



Minutes of the Twentieth meeting of the seventh triennium of Horizons Regional Council held at 10.05am on Tuesday, 26 May 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, A K Main, D B Meads, P W Rieger QSO, R G Walker JP, and J White.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Group Manager Corporate and Governance Mr C Grant
Committee Secretary Mrs J Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT Mr G Carlyon (Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory to 11.40am and from 11.58am), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Regional Services and Information from 10.12am to 11.40am and from 11.58am to 2.43pm), Mr A D Cook (Group Manager Operations from 10.12am to 11.32am and from 12.17pm to 2.00pm), Mr C Mitchell (Group Manager Environmental Management to 11.32am), Dr J Roygard (Manager Science from 10.17am to 10.49am and from 1.15pm to 3.00pm), Ms F Maseyk (Senior Environmental Scientist from 10.17am to 10.49am), Ms A Russell (Manager Compliance from 2.20pm), Mr G Doull (Senior Design Engineer from 1.55pm to 2.12pm), Mr B Duffy (Mayor Horowhenua District Council) and Mr D Ward (Chief Executive Horowhenua District Council) from 12.05pm to 12.30pm, Mr and Mrs G Paton (from 1.05pm to 2.12pm).

APOLOGIES

09-386 *Moved* *Murfitt/Walker*

that an apology be received from Crs Plowman and Guy (Leave of Absence).

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Chairman advised that Mr and Mrs Paton would be speaking in regard to Item 13, Report No. 09-80, Manawatu River – Foxton Loop.

LATE ITEMS

There were no Late Items advised.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no Conflicts of Interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

09-387 **Moved** **Murfitt/Burnell**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED

PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS

There were no Petitions / Deputations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report and highlighted that Horizons Regional Council had received a major Green Ribbon National Award for the WaterMatters Website, and extended congratulations from Council to Dr Roygard (Manager Science), Mr C Veale (Project Coordinator-Catchment Information), and staff involved in the project.

09-388 **Moved** **Murfitt/Main**

*that the Council **congratulates** Dr Roygard, Mr Veale, and the team for their success in being awarded a Green Ribbon National Award for the WaterMatters Website.*

CARRIED

Members discussed the acquisition of a painting of the Rangitikei River mouth at Tangimoana, by Hilary Robson. Donations from Councillors and Executive went to purchasing the painting.

09-389 **Moved** **Murfitt/Bailey**

that the Chairman's report be received.

CARRIED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive (CE) spoke to his report and referred to a positive and constructive meeting held with One Plan hearing panel members, noted the positive response received in regard to the Territorial Authority Forum held on 14-15 May 2009, and gave an update on Catchment Operations activities. Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations, answered members questions of clarification around consent issues in regard to the City Reach Project and the Kopane Bridge Project. The CE advised discussions were continuing with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in regard to future funding for the Sustainable Land Use Initiative, reported that the Audit, Risk & Investment Committee would be looking at the first draft valuation assessment of the Port of Napier Shareholding at their next financial briefing, commented on regulatory business, and gave an update on progress in regard to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Resource Management Act Amendment Bill.

Mr Grant, Group Manager Corporate and Governance gave an update on progress with Shared Services, and answered Members questions of clarification.

The CE advised he had received a resignation from Ms Meryl Ram, Chief Financial Officer. He acknowledged her efforts over the the last three years, and wished her well for the future.

09-390

Moved

Murfitt/Rieger

that the Chief Executive's report be received.

CARRIED

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cr Bailey attended the Ohau/Manakau, and Makerua Annual Scheme Meetings, an Audit, Risk & Investment Financial Briefing, One Plan Coast and Te Ao Maori deliberations, the Councillor workshop on 4 May, the Manawatu Estuary Trust monthly meeting, Catchment Operations Committee meeting, Territorial Authorities' Forum on 14/15 May, spoke to the Waitarere Beach Progressive Association Annual General Meeting, attended the Foxton Community Board meeting, the Passenger Transport Sub-Committee meeting, the Dairy Industry Forum on 21 May, day one of the Community Plan Submissions Hearing on 25 May, and Council meeting on 26 May.

Cr Burnell attended the usual meetings, the Territorial Authorities' Forum on 14/15 May, and One Plan Te Ao Maori deliberations.

Cr Chettleburgh attended the Territorial Authorities' Forum on 14/15 May, the International Pacific College commencement ceremony, the Massey Graduation function in the Square, a meeting in regard to the Palmerston North Airport, the Palmerston North City Council submissions, the usual Council/Committee meetings, commented on a Rotary Club charity event, a 'Reach for the Stars' talent show, and a Monet Exhibition held in Wellington.

Cr Gordon attended the usual Council/Committee meetings, the Territorial Authorities' Forum, chaired the Regional Transport Committee submissions hearing on the Draft Regional Land Transport Programme, and advised he would be attending a transport summit in Auckland on 3/4 June.

Cr Main attended One Plan deliberations, a Bushy Park Trust meeting, spoke to several groups in regard to the Long-term Council Community Plan, and attended the Territorial Authorities' Forum on 14/15 May, and the usual Council/Committee meetings.

Cr Meads attended the Ohau/Manakau, and Makerua Annual Scheme Meetings, the Manawatu Drainage Liaison Committee meeting in conjunction with the Taonui Basin landowners, a Councillor workshop on 5 May, chaired the Catchment Operations Committee meeting on 13 May, attended the Territorial Authorities' Forum on 14/15 May, and chaired the Dairy Industry Forum held on 21 May.

Cr Rieger attended the usual Council/Committee meetings.

Cr Walker advised of two meetings held with constituents in Wanganui, and attended the usual Council/Committee meetings.

Cr White advised she had spent a considerable amount of time on One Plan deliberations, attended the Massey Graduation **business function** ceremony, advised of a comment made by a member of the public in regard to the difficulty of reading 'Across the Region' publication, when colour wording was printed on colour background. She attended part of the Territorial Authorities' Forum, outlined the timetable for upcoming One Plan Hearings, and requested Leave of Absence from 14 August to 14 September 2009.

09-391 Moved Rieger/Chettleburgh

that Cr White be granted Leave of Absence from 14 August to 14 September 2009.

CARRIED

09-392 Moved Murfitt/Bailey

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
PX2 Port of Napier – Half Yearly Shareholder Presentation	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.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 11.30am and resumed at 12.05pm.

ENDORSEMENT AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

09-393 Moved Meads/Waker

*that the Council **endorses** and **adopts** the resolutions and recommendations of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting, held on 13 May 2009.*

CARRIED

There was discussion and questions of clarification asked in regard to an application to the Manawatu District Council from MC2 Group Limited for a plan change for Flyers Line, and any associated resource consent applications.

09-394 Moved Chettleburgh/White

*that the Council **receives** regular updates on information in regard to MC2 Group Limited, in regard to an application to the Manawatu District Council for a plan change for Flyers Line, and any associated resource consent applications.*

CARRIED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR REGULATORY BUSINESS WITH DISTRICT COUNCILS

Report No. 09-76

This report was to advise Councillors of an initiative in relation to regulatory business between District Councils and Horizons Regional Council.

The Chairman welcomed Mayor B Duffy, Horowhenua District Council and Mr D Ward, Chief Executive, Horowhenua District Council (HDC) to the meeting.

Mr McCartney, Chief Executive Horizons Regional Council (HRC) commented on the significance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and applauded the Mayor and Chief Executive of HDC for their participation and approach in working together with HRC to provide a more stable working relationship between HDC and HRC.

Mayor Duffy, HDC commented on the tremendous value in working harmoniously together with HRC, and was confident that an improved working relationship could be achieved. He referred to the Territorial Authorities' Forum held in July 2008 and May 2009, and noted that HDC held the Forum in very high regard. He acknowledged the efforts of Mr Carlyon, Group Manager Regional Planning and Regulatory for his part in assisting with the MOU.

Councillors acknowledged the importance of the MOU and congratulated those involved for their efforts. Several punctuation errors were identified as requiring attention.

The MOU between HRC and HDC was signed at the meeting by Mr Brendan Duffy, Mayor, HDC, Mr David Ward, Chief Executive, HDC, Mr Garrick Murfitt, Chairman, HRC, and Mr Michael McCartney, Chief Executive, HRC.

09-395

Moved

Bailey/Burnell

that the Council:

- a. ***receives*** the report in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding for Tararua District Council and Horowhenua District Council; and
- b. ***endorses*** the approach taken to cooperatively engage in the statutory obligations Horizons Regional Council and the District Councils have.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm

The meeting reconvened at 1.05pm

MANAWATU RIVER – FOXTON LOOP

Report No. 09-80

The purpose of this item was to provide Council with an indication of the scope of investigation and design work involved in assessing options for increasing permanent river flow around the Foxton Loop.

Mr Cook, Group Manager Operations (GMO) introduced the report and referred to an aerial map to outline available options. The Save Our River Trust (SORT) had made an approach to Council at the April Strategy & Policy meeting and asked for assistance with the project. Their objective was to increase the permanent river flow into the old loop, in order that it could be navigated by small craft.

The GMO elaborated on the options and cost estimates available to permanently increase river flows around the Foxton Loop, without compromising the operation of the floodway, and features of the Lower Manawatu Scheme which were all very important to the protection of large rural areas upstream, and for the protection of the beach community. The impact of the possibility of lower quality river water being introduced to the Loop, as a result of any work undertaken, was an issue that would need to be addressed. The issue of resource consents would also need to be addressed. Horizons Regional Council was opposed to anything that would compromise the functionality of the Lower Manawatu Scheme.

The Chairman welcomed Mr and Mrs Paton to the meeting. He advised they had ten minutes to speak in regard to Item 13, Report No. 09-80, Manawatu River – Foxton Loop.

Mr and Mrs Paton – Manawatu River - Foxton Loop

Mrs Paton spoke in regard to the item and supplied Members with a copy of her speaking rights. She was opposed to any involvement from Council in regard to plans for the development of recreational and tourist attractions at Foxton, and plans for restoring the River Loop, as presented by the Save Our River Trust at the April 2009 Strategy & Policy meeting. Mrs Paton believed that opening up the Loop would exacerbate any future flood event in the area. She was opposed to further costs being imposed on ratepayers and believed any costs associated with the proposal should be covered by SORT.

Mr Paton was not convinced that the problem of sedimentation in the Loop could be addressed, and questioned how the proposed project would be funded. He did not believe it was realistic to expect ratepayers to fund the project.

Members asked questions of clarification around the history, water quality, and impacts of the Whirikino Cut on the Foxton Loop. There was comment made around gauging the level of support from the Horowhenua District Council (HDC) and community for the project. Cr Bailey noted that historically there had been support from HDC for beautification of the land around the Loop, and commented on a multi-purpose facility that was currently being investigated by HDC.

It was noted that a written submission from SORT had been made to the Draft Community Plan 2009 2019 Submissions Hearing scheduled for 25, 27, and 28 May, and the submission would be considered at the Draft Community Plan Deliberations. It was therefore recommended that the matter be given further consideration at the conclusion of the Draft Community Plan Submissions Hearing and Deliberations.

Recommendations (e) and (f) were proposed to reflect the discussion.

09-396 **Moved** **Chettleburgh/Walker**

that the Council:

- a. **receives** the information contained in this report;
- b. **notes** that present commitments preclude the involvement of Horizons Regional Council Design staff in any substantial investigation of flow diversion into the Foxton Loop, for at least the next two years;
- c. **notes** that in the event that an investigation was undertaken by external consultants, Horizons' staff would need to be key participants in a Project Control Group, but would have difficulty fulfilling that role for the next 12 months;
- d. **notes** that the minor diversion option is much less likely to be problematic than a major diversion in terms of design and operational support;

- e. **notes** that a submission has been made to the Draft Community Plan 2009-2019 process, and the matter will be considered further at the appropriate time; and
- f. **advises** Save Our River Trust of the above recommendations.

CARRIED

WATER SCIENCE PROGRAMME

Report No. 09-59

This report was to inform Councillors about the current programme relating to water science work being undertaken by or on behalf of Horizons Regional Council.

Dr Roygard, Manager Science introduced the presentation.

The Chairman and Members commended Dr Roygard on his impressive presentation, and asked questions of clarification.

The Chairman requested that additional information on the Water Science Programme be provided to Council as it became available.

09-397

Moved

Murfit/Burnell

- a. **receives** the information contained in the presentation, and **provides** additional information as it comes to hand.

CARRIED

AFFIXING OF THE COMMON SEAL

Report No. 09-81

This paper reported on documents to which Horizons Regional Council's Common Seal had been affixed.

09-398

Moved

Chettleburgh/White

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

- *Lease Agreement: Horizons Regional Council and Parewanui Farms*
- *Warrant Card – Blair Sowman*
- *Lease Agreement: Horizons Regional Council and Potaka Station Limited*

CARRIED

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Members noted the Workshop Attendance 19 February 2009 – 20 May 2009.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Chairman advised that the Chief Executive, Cr Main, and himself would be meeting with the Minister of Local Government at 1.00pm on 18 June 2009.

09-399

Moved

Murfitt/Walker

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 28 April 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.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to the Public Excluded part of the meeting at 3.00pm and resumed at 3.19pm.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Confirmed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN