

**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 26 March 2013, commencing at 9.31 am

Present:

Northland Regional Council

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)
Cr Craig Brown (ex officio)
Cr Bronwyn Hunt
Cr Tony Davies-Colley

Whāngārei District Council

Cr Crichton Christie

Far North District Council

Cr Di Maxwell (arrived 9.35am)

Cultural Interests

(current vacancy)

Environmental Interest Groups

Dr Greg Blunden

Farming Community

Mr Alan Clarkson

Forestry Industry

Mr Geoff Gover

In Attendance:

Kaipara District Council - Ms Venessa Anich

NZ Landcare Trust – Mr Jon Hampson

Northland Regional Council -

Chief Executive Officer

Operations Director

General Manager – Community Relations

Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager

Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager

Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager

Rivers Programme Manager

Policy Programme Manager

Policy Analysts

Biodiversity Officer

Land Management Specialist

Land Management Advisor

Environmental Education Officers

Committee Secretary

Apologies

Moved (Hunt/Clarkson)

1. That apologies from Mr Richard Booth, Mr Chris Jenkins, Cr Graeme Ramsey and Cr Bill Rossiter for non-attendance, be received.

Carried

Welcome

Ms Venessa Anich, Town Planning Officer from Kaipara District Council, was welcomed to the meeting and invited to observe proceedings, to enable her to report back to the Kaipara Commissioners.

Resignation

The Chairman advised that Ms Nicole Anderson's resignation as the cultural interests representative on the committee had been tendered, as a result of her relocation to the Waikato. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that any decisions regarding the process for appointing a replacement cultural interests representative lie with the council. A decision on who to consult with over the appointment of an appropriate representative would be considered at the next full council meeting on 16 April.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest in any items of business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 19 February 2013 A298970

Moved (Hunt/Clarkson)

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 19 February 2013 be confirmed, subject to an amendment being made to resolution 2 of item 4 (River Values Assessment System [RiVAS]) and an additional resolution 3. The minutes in this regard to now read as follows:

"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 referred to council and evaluations trialled.*

3. *That the RiVAS evaluations and the economic values of rivers are evaluated concurrently.*

Carried"

Carried

2. Item left on the table from previous committee meeting 19 February 2013: Wetlands Update A303764

The item left on the table from the 19 February 2013 Environmental Management Committee meeting, Wetlands Update, was considered at this point of the meeting.

A main topic of discussion focused on the need to determine a size threshold for significant indigenous wetlands. The committee noted that the Wildlands report proposed the size threshold should be 1,000m² (approx. ¼ acre), while the threshold in the RWSP was only 50m².

A further discussion point centred on a proposal that a database be established for the voluntary recording of constructed wetlands, the purpose of which was to protect a landowner's ability to develop or change the nature of a constructed wetland (ie not be impeded by RWSP rules controlling significant indigenous wetlands). It was noted that the construction of wetlands, being a key factor in the farm water quality management toolkit should be encouraged, and that the aim should be to generate a desire among landowners to develop them. There was debate about the merits of recording constructed wetlands.

To enable progression of those and other wetland management issues, it was agreed that a working group be established, to report back to the committee.

Moved (Maxwell/Blunden)

1. That the report Wetland Update by James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 1 February 2013, be received.
2. That Cr Carr, Cr Davies-Colley and Dr Blunden work with staff to develop a strategy for wetlands, for the committee's consideration.

Carried

3. Waioara Northland Water progress – March 2013 Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 14 March 2013. A303508

Moved (Carr/Clarkson)

1. That the report Waioara Northland Water progress by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 14 March 2013, be received.

Carried

4. Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond: Government's proposals for reform of freshwater management

Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 20 March 2013.

A304630

A presentation was provided to illustrate the paper. It was noted that there was little time for submissions to the discussion document, however it was anticipated there would be further opportunities provided as the reform process unfolded. Cr Carr raised a number of points that should be incorporated in any submission to the Ministry on the paper, these being:

- Support and engagement in the alternative collaborative processes for improving water quality/quantity
- Support of good management practice toolkits
- Note a concern with efficiency and potential costs of the proposed management regimes.

Moved (Carr/Blunden)

1. That the report Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond: Government's proposals for reform of freshwater management by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 20 March 2013, be received.

Carried

5. Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector

Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 15 March 2013.

A303814

Following discussion concerning the implications of permanent fencing and potential impacts on flood prone waterways, weed management and access to drinking water, it was noted that this dialogue was occurring with the dairy industry

Moved (Gover/Clarkson)

1. That the report Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector by Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
2. That the committee supports the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector".
3. That the committee recommends to council that council agree to support the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector" and to become a "Friend of the Accord".
4. That the committee conveys to the dairy industry its concern with the requirement for permanent fencing, and its desire this should be replaced with "effective" stock exclusion (from waterways), to alleviate potential issues particularly with management of flood management schemes.

Carried

6. Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group – subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee - Draft Terms of Reference

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 15 March 2013.
A303918**

Moved (Carr/Maxwell)

1. That the report Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group – subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee – Draft Terms of Reference by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
2. That the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached, subject to the following additions:
 - a. That Cr Tony Davies-Colley (being a current member of the Environmental Management Committee) shall be the Northland Regional Council's representative on the Mangere Catchment Group.
 - b. That the Environmental Management Committee farming community representative shall also be nominated for the Mangere Catchment Group.
 - c. That the Chairman of the Environmental Management Committee be an ex officio member of the Mangere Catchment Group.

Carried

7. Doubtless Bay Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference

**Report by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 15 March 2013.
A303875**

Moved (Clarkson/Maxwell)

1. That the report "Doubtless Bay Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference" by Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO / Operations Director and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
2. That the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached, subject to the following additions/deletions:
 - a. That Cr Bronwyn Hunt (being a current member of the Environmental Management Committee) shall be the Northland Regional Council's representative on the Doubtless Bay Working Group.
 - b. That the representative on the Environmental Management Committee from the the Far North District Council also represents that council on the Doubtless Bay Working Group.

- c. That the Environmental Interests Group representative on the Environmental Management Committee be nominated to the Doubtless Bay Working Group.
- d. That Ngai Takoto be invited to nominate a representative to the Doubtless Bay Working Group.
- e. That no representative from Doubtless Bay Promotion Inc or any tourism sector representation is required on the Doubtless Bay Working Group.
- f. That the inaugural Chairperson is Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

Carried

**8. Waitangi River Catchment – NZ Landcare Trust
Report from Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary dated 14 March 2013.
A303612**

Jon Hampson of NZ Landcare Trust provided a presentation of the work undertaken to date in the Waitangi River catchment.

Moved (Blunden/Hunt)

- 1. That the report on Waitangi River Catchment – NZ Landcare Trust by Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary on behalf of Jon Hampson, dated 14 March 2013 be received.
- 2. That the presentation provided by Jon Hampson of the NZ Landcare Trust be received and that the committee notes its support and appreciation of the Trust's initiatives in the Waitangi River Catchment.

Carried

**9. Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Update
Lorna Douglas, Land Management Advisor, and Bob Cathcart, Land
Management Specialist dated 13 March 2013.
A303361**

Slides to illustrate the Flyger Road property and the farm water quality improvement plan being developed for the site were provided by Bob Cathcart, Land Management Specialist.

Moved (Davies-Colley/Hunt)

- 1. That the report on Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Update, by Land Management Advisor Lorna Douglas and Land Management Specialist Bob Cathcart dated 13 March 2013 be received.

Carried

10. Enviroschools programme – WaiRestoration project progress report

Report by Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer / Regional Enviroschools Co-ordinator dated 15 March 2013.

A295743

Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer and Marty Taylor, Enviroschools Facilitator, provided a presentation for the committee in support of the progress report and focused on the professional development workshop held for school communities in the region on 14 March.

Moved (Blunden/Maxwell)

1. That Enviroschools programme – WaiRestoration project progress report and accompanying presentation provided by Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer / Regional Enviroschools Co-ordinator dated 15 March 2013 be received.

Carried

11. Environmental Monitoring for the period 1 February – 28 February 2013

Report from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager dated 6 March 2013.

A301820

Moved (Maxwell/Clarkson)

1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 1 February – 28 February 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

Carried

12. River Management Update

Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 12 March 2013.

A303231

Moved (Gover/Davies-Colley)

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager and dated 12 March 2013, be received.
2. That the Minutes from the Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers Liaison Committee meeting of 25 February 2013 be received.

Carried

13. Update on Biosecurity responses: Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 14 March 2013.
A303763**

Moved (Maxwell/Clarkson)

1. That the report, Update on Biosecurity Responses: Kauri dieback, Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 14 March, be received.

Carried

14. Climate and Water Resources – update

**Report by Graeme MacDonald, Civil Defence Emergency Management Senior Programme Manager and Alan Bee, Hydrology Monitoring Officer dated 14 March
A302656**

Moved (Christie/Blunden)

1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update Graeme MacDonald, Civil Defence Emergency Management Senior Programme Manager and Alan Bee, Hydrology Monitoring Officer dated 14 March 2013 be received.

Carried

Conclusion

The meeting closed at 12.13pm.