



Minutes of the eighth 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 10.03am on Wednesday 11 March 2009.

PRESENT Crs D B Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, M C Guy, P W Rieger QSO, RG Walker, and G P Murfitt (ex officio).

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Chettleburgh (to 12.17pm), Main, Plowman and White
Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (to 10.37am)
Environmental Management
Media Liaison Officer Ms E Collins (from 10.08am to 10.17am)
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr M Pedley (ratepayer from 10.08am to 10.36am)

APOLOGIES An apology was noted from Cr Bailey (unwell)

RD 09-62 *Moved* **Meads/Murfitt**

that an apology be noted from Cr Bailey

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS
No requests had been received.

LATE ITEMS
There were no Late Items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
There were no conflicts of interest advised.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RD 09-63 *Moved* **Meads/Guy**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 10 December 2008, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 09-37

This report was to update Members on the financial performance of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI).

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) advised that he would be attending the first sitting of the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AFG) Tenders Committee for the March 2009 tender round. Horizons Regional Council had made application to this fund for \$817,000 from the Regional Council pool.

The GMEM outlined his report and answered Members questions of clarification in regard to the results of a recent satisfaction survey, methods undertaken to address staff turnover, Council representation on the Poplar and Willow Research Collective, the priority list prepared for the Whole Farm Plans, and a discussion in regard to a report obtained by Cr Plowman on Redwood Trees, including Council policy in regard to genetically modified trees, in particular Redwood. The issue would be readdressed after Members had a chance to view the report and make comment.

RD 09-64

Moved

Meads/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-37.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 09-38

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the three month period 1 December 2008 to 28 February 2009.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and elaborated on items of interest, and answered Members' questions of clarification in regard to funding arrangements for the Dam Safety Assurance Programme, funding arrangements for any capital and ongoing maintenance works on Maori Trust land at Pukehou, and an update on the proposed mediation process and Council's legal position regarding an ongoing issue between a group of landowners in the Opiki Basin. Members fully discussed the background to the drainage issue in Opiki, and noted their support from the Committee for the GMO to continue with the proposed formal mediation process, and accept the cost of that mediation, in order that the issue may be resolved. Recommendation (c) was included to reflect that discussion.

Members continued with questions of clarification on the report and discussed consent conditions granted for the proposed Balgownie stopbank. In regard to a stockpile of clay located at the Fitzherbert Bridge area, the GMO advised that he had received independent advice that a consent for it was not required. Further questions were raised relating to various issues, including, negotiations with affected parties in regard to proposed upgrade works in the vicinity of Napier Road Drain, and the GMO advised there was ongoing consultation with local residents and interested parties in regard to the stopbank alignment and flood wall construction on residential properties in Foxton. Other topics covered included: land ownership issues to the two pine plantations upstream of Kakariki Bridge; an update on how the the new cost sharing arrangements on the Pohangina-Oroua Scheme were progressing; the competitive contract earthworks prices being experienced, resulting in significant savings against project estimates; discussion on whether it was necessary to provide funding in the Community Plan for backup portable pumps for Scheme use; and an update on expenditure for environmental grant works.

RD 09-65

Moved

Murfitt/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 09-38;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection; and
- c. **approves** the Group Manager Operations' proposal to appoint a mediator for the Makerua Drainage issue referred to in paragraph 16-20, Report No. 09-38, and **agrees** to Council meeting the cost of this mediation.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME UPGRADE UPDATE FOR TAONUUI BASIN IMPACTS AND KOPANE BRIDGE CONSENTS

Report No. 09-40

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on progress with the planning of mitigation work for the Taonui Basin, and with seeking consents under the Resource Management Act (RMA) to replace the Kopane Bridge.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the report and answered questions of clarification. Members discussed whether Council had sufficient confidence in Opus performance after the discovery of computer modelling errors in their modelling work of spillways in the Taonui Basin. The GMO advised that Opus had adequately addressed the issues of concern, and he was satisfied that the problems had been resolved. Negotiations with Taonui Basin landowners had been put on hold while the issues were being solved, and the GMO said it was now important to update landowners and give priority to progress negotiations.

Members noted that it was important to keep the Taonui Basin community informed of the process going forward.

RD 09-66

Moved

Rieger/Gordon

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-40.

CARRIED

ANNUAL RIVER AND DRAINAGE SCHEME MEETINGS

Report No. 09-36

The purpose of this report was to inform Councillors of annual meetings scheduled for river and drainage schemes.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) tabled an updated Schedule of Annual Scheme Ratepayer Meetings – 2009 at Annex A. A further change to the tabled Annex was made – Lower Whanganui Scheme moved from Monday 20 April 2009 to Tuesday 21 April 2009.

RD 09-67

Moved

Meads/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-36.

CARRIED

ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS – APRIL/MAY 2008

Report No. 09-39

The purpose of this item was to update the Committee on progress in addressing the various issues raised at the 19 annual Scheme meetings held in April/May 2008.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the report and answered Members' questions of clarification. In regard to metal extraction from the Upper Whanganui River, Cr Plowman noted that from 1 May to 29 September 2009, access to the river would be restricted, unless it was for emergency river management. The GMO advised he would refer to the consent conditions issued for the work, and clarify the situation with Cr Plowman.

RD 09-68

Moved

Meads/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and the information contained in Report No. 09-39 and Annex A.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' questions.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN