

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the eleventh triennium of the Catchment Operations Committee held at 9.30am on Wednesday 9 December 2020, in the Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.

PRESENT Crs DB Cotton (Chair), AL Benbow, EM Clarke, SD Ferguson (via audio visual link), EB Gordon (from 9.33am), FJT Gordon, WM Kirton, JM Naylor, NJ Patrick (via audio visual link from 10.40am), WK Te Awe Awe (from 10.16am), and GJ Turkington.

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive Mr M McCartney
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT At various times during the meeting:
Mr R Strong (Group Manager River Management), Dr J Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships), Mr G Cooper (Manager Land & Partnerships), Mr J Bell (Investigations & Design Manager), Mr G Shirley (Group Manager Information & Regulatory), Ms K McDowell (Senior Communications Advisor), Mrs M Rose (Catchment Data Analyst), Ms E Whale (River Management Analyst), Mrs S Carswell (Coordinator District Advice), Mr J Ryan and Mr T Olsen (New Zealand Farm Environment Trust), Mr D Hamilton (Public Forum), and Mr C Rudd (Deputation).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

COP 20-33 Moved Cotton/Turkington

That the Committee receives an apology from Crs B Gordon, Patrick and Te Awe Awe for lateness and an apology from Cr Keedwell.

CARRIED

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

There were no supplementary items to be considered.

MEMBERS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COP 20-34 Moved Kirton/Benbow

That the Committee:

confirms the minutes of the Catchment Operations Committee meeting held on 9 September 2020 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 22 September 2020.

CARRIED

Cr B Gordon joined the meeting at 9.33am.

PUBLIC FORUMS / DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

Deputation

Mr Charles Rudd thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. In referencing page 15 of the 9 December 2020 Catchment Operations agenda, Arawhata Stream and Hokio Drainage Network Study, he noted environmental issues relating to Lake Horowhenua and outlined why he believed the proposed Arawhata Wetland business plan would fail.

Public Forum

Mr Don Hamilton summarised his concerns and expressed his opposition to gravel extraction in the Kawhatau River. He displayed photographs depicting changes to the river channel over a period of time which he believed was due to gravel extraction activities.

RIVER AND DRAINAGE ENGINEERING REPORT

Report No 20-178

Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) introduced his report, provided updates on the progress of various river and drainage activities, and showed a series of photographs in support of some of the projects.

Cr Te Awe Awe joined the meeting at 10.16am.

COP 20-35 Moved *Turkington/Clarke*

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-178.

CARRIED

LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME O&M MANUAL

Report No 20-179

This item updated Members on the development of an Operations, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual for the Lower Manawatu Scheme. Mr Strong (Group Manager Operations) commented on the shape, form, structure and benefits of the proposed document.

COP 20-36 Moved *Turkington/Kirton*

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-179 and Annex.

CARRIED

LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Report No 20-182

Dr Roygard (Group Manager Natural Resources & Partnerships) and Mr Grant (Environmental Manager Land) spoke to the item which covered work carried out by the Natural Resources and Partnerships – Land Management team and included the activity areas of Sustainable Land Management Initiative, Regional Land and Coast, and Nursery.

Cr Patrick joined the meeting via audio visual link at 10.40am.

Dr Roygard commented on the possible future changes to the Whole Farm Plan programme to meet the government's new freshwater regulations, and commented on modelling of sediment reduction and research of sediment levels in rivers.

COP 20-37 Moved B Gordon/Te Awe Awe

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-182 and Annex.

CARRIED

BALLANCE FARM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Report No 20-181

Mr James Ryan (General Manager, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust) spoke to a presentation summarising the purpose, goals, objectives, funding partners, and future opportunities associated with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. He said the Trust was best known for running the Ballance Farm Environmental Awards. Mr Terry Olsen (Trustee, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust) thanked Horizons Regional Council for its ongoing support and commented on the calibre of entrants for the Ballance Farm Awards.

COP 20-38 Moved Clarke/F Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the presentation from James Ryan and Terry Olsen.

CARRIED

RANGITIKEI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Report No 20-180

Mr Strong (Group Manager River Management) updated Members on the development of a management strategy for the Rangitikei River. He showed photos of the challenges related to flood events on the River and outlined the aim and detail associated with the shovel ready project.

COP 20-39 Moved Turkington/B Gordon

That the Committee recommends that Council:

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-180.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 11.35am.

Confirmed

CHAIR

GROUP MANAGER RIVER MANAGEMENT

GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES
AND PARTNERSHIP