

**NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee Meeting  
held in the Council Chambers,  
Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whāngārei, on  
Tuesday 19 February 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

**Present:**

**Northland Regional Council**

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)  
Cr Graeme Ramsey (Deputy Chairman)  
Cr Craig Brown (ex officio)  
Cr Bronwyn Hunt  
Cr Bill Rossiter

**Whāngārei District Council**

Cr Crichton Christie

**Environmental Interest Groups**

Dr Greg Blunden

**Farming Community**

Mr Alan Clarkson

**Department of Conservation**

Mr Chris Jenkins

**Forestry Industry**

Mr Geoff Gover

**In Attendance:**

**Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd**

Carolyn Mortland, GM Environmental Policy  
Nuala Platts, Team Leader Sustainable Dairying  
Terence Brocx, Shareholder Councillor

**Northland Regional Council**

Chief Executive Officer (9.45am)  
Operations Director  
General Manager – Community Relations  
General Manager – Policy and Planning (part)  
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager  
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager  
Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager (part)  
Rivers Programme Manager (part)  
Env Monitoring Programme Manager Water and Wastes  
Policy Programme Manager (part)  
Policy Specialists (part)  
Economist (part)  
Env Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment  
Water Allocation Officers (part)  
Biodiversity Officer (part)  
Biosecurity Officer (part)  
River Management Engineer (part)  
Committee Secretary

## Apologies

### Moved (Gover/Clarkson)

1. That apologies from Cr Davies-Colley (NRC), Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Mr Richard Booth (Commissioner, KDC) and Ms Nicole Anderson for non-attendance, be received.

Carried

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chairman invited committee members to make declarations item by item as the meeting progressed. There were no declarations of conflict at this point.

Item 14 – a regional update presentation by Fonterra, was provided at this point in the meeting.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 5 December 2012 A294935**

The Chairman noted this was the first formal meeting for Alan Clarkson and he welcomed him to the committee as the farming community representative.

### Moved (Rossiter/Christie)

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 5 December 2012 be confirmed.

Carried

### **2. Waioira Northland Water progress – December 2012 – 11 February 2013 Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 11 February 2013. A294939**

### Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)

1. That the report Waioira Northland Water progress by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 11 February 2013, be received.

Carried

### **3. River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)**

**Report from Darryl Jones, Economist dated 7 February 2013.**

**A295719**

Darryl Jones provided some slides to illustrate the report, which assisted the committee in its understanding of the values assessment tool being proposed for use to assist the Waioira Northland Water – NPS Freshwater Management implementation project. The report led to considerable debate, notably regarding the make-up of an expert panel, and concerns that economic values should not be overlooked. Tangata whenua values were also raised and the potential for developing methodology within the region to assess this value was discussed.

In response to the committee's concerns regarding expert panel selection, the wording of the report's recommendation (2) was amended. The amendment would allow for the three assessments to be undertaken, using the criteria as stated on a trial basis.

#### **Moved (Carr/Jenkins)**

1. That the report River Value Assessment System (RiVAS), by Darryl Jones, Economist, and dated 7 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee recommends to council that the criteria for selecting the Northland regional expert panel members be trialled.

**Carried**

### **4. Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Kai Iwi Lakes and Waipoua River**

**Report from Ben Tait, Policy Analyst dated 7 February 2013.**

**A284228**

#### **Moved (Rossiter/Clarkson)**

1. That the report Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Kai Iwi Lakes and Waipoua River by Ben Tait, Policy Analyst and dated 7 February 2013 be received.

**Carried**

### **5. Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Addition of Other Outstanding Lakes**

**Report from Ben Tait, Policy Analyst dated 7 February 2013.**

**A284950**

Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Officer, gave a presentation supporting the agenda item. Twelve lakes have been identified by NIWA as "Outstanding" from the region's 400-plus lakes, and all of these 12 are coastal dune lakes. The presentation provided a description of these lakes and their outstanding values.

**Moved (Hunt/Jenkins)**

1. That the Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Addition of Other Outstanding Lakes by Ben Tait, Policy Analyst, and dated 7 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee endorses the following additional lakes as "outstanding freshwater bodies" for the purposes of progressing the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011: Morehurehu, Wahakari, Waihopo, Waiporohita, Ngatu, Humuhumu, Mokero, Rotokawau (Pouto), and Kanono.
3. That staff reports to the committee in July on the development of catchment descriptions for the outstanding lakes.

**Carried**

**6. Wetlands Update**

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director; and James Griffin, Policy Analyst dated 1 February 2013.  
A277591**

Members of the committee considered that due to the absence of Cr Tony Davies-Colley, a primary advocate for changing and improving wetland management, consideration of the report should be postponed until the March meeting.

**Moved (Carr/Rossiter)**

1. That the report Wetland Update by James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 1 February 2013, be left on the table, to be considered at the committee meeting on 26 March 2013.

**Carried**

**7. Doubtless Bay Catchment management**

**Report by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 7 February 2013.  
A78988**

**Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)**

1. That the report Doubtless Bay Catchment management by Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 7 February 2013 be received.
2. That a Doubtless Bay catchment working group be established, comprising representatives of NRC Environmental Management Committee, FNDC and catchment stakeholders, to prioritise and guide water management activities in the catchment.
3. That a Terms of Reference and membership list be drafted for consideration by the committee in March.

**Carried**

## **8. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated)**

**Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes dated 7 February 2013.**

**A96796**

Further verbal updates were provided by Tess Dacre on progress on two of the FNDC wastewater treatment plants; Hihi, where equipment was now on site; and Ahipara, where a further extension to consent processing time has been requested to allow FNDC time to provide details on proposed upgrades to submitters.

### **Moved (Jenkins/Hunt)**

1. That the report Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 7 February 2013 be received.

### **Carried**

Cr Graeme Ramsey left the meeting at the start of the following agenda item, at 11:26am.

## **9. Farm Dairy Effluent – report on monitoring 2012/13 season**

**Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes dated 4 February 2013.**

**A295544**

Terence Brocx was invited to comment on the report. He noted the monitoring variances between regions and different standards that were applied – for instance in Taranaki half of the farms do not have any storage facility for farm dairy effluent. He commended the way in which Northland farms were monitored and believed that if other regions monitored at the same rigorous standard, the national results would be very different.

### **Moved (Brown/Blunden)**

1. That the report Farm Dairy Effluent – report on monitoring 2012/13 season from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 4 February 2013 be received.

### **Carried**

## **10. Report on Environmental Monitoring for the period 19 November 2012 – 31 January 2013**

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager dated 5 February 2013.**

**A295743**

### **Moved (Christie/Rossiter)**

1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 19 November 2012 – 31 January 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

### **Carried**

## **11. River Management Update**

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 4 February 2013. A295764**

Slides showing river works that have been undertaken, and detail regarding Kotuku Street detention dam were provided by Joseph Camuso and Bruce Howse. It was noted that applications for consents for the Kotuku dam works have now been lodged.

### **Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)**

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager and dated 4 February 2013, be received.
2. That the minutes from the Kaihu River Management Liaison Committee, 30 January 2013, be received.

**Carried**

## **12. Update on Biosecurity responses: Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback**

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 4 February 2013. A279676**

Mr Chris Jenkins declared a conflict of interest with recommendation (3) of the report and therefore refrained from any discussion or voting on this item, apart from advising that a considerable portion of kauri forest was on land not administered by DOC, notably Maori land.

Don Mckenzie provided slides to illustrate the ongoing work being undertaken in the location and eradication of the marine pest Mediterranean fanworm.

### **Moved (Carr/Hunt)**

1. That the report, Update on Biosecurity Responses: Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 4 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee supports the use of \$150,000 from unspent and unassigned site-led pest control budget on the ongoing survey and eradication of Mediterranean fanworm.
3. That the Committee Chairperson liaise with Auckland Council and other regional council stakeholders with the aim of preparing a joint letter to the Minister of Primary Industries, emphasising the importance of the joint agency response to Kauri Dieback and the need for continued government funding of essential research and response operations on DOC administered land.

**Carried**

### **13. Climate and Water Resources – update**

Report by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager

dated 7 February 2013.

A296731

#### **Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)**

1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programmer Manager dated 7 February 2013 be received.

**Carried**

### **14. Fonterra’s Sustainability Roadshow - introduction**

The order of agenda items was adjusted and this item from Fonterra was received first.

The presentation was led by Carolyn Mortland, General Manager Environmental Policy with Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd, supported by Nuala Platts, Team Leader Sustainable Dairying and Terence Brocx, Shareholder Councillor. The presentation was given as a lead-in to a series of roadshow events promoting sustainable dairying to the farming community nationally, commencing in March. Fonterra undertakes to report its progress back to councils.

The presentation provided an overview of the programmes Fonterra has in place which support sustainable dairying; “Supply Fonterra”. There are three elements to this; Effluent Management (previously Every Farm, Every Year), Waterway Management and Nitrogen Management. Sustainable Dairying Advisors assist in taking these programmes to the farmer.

Also included in the presentation was an update of Fonterra's involvement and contribution to the region, notably the considerable economic contribution which provided the region in excess of \$500 million in 2011/12. Fonterra’s “Milk for Schools” has been successfully piloted in Northland and will now be rolled out to other regions commencing in Southland.

Following a period of question time, the Chairman acknowledged the dairying industry’s considerable economic contribution to Northland and noted the development of a strong relationship being built with the industry (DairyNZ).

#### **Moved (Carr/Rossiter)**

1. That the committee acknowledges and records its appreciation of Fonterra and representatives for their attendance and presentation/discussions at the meeting.

**Carried**

### **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 12:08pm.