that Palmerston North City Council Councillors be invited to participate in discussions when the public meetings were arranged.

RD 09-82

Moved

Rieger/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives and notes** the contents of Report No. 09-107; and
- b. **notes** that consultation with parties potentially affected by the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Upgrade Project works will commence immediately.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME – LINTON MAIN DRAIN STOPBANK INVESTIGATION

Report No. 09-104

This report informed the Committee of progress on geotechnical investigations for the proposed Linton Main Drain stopbank upgrade.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) and Mr Blackwood (Manager Investigations & Design answered Members questions of clarification around how effective ground penetrating radar would be in determining the programme and priority of work to be carried out for the Linton Drain upgrade.

RD 09-83

Moved

Guy/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-104.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm.
The meeting reconvened at 1.06pm.*

PRESENTATION ON CARBON FARMING MR JOHN-PAUL PRAAT, (HANDFORD & ASSOCIATES LIMITED)

Mr John-Paul Praat outlined his presentation on Carbon Farming and was available to answer Members questions of clarification.

CLASSIFICATION OF DETENTION DAMS

Report No. 09-103

The purpose of the item was to inform the Committee of the interim classifications assigned in respect of Council owned detention dams and the implications of those classifications.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) outlined the background to the report and answered Members questions of clarification around the dams classified as high or medium impact categories that could potentially require a Dam Safety Assurance Programme, and the potential cost impacts on flood protection Schemes arising from the new Dam Safety Scheme. The GMO advised that in the event that any Council dams were classified in the high potential impact category, Horizons Regional Council would be required to comply with the New Zealand Society of Large Dams Dam Safety Guidelines criteria.

RD 09-84

Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-103; and
- b. **notes** the future asset management demands around dams and the potential cost impacts on flood protection Schemes arising from the new Dam Safety Scheme.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2.20pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2.30pm.

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

Report No. 09-105

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

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ervine, Mr Finnigan, and Mr Lynch to the meeting. Mr Ervine and Mr Finnigan had requested speaking rights in regard to the item.

Mr Finnigan (ratepayer) addressed Members and outlined his concerns at the lack of attention to the effect on individuals that would be affected with the consenting of proposed works on the Oroua River at Kopane. He commented specifically around attention to the safety and protection of home owners in the area, the financial impact to ratepayers, and asked for a firm undertaking on pumping options. Members asked questions of clarification.

Mr Ervine (ratepayer) addressed Members with his concerns in regard to the impact of the proposed works on his productive dairy farm. He was reluctant to sign a Deed of Settlement and Memorandum of Encumbrance in their present form, which he believed would lead to his farm being flooded and therefore jeopardise his livelihood. Members asked questions of clarification.

Members discussed the item and the GMO noted that staff had indicated an ongoing willingness to be available to discuss any outstanding issues with individuals prior to the consent hearing. He advised of the commitment and budgetary provision adopted through the 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan to progress with mitigation options to offset the adverse effects of present ponding in the Taonui Basin. Direction was now required from the community on how best to progress and achieve the best long-term benefits.

RD 09-85 Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-105; and
- b. **receives** the reports presented from Mr Ervine and Mr Finnigan.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI) – PROGRESS REPORT

Report No. 09-99

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

The Group Manger Environmental Management spoke to the report and noted the return of two staff members who have had previous experience with Horizons. Mr Richard Airey would commence work in the upper Whangaehu area, and Mr George Powell would commence work in the lower Turakina area.

Members noted the contents of the SLUI progress report.

RD 09-86

Moved

Guy/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-99 and Annex.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI) – ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS AND INCENTIVES 2008-09

Report No. 09-100

This item provided the Committee with a summary of the Environmental Grant (EGrant) expenditure within the Sustainable Land Use Initiatives (SLUI) project for 2008-09. It was also in response to public requests as part of the Community Plan submission process for greater transparency in the SLUI activity, particularly regarding grants and incentives offered to Whole Farm Plan (WFP) recipients.

The Group Manger Environmental Management introduced the item. Members were generally pleased with the presentation of the information, and it was suggested that it would be beneficial if the information could be made available via the Horizons website. There was discussion and questions of clarification around the total implementation costs associated with Whole Farm Plans.

RD 09-87

Moved

Guy/Walker

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 09-100 and Annex; and
- b. **instructs** the Chief Executive to make Sustainable Land Use Initiative EGrant and incentive summaries available to the public on a regular basis, and
- c. **instructs** the Chief Executive to re-release Sustainable Land Use Initiative grant criteria and guidelines to targeted community groups.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI) – FARM BUSINESS HEALTH SUMMARY

Report No. 09-101

This report informed Members of the results of a financial review carried out on completed Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) Whole Farm Plans (WFP) from 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Members noted the contents of the report and commented that the review gave a clear financial picture of the farm businesses that had completed a Whole Farm Plan.

RD 09-88

Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-101.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI) SURVEYS –FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Report No. 09-102

This report informed the Committee about the follow up actions undertaken in response to various surveys recently carried out and previously reported at Catchment Operations meetings.

The Group Manager Environmental Management spoke to the item and tabled a 'Know Your Land' brochure which would be included in future Whole Farm Plans, and also be available on the horizons website.

RD 09-89

Moved

Meads/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** Report No. 09-102; and
- b. **recommends** the inclusion of a 'Know Your Land' section in future Whole Farm Plans.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' Questions.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN