



Minutes of the seventh meeting, seventh triennium, of the Catchment Operations Committee of Horizons Regional Council held in the Council Chambers, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North at 10.01am on Wednesday 10 December 2008.

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

IN ATTENDANCE Crs Bailey, Chettleburgh, Main, White, Plowman (from 10.05pm), and Burnell (from 10.45am)
Chief Executive Mr M McCartney (from 10.05am to 11.25am)
Group Manager Operations Mr A D Cook (until 1.30pm)
Committee Secretaries Ms K Booth / Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management),
Mr P Joseph (Assets Engineer from 11.05am to 11.50am).

APOLOGIES

RD 08-54 *Moved* **Meads/Murfitt**

Apologies were received from Crs Gordon and Walker.

CARRIED

An apology for lateness was noted from Cr Burnell.

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

No requests had been received.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Guy advised a conflict of interest in regard to proposed stopbank alignment work which was proposed on his property (Refer Report No. 08-228, paragraph 79).

Cr Plowman and the Chief Executive joined the meeting at 10.05am.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Cr Main referred to page 3 of the minutes (Sustainable Land Use Initiative, last paragraph) and asked for further clarity in the 15 October minutes about the amendment she had requested. The minutes were therefore to be amended as follows:

“Cr Main did not believe the wording of the second sentence in paragraph 9 of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative Report No. 08-176 reflected the reality and suggested alternative wording. Paragraph 9 was amended to read: “A *SLUI Advisory Group meeting was held on 23 September. The group reaffirmed its wish to continue and to be seen as an advisory group providing advice to Council.*”

RD 08-55

Moved

Meads/Murfitt

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 15 October 2008, with the inclusion of a fuller explanation to page 3, Sustainable Land Use Initiative item, last paragraph, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No. 08-228

The purpose of this item was to report on progress with river and drainage activities for the two month period 1 October to 30 November 2008.

§ The Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced his report and elaborated on items of interest, and answered Members' questions of clarification on the reasons for 'unavoidable delays' referred to in paragraph 6; the ongoing execution of agreements in regard to the Taonui Basin – mitigation works; gravel stockpiles and arrangements for dealing with placement of them; the consent process and why consents are required for river management and maintenance; and reported that another four applications, in addition to those listed in the report, had been received for Environmental Grants Works for the current year.

The GMO further clarified:

- § The impact on staff and financial resources of significant errors in surveying and hydraulic modelling work undertaken by Opus Consultants.
- § Wording of paragraph 28 should read “Subject to confirmation of majority support **from ratepayers** for the modified proposal...”.
- § Progress of the Lower Manawatu Scheme Flood Protection upgrade and rating proposals and likely timing for presentation to Council.
- § Channel survey information and what it was used for.
- § Planting and maintenance of willow poles.
- § The process and timing for submitting an application to the New Zealand Transport Agency to secure funding for the Kopane Bridge replacement.
- § The opposition from a property owner over legal agreements related to the detention dam located on his property in the Tutaenui Flood Control Scheme.

RD 08-56

Moved

Guy/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and acknowledges the information contained in Report No. 08-228;
- b. **acknowledges** that a Schedule of Works Completed is available for inspection.

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT PLANS

Report No. 08-229

The purpose of this item was to present for consideration and adoption a series of 27 Asset Management Plans (Plans) relating to river and drainage Scheme infrastructural assets.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced Mr Joseph, Assets Engineer to Members. In answer to a Members query, Mr Joseph demonstrated by way of a graph how a flood loss curve estimated damage that could be expected as a result of different flood magnitudes.

Members asked questions of clarification.

In regard to whether trees could be insured, the GMO advised that in the Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) the trees were planted as part of the flood protection asset, as opposed to the protection of land, and could be insured. The choice was made not to insure the trees in the LMS as the premiums were very steep. Where trees were for the protection of land only, they could not be insured.

The GMO noted that it was vital to have Asset Management Plans and emphasised the importance of explaining the reasons for that to Liaison Committee Members.

RD 08-57

Moved

Rieger/Murfitt

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-229;
- b. **adopts** the Asset Management Plans (effective 1 July 2008) for 27 river and drainage Schemes, tabled at the Committee meeting;
- c. **approves** the inclusion of the Plans, including 10-year financial forecasts, in the Draft 2009-19 LTCCP;
- d. **acknowledges** that copies of the Plans will be available to Councillors and other interested persons on request; and
- e. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to distribute copies of the Plans to Scheme Liaison Committee Members.

CARRIED

RANGITIKEI RIVER SCHEME REVIEW NO. 4 CHANNEL MANAGEMENT SCOPING REPORT

Report No. 08-226

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of the commencement of a review into the channel management of the Rangitikei River Scheme.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and outlined that as a result of the recent flood damage of 30 July 2008, there was a need for a review before further expenditure was committed.

There were concerns expressed that certain Schemes were becoming unaffordable. The GMO advised that it was up to the Community to decide whether or not it was affordable, once they had been presented with all relevant information and costs.

Members asked questions of clarification.

The GMO advised that preparatory work would continue under the present budget and current staff resources, however the more substantive work would not be undertaken until budgets were approved in the new financial year.

RD 08-58

Moved

Guy/Meads

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-226 and Annex; and
- b. **instructs** the Group Manager Operations to proceed with the review as quickly as staff and financial resources will allow.

CARRIED

*The meeting adjourned at 12.05pm.
The meeting reconvened at 12.45pm.*

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

Report No. 08-227

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.

The GMO agreed to in future include in the table significant issues that were raised throughout the year, outside of the Annual Scheme ratepayer meetings.

RD 08-59

Moved

Meads/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** and the information contained in Report No. 08-227 and Annex A.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Report No. 08-223

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

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management introduced the report and commented on the figures included in the table at Annex A. Members agreed that the financial summary should be included as a bi-monthly report and offered various suggested improvements for future reports.

RD 08-60

Moved

Murfitt/Rieger

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information in Report No. 08-223.

CARRIED

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE INITIATIVE (SLUI)

Report No. 08-224

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

Mr Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management spoke to the report and advised that to date, 27 individual implementation projects, spread over 18 whole farm plans, had been completed. He spoke of the 19 afforestation projects that have been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's recently launched Afforestation Grant Scheme, and outlined how the funds would be allocated and administered.

~~Members~~ **Members** asked questions of clarification and there was some discussion around the ownership of the carbon credits.

In regard to the discussions held with Landcorp on the possibility of all their farms having a SLUI farm plan, it was noted that they willing to fully pay for any farm plans outside of the SLUI area.

Members discussed the SLUI Overview map and offered suggestions for improvement.

RD 08-61

Moved

Rieger/Guy

that the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in Report No. 08-224.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no Members' questions.

The meeting closed at 1.38pm.

Confirmed

GROUP MANAGER OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN