



Minutes of the ninth meeting, seventh triennium, of the Environment Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, commencing at 10.00am on Wednesday 10 June 2009.

PRESENT

Crs AK Main (Chair), J White (Deputy Chair), L Bailey, L Burnell, VJF Chettleburgh QSM ED, and GP Murfitt (ex officio).

IN ATTENDANCE

Crs EB Gordon (to 3pm), MC Guy and DB Meads.

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney (to 12.20pm)
Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory	Mr G Carlyon (from 11.15am)
Group Manager Environmental Management	Mr C Mitchell (to 1.45pm)
Committee Secretary	Mrs L Carter

ALSO PRESENT

Mr G Cooper (Manager-Land, from 10.00am to 10.10am and from 11.25am to 12.20pm), Mr R Munneke (Manager-Policy), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist – Ecology, to 1.45pm), Mr J Roygard (Manager – Science), Ms A Russell (Manager Environmental Compliance, from 1.00pm), Mr P Taylor (Plan Implementation Coordinator, from 1.40pm), Mr T Hynes (Animal Health Board from 1.00pm to 1.17pm), Mr A Innes (Animal Health Board from 1.00pm to 1.17pm).

The Manager-Land introduced SLUI scholarship recipients to the meeting. Eight scholarships were awarded although not all recipients were present due to Massey exams. Those present were: Joel Perry, Bridget Telfer, Shane Brownlie, James Lawn, and Amy Taylor. Other recipients not present were Stuart Standen, Andrew Gray and Helen Free. The students told members where they came from and why they had chosen to attend Massey University. The students and Manager-Land then left the meeting.

Council Chair addressed the meeting to advise that the Strategy session set down for 16/17 June 2009 was to be rescheduled for a later date to be advised. There would be a meeting on the morning of 16 June to continue discussions on the Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

APOLOGIES An apology was received from Cr M Plowman.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Members' conflict of interest issues.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ENV 09-63

Moved

Burnell/White

that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15 April 2009, as circulated, and with the spelling of Wanganui changed to Whanganui in the comments on Environmental Management Progress Report, be received and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Report No: 09-88

The purpose of this item was to inform the Environment Committee of progress made towards outputs listed in the following activity areas of the 2006-16 Long-term Council Community Plan.

- Land Management Activity
- Water Quantity and Quality Management Activity
- Habitat Protection
- Strategic Management Activity
- Biosecurity

The report covered the period to 22 May 2009.

Members asked questions of clarification and staff provided additional background information where required.

Regional Land Initiatives:

A brief verbal report on the Emissions Trading Scheme workshop was requested. It was agreed the Manager-Land would give this when he returned to the meeting.

The Group Manager Environmental Management (GMEM) noted a proposed workshop to be hosted by Horizons (presented by MAF) on emissions trading was not yet on the calendar as MAF was waiting for answers from Central Government before finalising their presentation.

Land Monitoring Research:

In response to a question the Manager-Science advised there was growing interest on the part of farmers in the outcome of projects.

The Chief Executive noted it would be appropriate to publicise funding received from Envirolink and other sources apart from rates at the time of the release of the LTCCP.

Water Quantity and Quality Management Activity:

Two members noted they had received negative feedback re the telephone survey conducted on water quality. It was agreed the questions asked and the results obtained in the survey would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

Groundwater Monitoring and Research:

The Manager-Science provided additional information on the investigation into potential sources of groundwater for the Waituna West Rural Water Scheme, noting results and recommendations of the investigation had been forwarded to the Manawatu District Council.

Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat Improvement:

In response to a question re the willow clearance programme on the Moawhango River, the GMEM advised this work was funded by Genesis.

Bush Remants:

A map showing the various native habitat and biodiversity sites was tabled for members' information.

Community Biodiversity:

The Chief Executive elaborated on the preparation of draft Totara Reserve Management Plan prepared by Manawatu District Council and the lack of engagement with Horizons as principal funding partner, noting the opportunity was now belatedly available for this Council to have input. A meeting had been arranged to talk about future ongoing management issues.

Strategic Management:

The Manager-Science gave an update on plans to secure a monitoring site in Taumarunui, noting the Baptist Church site was the option decided on.

The Manager-Land gave a brief overview of the workshop he attended on the emission trading scheme in relation to forestry.

Environmental Education:

In response to a question, the GMEM advised the Genesis sponsorship of the Green RIG was for a period of 10 years. It was noted that the costs associated with the Green RIG's attendance at Mystery Creek National Field Days was shared with Genesis. The site cost was paid by Genesis.

New Projects/Emerging Issues:

The Manager-Policy advised the Upukongaro site was progressing very well. It was noted that there were several potential partners who could become involved in the continued development of the walkway/cycleway from this site. It was mentioned that the Transport Committee needed to be aware of the implications in view of Central Government's plans for a national network of cycleways.

Strategy Reviews:

It was noted that the date in para 124 should read 2009-2019.

Biosecurity Progress Report:

The GMEM agreed to add historical information to the graph depicting Frontline enquiries.

The GMEM updated members on possum control operations. A map was provided showing the status of various operations.

The Chief Executive verbally reported on his attendance at the Reform in Paradise Conference held annually by the Environmental Defence Society (EDS). He noted the two main drivers of the Conference were keen to see the development of an environmental protection authority for New Zealand similar to European models. However, the Chief Executive felt there was considerable support at the Conference for the subsidiary concept which was making decisions at local levels. The Regional Council sector felt an EDS model could add value in some areas and potentially provide a national monitoring role on the state of New Zealand resources.

The meeting adjourned at 12.20pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.00pm.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT, ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD, AND TB FREE COMMITTEE REPORT
Report No. 09-86

This report informed the Environment Committee of the Vector Management, Animal Health Board, and TB Free Committee activity for the Region, for the period April-May 2009.

Animal Health Board staff provided updates to the report and answered questions of clarification.

Mr T Hynes advised the Bovine Tb Strategy Review consultation document had now been approved for public release. Copies of the Review were provided to members.

ENV 09-64 **Moved** **White/Bailey**

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-86 and Annex.

CARRIED

It was agreed that the GMEM should prepare a submission on the Animal Health Strategy (closing date 30 June 2009) for perusal by the Environment Committee Chair and Council Chair.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT - (Continued)
Report No. 09-88

Pest Plant Biosecurity:

Concern was expressed about the spread of weeds by mowers and whether appropriate attention was paid to this issue by contractors.

There was discussion on the unsatisfactory appraisal in regard to pest plants in the KiwiRail corridor. The Council Chair agreed to raise with local Members of Parliament the matter of KiwiRail having insufficient funds to deal with this problem.

Progress on Zero Density and Containment Species:

It was noted the issue of control of Purple loosestrife at Lake Horowhenua was still not resolved.

ENV 09-65 **Moved** **Burnell/White**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-88 and Annexes.

CARRIED

REGULATORY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Report No. 09-87

This report presented three items for the information of Members:

- a. Watertake Monitoring Report
- b. Environmental Team Report – 1 April to 31 May 2009
- c. Consents Granted – April and May 2009

A brief presentation was made on the Watertake Monitoring Report. Members asked questions of clarification.

A presentation was made on the Environmental Team Report – 1 April to 31 May 2009.

Members asked questions of clarification. Staff provided updates as required.

Members discussed the difficulties being experienced in relation to the old landfill located at Levin.

The Group Manager Regional Planning & Regulatory (GMRPR) noted there was a considerable sum outstanding in unpaid fines across the Consents and Compliance departments, and he intended to bring a paper to the next Strategy and Policy Committee meeting seeking formal support for the measures to be put forward to deal with this issue.

It was noted that the comments on page 78 of the agenda relating to the Levin Landfill Review should read *...dialogue between Horowhenua District Council and the affected parties, not Horizons Regional Council and the affected parties.*

ENV 09-66

Moved

Chettleburgh/Burnell

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 09-87 and Annexes.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

A question was asked about Manawatu District Council plan change proposals relating to land in Flygers/Rangitikei Line. The Manager-Policy advised this Council was working through issues with Manawatu District Council.

An informal briefing on this matter would be provided before commencement of the next Environment Committee. It was noted that Councillors on the One Plan General Hearing would need to exclude themselves from any such briefing.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm.

Confirmed

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRPERSON