



Minutes of the ninth 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 13 May 2009.

**PRESENT** Crs D B Meads (Chairman), EB Gordon, P W Rieger QSO (to 12.23pm), RG Walker, and G P Murfitt (ex officio).

**IN ATTENDANCE** Crs Bailey, Chettleburgh, Main, Plowman, and White  
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook  
Group Manager Mr C Mitchell (from 10.08am to 12.34pm)  
Environmental Management  
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr D McKee, (Area Engineer (to 11.16am), Mr G Cooper (Environmental Management-Land from 10.51am to 11.34am and from 11.50am to 12.34pm) (Ms E Collins (Media Liaison Officer from 10.30am to 12.23pm).

**APOLOGIES** An apology was received from Cr Guy, and an apology noted from Cr Burnell and the Chief Executive.

**RD 09-69** *Moved* *Meads/Murfitt*

*that an apology be received from Cr Guy*

**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 09-70** *Moved* *Meads/Murfitt*

*that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 11 March 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

## RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 09-68

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

The Chair welcomed Mr D McKee, Area Engineer Central to the meeting. Mr McKee was available to answer Members questions in regard to activities on the Lower Manawatu Scheme.

The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and was available to answer Members questions in regard to Proposed river management works on the Whanganui River at Kakahi, associated consent requirements, and how they might be funded; the impact of the Ozone financial system in relation to asset management; an update on progress with obtaining the required Archaeological Authority in respect of the proposed flood works at Balgownie, an explanation on the complexities of the issues around the modelling work relating to the City Reach Upgrade to the 0.2% AEP design standard, clarification of timelines on the Kopane Bridge project; enhancement works on the Lower Manawatu Scheme City Reach Upgrade Project; the Mateongonga Stream restoration meeting with Messrs Cox and Harrison, and funding for vegetation management on the Lower Whanganui Scheme.

The GMO gave a brief presentation on the Foxton Storm Surge Protection project and displayed photographs of recently completed stopbank and storm-wall works designed to protect the Foxton Beach community from 100-year stormsurge events.

Cr Bailey commented on the settlement reached around a long standing issue between two land owners in the Makerua Drainage area and expressed congratulations to all the parties involved in negotiating a successful outcome. Members agreed that the matter be acknowledged and resolution (c) was added to reflect that.

Recommendation (d) was included requesting that the GMO report verbally to the 26 May 2009 Council meeting on progress of obtaining the required Archaeological Authority in respect of proposed flood works at Balgownie.

**RD 09-71**

**Moved**

**Meads/Gordon**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 09-68;
- b.. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection;
- c. **endorses** the settlement reached in respect of inclusion of the Moleta No. 2 drain in the Makerua Drainage Scheme and in particular notes the commitments assumed by Horizons Regional Council through that settlement; and
- d. **requests** the Group Manager Operations to report to Council on 26 May 2009 on progress with obtaining the required Archaeological Authority in respect of proposed flood works at Balgownie.

**CARRIED**

## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)**

*Report No. 09-63*

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

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) introduced the item and summarised the progress to date as outlined in Table 1 and 2. Members asked questions of clarification in regard to progress on the targets outlined. The GMEM confirmed that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) was committed to funding the four joint venture applications from Horizons Regional Council (HRC), applied for at the March Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) panel meeting. As outlined in Table 3, all projects had been lodged and pre-approved / approved in advance, and any reduction in the level of AGS funding from central government would therefore not cause any concern to those projects at this stage.

**RD 09-72**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Gordon**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 09-63;
- b. **notes** in particular:
  - (i) *the implications of the potential changes to the Community Plan relating to SLUI funding and potential contractual changes required with MAF;*
  - (ii) *the reduction in AGS funding; and*
  - (iii) *the move by MAF that requires Regional Council Joint Ventures to apply for from the Public Pool;*
- c. **recommends** that the changes to the Community Plan, if endorsed, should be discussed with Government and MAF by a Senior level of Management and / or Governance as a matter of urgency;
- d. **recommends** that all regional councils with support from HRC make submissions to MAF and Treasury to reinstate the level of funding available for the AGS; and
- e. **recommends** that Horizons discuss with MAF the implications of the joint venture forestry funding from the Public Pool.

**CARRIED**

## **SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE SURVEY RESULTS**

*Report No. 09-64*

This report was to update members of the results of two recent surveys aimed at assessing the performance of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) during the financial year ending 30 June 2008.

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) introduced the item and was available to answer questions of clarification.

Overall the GMEM commented that the results of the Satisfaction Survey were pleasing, and noted that a key issue was to obtain a balance between too much customer contact and not enough.

Mr Cooper, (Environmental Management-Land) answered questions of clarification on the Whole Farm Plan Technical Survey and commented that the summary of recommendations outlined by Garth Eyles would be noted for action by the Technical Group.

It was agreed to amend recommendation (b) to report back to a future meeting on any actions undertaken as a result of the surveys.

**RD 09-73**                      **Moved**                                      **Rieger/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a.        **receives** the information in Report No. 09-64 and Annex;
- b.        **notes** the actions undertaken as a result of these surveys and **reports** back on the results to this Committee.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Rieger left the meeting at 12.23pm.*

#### **JOINT VENTURE FORESTRY - REDWOODS**

*Report No. 09-65*

This report was to respond to a members question regarding the use of *sequoia sp.* (Redwoods) as part of Horizons Regional Council (HRC) joint venture forestry plantings established to address soil erosion issues in parts of the Region.

Cr Plowman noted he was concerned that Redwood trees in New Zealand were genetically modified, grew at a fast rate, and as a result produced poor quality timber.

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) advised that the trees were clonal stock and were not genetically modified.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of clarification.

**RD 09-74**                      **Moved**                                      **Gordon/Murfitt**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a.        **receives** and the information contained in Report No. 09-65.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.34pm*

*The meeting reconvened at 1.10pm*

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

*Report No. 09-62*

The purpose of this item was to seek the Committee's approval of proposed changes to the Makerua Drainage Scheme area and rating system, for the purpose of stakeholder consultation.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) noted that the item had previously been presented to a Council meeting held on 24 February 2009. As outlined in the minutes of that meeting it was agreed that the item be referred to the Catchment Operations Committee and that the proposed changes to the Makerua Scheme rating system be adopted through the 2010-11 Annual Plan. It was also agreed to continue with an interim funding arrangement for the approved capital works in the Speirs-Kingston Drainage area for the next 12 months.

Members asked questions of clarification around rating categories and rate calculations and it was suggested that discussions be held with the scheme liaison committee on alternative options for the proposed changes to the rating system, prior to it being available for ratepayer consideration.

It was agreed that a subcommittee of Cr Meads, Mr A Cook, and Mr J Philpott be appointed to investigate possible alternative category options (new recommendation (d)). The membership of the Hearing Committee was agreed as; Crs Meads, Bailey, and Guy (recommendation (f)).

**RD 09-75**

***Moved***

***Meads/Walker***

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. ***notes*** the information contained in Report No. 09-62;
- b. ***endorses*** the proposed changes to the Makerua Drainage Scheme area and targeted rating system, including the abolition of the existing Makerua Drainage Scheme and the establishment of a new Scheme, for the purpose of stakeholder consultation;
- c. ***notes*** and ***endorses*** the proposed non-statutory consultation process;
- d. ***appoints*** a subcommittee of Cr Meads, Mr A Cook, and Mr J Philpott to investigate and possibly include alternative category options, prior to consultation;
- e. ***agrees*** that submissions on the proposed changes to the Makerua Drainage Scheme area and targeted rating system be heard and considered by a Special Hearing Committee on 25 August 2009;
- f. ***decides*** the membership of the Hearing Committee as; Crs Meads, Bailey, and Guy; and
- g. ***notes*** that the final proposals, as agreed by Council, will be included in the 2010-11 Draft Annual Plan.

**CARRIED**

## **TOTARA RESERVE CHANNEL MANAGEMENT**

*Report No. 09-66*

This report was to update the Committee on the findings of a recent brief review of channel management through the Totara Reserve, in light of a recent channel avulsion in the vicinity of Camp Rangī Woods. The report also provided an update on channel management work completed since the establishment of a Regional Park at the reserve.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the report and drew Members attention to Annex A which outlined the channel avulsion opposite Camp Rangī Woods, and detailed the alignment of the new design channel.

Members asked questions of clarification.

**RD 09-76**

***Moved***

***Gordon/Walker***

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. ***receives and notes*** the information contained in Report No. 09-66.

**CARRIED**

## **ISSUES ARISING FROM ANNUAL SCHEME RATEPAYER MEETINGS – APRIL 2009**

*Report No. 09-67*

The purpose of this item was to inform the Committee of all significant issues raised at the 21 annual meetings for river and drainage schemes that were held during April 2009.

Consideration was given to the report and Members asked questions of clarification.

**RD 09-77**

***Moved***

***Meads/Murfitt***

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. ***receives*** the information contained in Report No. 09-67 and Annex A.

**CARRIED**

## **TURAKINA RIVER PROPOSED RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Report No. 09-69*

The purpose of this item was to seek the Committee's approval for the purpose of public consultation, of options for a managed approach to channel maintenance and improvements for the Turakina River.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) spoke to the report and was available to answer questions of clarification around the area that would be covered by the work, and intended rating levels.

It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to further consider river management and rating options before commencing stakeholder consultation.

It was further suggested that a letter be written to the Manawatu / Wanganui Regional Disaster Relief Fund Trust to inform them of the action that has been taken, given the Trust's strong support of initial channel clearance work following the 2004 flood and their requirement that future maintenance be addressed through a channel management scheme.

Recommendations (c) and (d) were included to reflect the discussion.

**RD 09-78**

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Gordon**

*that the Committee recommends that Council:*

- a. **receives** Report No. 09-69;
- b. **approves** a process of consultation with landowners and stakeholders in relation to the findings in the report and in particular the establishment of a scheme to manage channel improvements and ongoing channel maintenance along the Turakina River;
- c. **forms** a subcommittee of Crs Meads, Gordon, Walker to further investigate and initiate action; and
- d. *that the Manawatu / Wanganui Regional Disaster Relief Fund Trust be written to, to inform them of progress with the development of a scheme.*

### **CARRIED**

There were a number of corrections noted to be made to Annex A, Report No. 09-69, Turakina River Management Plan:

- Table 4: Downstream of SH3 cost should be \$6,000 not \$3,000.
- Table 5: The TOTAL amount in the Net Cost column should be \$26,165 not \$17,007.
- Table 6: The TOTAL amount in the Net Cost column should be \$12,468 not \$8,104.
- Appendix B: Turakina Long-term Plan – An amended copy was tabled at the meeting.

### **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

In regard to an application to the Manawatu District Council from MC2 Group Limited for a plan change for Flyers Line, Mr Cook outlined that staff had an open mind on the proposals and would submit to the application and any associated resource consent applications on their merits.

The meeting closed at 2.25pm

Confirmed

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GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

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CHAIRMAN