



Minutes of the Eighteenth meeting of the seventh triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.04am on Wednesday, 25 March 2009, in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

**PRESENT** Crs G P Murfitt (Chair), L Bailey, L R Burnell, V J F Chettleburgh QSM ED), E B Gordon (from 10.58am), M C Guy, A K Main, D B Meads, M W Plowman (from 10.08am), R G Walker JP, and J White.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive	Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance	Mr C Grant (to 11.30am)
Committee Secretary	Mrs J Kennedy

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory to 2.55pm), Mr A Cook (Group Manager Operations, to 11.40am and from 12.01pm to 2.21pm), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management to 2.58pm), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information, to 12.22am and from 1.43pm to 2.21pm), Ms L Collins (Media Liaison Advisor to 11.11am and from 11.30am to 3.01pm), Ms K Booth (Governance Coordinator, to 11.30pm), Mrs C Atkinson (Manager Communications, from 10.40am to 11.54am, from 1.15pm to 2.55pm), Ms L Cowan (Communications and Promotions Advisor, from 1.24pm to 2.54pm), Mr E Duggan (Strategic Financial Planner, from 1.15pm to 2.55pm), Ms M Ram (Chief Financial Officer, from 11.37am to 11.51pm and from 1.47pm to 2.21pm), Mr K Kelly (Financial Accountant to 11.30am), Mr L Desborough (Audit New Zealand, from 1.30pm to 2.21pm).

#### **APOLOGIES**

**An apology was accepted from Cr Rieger (Leave of Absence).**

Cr Gordon's apology for lateness was noted.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

No requests for public speaking rights had been notified.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no Late Items advised.

#### **MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no Conflicts of Interest.

The Chairman requested permission from Members to bring forward Item 11, Report No. 09-41, and Item 12, Report No. 09-42, as the first two items. There was no objection.

09-350

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Guy**

*that Item 11, Revised Members' Remuneration 2008-09, Report No. 09-41, and Item 12, Report No. 09-42, Councillors' Remuneration 2009-2010, be brought forward as the first two items.*

**CARRIED**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cr White noted under Makerua Drainage Scheme, Report No. 09-31, *Speirs Kingston-Drainage* should read *Speirs-Kingston Drainage*, under Members' Reports, Cr White, third line down *...commenced with biosecurity and coast...* should read *...commenced with biodiversity and coast...*, fourth line *...both land and biodiversity...* should read *...both Land and Biodiversity...*, under Members' Reports, Cr Burnell, third line down *workshops* should read *workshops*, under resolution 09-341 (d) add *...in the 10 year forecast of the Long-term Council Community Plan*, under Regional Archives Facility, Report No. 09-24, add *...in support of the facility ...* should read *...in support of the facility, albeit with some concerns...*, under Members' Questions, second paragraph, last line *...and any works required would...* should read *...and any change to the arrangement would...*

09-351

**Moved**

**Murfitt/White**

*that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2009, as circulated, with the following changes –*

- *under Makerua Drainage Scheme, Report No. 09-31, Speirs Kingston-Drainage should read Speirs-Kingston Drainage.*
- *under Members' Reports, Cr White, third line down ...commenced with biosecurity and coast... should read ...commenced with biodiversity and coast..., fourth line ...both land and biodiversity... should read ...both Land and Biodiversity...*
- *under Members' Reports, Cr Burnell, third line down workshops should read workshops.*
- *under resolution 09-341 (d) add ...in the 10 year forecast of the Long-term Council Community Plan.*
- *under Regional Archives Facility, Report No. 09-24, add ...in support of the facility ... should read ...in support of the facility, albeit with some concerns...*
- *under Members' Questions, second paragraph, last line ...and any works required would... should read ...and any change to the arrangement would..., be **confirmed** as a correct record.*

**CARRIED**

## **REVISED MEMBERS' REMUNERATION 2008-09**

*Report No. 09-41*

This report was intended to update Members on the revised levels of remuneration for 2008-09 following the Remuneration Authority's (RA) response to Council's request to increase the remuneration pool in support of Horizon's One Plan.

Mr Grant, Group Manager Corporate & Governance (GMCG) advised that the RA did not accept Horizons' proposal to increase the remuneration pool for 2008-09, but instead established a sum of \$30,000 to be used towards One Plan payments. All outstanding meeting fee payments, including One Plan hearing and deliberation fees, could now be paid out. The GMCG noted that the \$30,000 was already included in the One Plan budget. Further discussions would be held with the RA on carry forward of the unspent balance of the \$30,000, at a later date. The One Plan team had advised to the GMCG that the projected carry forward was now anticipated to be \$2,500.

As the RA had declined to endorse payments for Councillors preparation and reading time for the One Plan, it was expected that any such payments made to Councillors would need to be recovered back to Horizons. Members fully discussed the overpayments and how best to identify the amount of preparation time that had already been paid out to Councillors.

Members noted that a large amount of their time was spent on preparation and reading, before and after formal meeting days. After further discussion Members agreed that formal preparation meeting days for One Plan commissioners would be eligible for inclusion as a payment day from the \$30,000 pool. Cr Meads noted he considered that to be a reasonable interpretation of the RA ruling. The GMCG noted that all payments would cease once the \$30,000 pool had been spent.

The Chief Executive commented that it was important to undertake a review into the sequence of events relating to the issue of the One Plan remuneration, and the outcome of the review would be reported back to Councillors.

The Chairman suggested that each recommendation be taken separately.

**09-352**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- a.        **recognises** that all meeting fee payments to Councillors were placed on hold pending a revised determination from the Remuneration Authority.

**CARRIED**

**09-353**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- b.        **notes** that the Remuneration Authority decided not to accept Council's proposal to increase the remuneration pool for 2008-09, but instead established a sum of \$30,000 for Councillors involved in One Plan Hearings.

**CARRIED**

Cr Meads put forward an amendment to resolution (c) to reflect Members discussion that time spent on formal preparation meeting days be included as a payment day from the \$30,000 pool.

**09-354**                      **Moved**    **Meads/Guy**

*that the Council*

- c.        **notes** that the \$30,000 is to be paid at a rate of \$150 per day, for time spent on hearings, deliberation, and formal preparation meetings, and not for reading or other preparation.

**CARRIED**

**09-355**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- d.        **directs** the Chief Executive to work with Councillors in order to address the overpayment issues raised by the Remuneration Authority.

**CARRIED**

**09-356**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- e.        **directs** the Chief Executive to make outstanding meeting fee payments (including One Plan hearing and deliberation fees) to Members.

**CARRIED**

**09-357**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- f.        **directs** the Chief Executive to resume meeting fee payments (including One Plan hearing and deliberation fees) to Members in accordance with Council's amended Remuneration Authority determination.

**CARRIED**

**09-358**                      **Moved**    **White/Burnell**

*that the Council*

- g.        **endorses** the Chief Executive's suggestion to undertake a review.

**CARRIED**

## **COUNCILLORS' REMUNERATION 2009-2010**

*Report No. 09-42*

This item recommended for Council adoption, levels of remuneration for Councillors for 2009-2010.

Mr Grant, Group Manager Corporate & Governance (GMCG) drew Members attention to the disparity between the Councillors' salary pool identified in the draft 2009-19 Community Plan, and the amount approved by the Remuneration Authority (RA). The difference of \$5,355 would be corrected by way of a staff submission to the Community Plan. Because the RA had declined the submission made by Council to increase the indicative pool in support of One Plan activities, Members were now required to make a decision on how to accommodate the additional expense of the One Plan hearings and deliberations. An additional set of documents showing the weightings from previous years was tabled, at the request of Cr Guy.

Cr Main noted that the Deputy Chair of the Environment and Catchment Operations Committees had, in the past, a weighting of 1.1 as opposed to the current 1.0 weighting. Because of the work-load involved in those roles, she suggested a return to the weighting of 1.1 to come into effect from 1 July 2009. Cr Meads noted his support to Cr Main's suggestion. A new recommendation (e) in support of Cr Main's comments was put to Councillors for their comments and discussion. Several Councillors noted that any review of the weightings should include all positions and not just the deputy chairs of the Environment Committee and Catchment Operations Committee. The Chairman noted the Council was required to provide a decision to the RA on the levels of remuneration by the end of the week. All positions could be included as part of a review next year, and in particular highlighted the position of Chair, Regional Transport Committee, where responsibilities had substantially increased since the beginning of the current triennium. An amended Annex A to Item 12, Report No. 09-42 showing the impact on the remuneration by position, including the suggested new weightings for the deputy chair of the Environment Committee and Catchment Operations Committee was tabled for Councillors consideration and discussion.

Cr Meads commented that the Chief Executive and Chairman should continue to discuss further options for One Plan remuneration with the RA, and suggested resolution (f) be included for Councillors consideration.

Cr Chettleburgh suggested a further recommendation to ensure that the deputy chairs of the Environment Committee and Catchment Operations Committee did not receive a meeting fee for chairing meetings if a weighting of 1.1 was given to those positions.

Councillors fully discussed the levels of remuneration for Councillors and asked questions of clarification.

Each recommendation was taken separately.

**09-359**                      **Moved**    **Chettleburgh/Main**

*that the Council*

- c.            **adopts** 11b of the alternative payment methods referred to in paragraph 11 of Report No. 09-42, as follows:

*“that Council agrees to reduce the salary pool to offset the increase in the meeting allowance pool. The meeting allowance pool will pay for Council’s meetings and One Plan hearings and deliberations.”*

**Against: Cr Plowman**

**Abstained: Cr Walker**

**CARRIED**

A correction to councillors names was noted in Annex A to Item 12, Report No. 09-42; L. Pearce be changed to *L. Bailey*, and P. Reiger be changed to *P. Rieger*.

**09-360**                      **Moved**    **Chettleburgh/Main**

*that the Council*

- d.            **directs** the Chief Executive to forward Council’s resolution(s) to the Remuneration Authority immediately following this meeting.

**Against: Cr Plowman**

**CARRIED**

**09-361**                      **Moved**    **Chettleburgh/Murfitt**

*that the deputy chairs of Environment Committee and Catchment Operations Committee will not receive meeting fees for chairing meetings if they receive 1.1 weighting.*

**CARRIED**

Cr Bailey commented that although she supported resolution (e), she noted she was uncomfortable that consideration to the weighting for the position of Chair, Regional Transport Committee would not be given until the next remuneration review.

**09-362**                      **Moved**    **Main/Gordon**

*that the Council*

- e.        **resolves** to change the weightings of the deputy chair of Environment and Catchment Operations Committees from 1.0 to 1.1 to come into effect on 1 July 2009.

**Against: Crs Plowman, Walker**  
**CARRIED**

**09-363**                      **Moved**    **Meads/Bailey**

*that the Chief Executive and Chairman*

- f.        **continues** to pursue further options with the Remuneration Authority regarding One Plan remuneration.

**CARRIED**

In regard to the weighting for the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee, Cr Main suggested that an item outlining the increased work-load would be beneficial to assessing the correct weighting for that position.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's report was distributed to Members and he answered questions of clarification. Along with the Chief Executive, he outlined the nature of their meeting held with the Board of the Palmerston North Airport. He also answered questions in regard to his meeting with forestry interest, and matters relating to the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, a meeting with the Mayor and Executive of Palmerston North City Council relating to the proposed second bridge, a meeting with the Mayor and Chief Executive of Horowhenua District Council (HDC) to discuss various issues, including a Memorandum of Understanding between HDC and Horizons, a meeting with Mr Basil Chamberlain regarding National Pest Management, and a meeting with Minister Simon Powers **Power** to discuss various issues, including concerns raised from Ohakune South in regard to the Sustainable Land Use Initiative and the One Plan.

**09-364**                      **Moved**    **Murfitt/White**

*that the Chairman's report be received.*

**CARRIED**

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive (CE) spoke to his report which had been emailed to Members and a copy provided at the meeting. He referred to the Community Plan which was to be presented to Council that day for public consultation with the community, and acknowledged the efforts of staff involved in the preparation of the Plan. He commented on the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by the Chief Executives of all territorial authorities in regard to working together on issues relating to the One Plan, and noted the support and efforts of the Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council. He answered questions of clarification and elaborated on matters regarding Catchment Operations, noting the efforts of Craig Mitchell in securing approximately \$659k of Afforestation Grants, highlighted the official opening of the Makino Spillway, commented on an appeal to the first stage of the Wanganui **Lower Whanganui** Flood Scheme lodged by the Wanganui District Council, updated Members on the progress and contents of a Memorandum of Understanding with Chief Executives of both Tararua District Council and Horowhenua District Council, noted the successful and popular Central Districts Field Days, and expressed his

appreciation to the staff involved, and spoke of the positive feedback from staff at Environment Waikato following the successful Council tour held on 23-24 March.

Cr Chettleburgh commented on the tremendous effort from Tracey Nielson, Executive Assistant, for her preparation and organisation of the Environment Waikato Tour.

**09-365                      Moved    Chettleburgh/Murfitt**

*that the Council*

*notes the tremendous effort from Tracey Nielson, Executive Assistant, for preparation and organisation of the Environment Waikato Tour held on 23-24 March 2009.*

**CARRIED**

The Chairman further commented on the Central Districts Field Days and commended staff for their tremendous efforts which contributed to a successful event.

The CE continued with his report and elaborated on the subcommittee established by the Regional Affairs Committee to look into the thinking around EPA, confirmed that Horizons would be presenting evidence at the Waitangi Tribunal related to the Whanganui Land Claim, and updated Councillors on a number of shared service initiatives.

**09-366                      Moved    Murfitt/Guy**

*that the Chief Executive's report be received.*

**CARRIED**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.22pm.  
The meeting reconvened at 1.15pm.*

## **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

**Cr Bailey** attended the CentrePort briefing, followed by the Audit, Risk & Investment briefing held on 26 February, the Manawatu Estuary Trust monthly meeting on 3 March, Extraordinary Council meeting on 10 March, the Makerua Drainage Scheme Liaison Committee meeting on 17 March, the Ohau-Manakau Scheme Liaison Committee meeting on 20 March, gave her regular report to the Foxton Community Board on 23 March, the Manawatu Drainage Scheme Liaison Committee meeting on 24 March, a meeting in regard to the RMA submission, and Council meeting on 25 March.

**Cr Burnell** attended the CentrePort briefing, and noted his disappointment at not being able to attend the Environment Waikato Tour.

**Cr Chettleburgh** represented the Council as a Trustee for Heritage Park at Kimbolton, attended the Environment Waikato Tour, Green Drinks on 17 March, spent two and half weeks on the Waitahora Wind Farm Resource Consent Hearing, met with the Mayor of Palmerston North City Council in regard to the proposed passenger terminal, participated in Relay for Life, and attended the Zone 3 meeting held in Napier.

**Cr Gordon** chaired the Regional Transport Meeting on 9 March, attended the usual Council / Committee and workshops, commented on the well organised Environment Waikato Tour, and noted he would be attending a meeting on 31 March with the Ministry of Transport in Wellington.

**Cr Guy** attended the CentrePort function on 25 February, followed by the CentrePort briefing on 26 February, the Audit, Risk & Investment briefing on 26 February, the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting on 9 March, a workshop on 10 March followed by a tour of some Lower Manawatu Scheme upgrade works, the Catchment Operations Committee meeting on 11 March followed by a further stopbank visit, the Lower Manawatu Scheme Liaison meeting on 12 March, One Plan Land Chapter deliberations on 17 March, a meeting relating to Lower Manawatu Scheme rating issues, the opening of the Makino Diversion, and attended the excellent Environment Waikato Tour and noted his congratulations to the Hydrology team for their input.

**Cr Main** attended the Environment Waikato Tour and extended her congratulations to staff for their input to a successful tour, has been involved in Land, Biodiversity, and Coast One Plan deliberations, attended the Zone 3 meeting in Napier, and the usual Council / Committee meetings and workshops.

**Cr Meads** attended the CentrePort and Audit, Risk & Investment briefing on 26 February, the usual Council / Committee meetings and workshops, five Liaison Committee Meetings, One Plan Land Chapter deliberations on 17 March, the Makino opening on 21 March and noted his thanks to Mr A Cook, Group Manager Operations, and all the staff involved, and attended the Environment Waikato Tour.

**Cr Plowman** attended the usual Council / Committee meetings, and the Biodiversity and Heritage One Plan deliberations on 18 March.

**Cr Walker** attended the usual Council / Committee meetings and workshops, visited a property on Blueskin Road to check out a dam, had discussions with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Wanganui in regard to Upokongaro Pontoon, and commented on a phone call from a ratepayer in regard to Horizons Regional Council entertainment expenses.

**Cr White** attended the usual Council / Committee meetings, the CentrePort briefing, the Audit, Risk & Investment briefing, joined the Catchment Operations visit on 10 March to the Manawatu River sites, the Land and Biodiversity One Plan deliberations, attended a meeting in regard to the RMA submission on 24 March, and commented on a visit to Taranaki where she viewed various renewable energy systems, and looked at organic and composting activities.

Cr Meads reminded Members of the Dairy Liaison Forum to be held on 26 March 2009 in the Tararua Room, Regional House, commencing at 10.30am.

## **DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-19 ADOPTION FOR CONSULTATION**

*Report No. 09-43*

This report provided the background for the adoption of the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019 for public consultation.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Laurie Desborough from Audit New Zealand to the meeting.

Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regulatory Planning and Regulatory (GMRPR), advised that the typographical and additional information suggestions from Council at the Council meeting held on 24 February, had been incorporated into the document.

Members discussed the additional information which was requested by Audit New Zealand in order to give a more detailed description of the Community Outcomes.

Cr Meads suggested that the first two bullet points under Flood Protection be reversed in order that *Economic Goal* would come before *Environmental Goal*.

Members asked questions of clarification in regard to rating levels for the Lower Whanganui Scheme, the Statement of Accounting Policies to 30 June 2019, the Summary Funding Impact Statement to 30 June 2019, monitoring of older stopbanks, and iwi Maori Engagement Policy. Under Consultation Policy, third paragraph, it was pointed out that the last sentence, *A specific*

*policy is under development to support these relationships, should be deleted. Further questions of clarification were asked on adjustment to the River and Drainage Capex from Year 2 Onwards to allow for inflation, the Liability Management Policy, and the impact of interest rate charges prompted by the global financial crisis.*

Mr Desborough addressed the meeting and tendered an apology on behalf of Mr David Walker for his absence. He advised that Audit New Zealand had considered the legislative requirements of the Act itself in regards to the Statement of Proposal for the Long-term Council Community Plan, the quality of the information and assumptions underlying the forecast information, and the performance management framework, and was now pleased to advise that Council would be issued with an unqualified audit opinion. There were no issues with that unqualified opinion to be drawn to Councillors attention.

The Chairman thanked Mr Desborough for attending the meeting, and also expressed special thanks to Mr Duggan and other staff involved in preparing the Draft Community Plan.

**09-367**                      **Moved**    **Murfitt/Meads**

*that the Council:*

- a.     **adopts** the Draft Community Plan 2009-19, as amended in response to Audit New Zealand's comments, for public consultation with the community.

**CARRIED**

## **ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**09-368**                      **Moved**    **Gordon/Chettleburgh**

*that the Council **endorses** and **adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Regional Transport Committee meeting, held on 9 March 2009.*

**CARRIED**

### **CATCHMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Congratulations were extended to Mr Craig Mitchell, Group Manager Environmental Management and his team, on securing approximately \$650,000 of Afforestation Grants as a result of the initial round of grant applications.

**09-369**                      **Moved**    **Meads/Guy**

*that the Council **endorses** and **adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting, held on 11 March 2009.*

**CARRIED**



09-373

**Moved**

**Chettleburgh/Meads**

that the Council **acknowledges** the affixing of the Common Seal to the following documents:

- *Floodplain Hazard Assessment  
Hydraulic Modelling and Mapping of Whangaehu & Turakina Rivers  
Contract HRC & Hydro Tasmania Consulting  
(duplicate – originals lost in post to Australia)*
- *Warrant Card – Ross Brannigan*

**CARRIED**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Cr Chettleburgh commented on the Habitat Grants to various authorities throughout the country as outlined in the Fish and Game magazine. Members commented that they were unsure of the policy required to apply for a grant.

Cr Chettleburgh asked if a representative from Council would be present at the Ruapehu Federated Farmers annual meeting on 18 April 2009. Cr Plowman advised he would attend if invited, and provide a brief report to Council.

Cr Chettleburgh tabled a remit from Palmerston North City Council calling on Local Government New Zealand to request Central Government to develop a National Policy Statement with regard to the siting of wind farms. The Chief Executive advised it was more a local issue and cautioned against pursuing it from a regional representative point of view.

In regard to the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Conference to be held in Christchurch in July, Crs Meads, Main and Gordon expressed an interest in attending. Members had a brief discussion on whether to revisit the policy on councillor attendance at LGNZ.

09-374

**Moved**

**Murfitt/Gordon**

*that the public is to be excluded from this portion of the Council meeting as the general subject matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for passing of this resolution is as follows:*

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution	Grounds under section 48 (1) for passing this resolution
PX1 Confirmation of Minutes of 24 February 2009	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the greater need to enable Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.
PX2 Confirmation of Extraordinary Minutes of 10 March 2009	As disclosure would not be in the public interest because of the need to protect the privacy of natural persons.	That the exclusion of the public from that part of the meeting is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information for which good reasons for withholding exist.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 3.22pm and resumed at 3.38pm.

The meeting closed at 3.39pm.

Confirmed.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN