

**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 30 July 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

Present:

Northland Regional Council

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

Whāngārei District Council

Cr Crichton Christie

Far North District Council

Cr Di Maxwell

Kaipara District Council

Commissioner Richard Booth

Department of Conservation

Mr Chris Jenkins

Environmental Interest Groups

Dr Greg Blunden

Farming Community

Mr Alan Clarkson

Also Present:

Kiwifruit Vine Health (Whangarei and Kerikeri representatives): Alan Worsford, Robbie Bell, Don Kemp
DairyNZ: Helen Moodie

In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Chief Executive Officer
Operations Director
General Manager – Community Relations
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager
Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager
Policy Specialist - Water
Council Secretary

Part Meeting

Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager
Land Programme Manager
Economist
Biodiversity Specialist
Groundwater Management Specialist
Policy Analyst

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.32 am.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

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 of interest at any point in the meeting.

Tabled Item for Environmental Management Committee meeting – 30 July 2013 (Item 1A)

A: 557176

Report from Peternel McLean Committee Secretary

Moved (Rossiter/Clarkson)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the tabled item:

(13) Update on Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in Northland

be received.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 28 May 2013 (Item 1.0)

A551292

Moved (Hunt/Rossiter)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 28 May 2013 be confirmed.

Carried

Māori Representation – update (Item 2.0)
Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 12 July 2013
A553077

Moved (Hunt/Rossiter)

That the report Maori Representation – update by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 12 July 2013 be received.

Carried

Waioira Northland Water progress – July 2013 (Item 3.0)
Report from Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water, dated 16 July 2013
A554431

Moved (Rossiter/Ramsey)

That the report Waioira Northland Water progress by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist – Water and dated 16 July 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 3.0

Discussion took place on sedimentation rates and their impacts on catchments. The committee expressed a desire for further information to assist its understanding of results and effects, and to build towards the provision of clear guidance for catchment groups and communities.

The committee then heard **item 12.0 – Biosecurity responses update**, which included a presentation from local representatives of Kiwifruit Vine Health.

Mangere Catchment Group – update; further nominations for membership (Item 4.0)

Report from Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 8 July 2013.
A552216

Moved (Jenkins/Clarkson)

1. That the report Mangere Catchment Group - update; further nominations for membership by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 8 July 2013, be received.
2. That the further nominations received for membership of the Mangere Catchment Group be accepted as follows:

George Tuhiwai	Iwi representative Te Parawhau
Allan Halliday	Iwi representative Ngāti Hau
Hona Edwards	Iwi representative Te Uriroi
Tania Pene	Iwi representative Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngahpuhi
Rob Pye	Non-dairying farming representative

Carried

Doubtless Bay Working Group – update; further nominations for membership (Item 5.0)

**Report from Peter Wiessing, Kaitaia Area Manager, dated 8 July 2013.
A552180**

Moved (Hunt/Maxwell)

1. That the report Doubtless Bay Working Catchment Group – update; further nominations for membership by Peter Wiessing, Kaitaia Area Manager and dated 8 July 2013, be received.
2. That the further nominations received for membership of the Doubtless Bay Working Group be accepted as follows:

Name	Representing
David Penny or Jim Brooks	Far North District Council wastewater and stormwater representative
Clara Lugnet Gerald Messenger	Two Doubtless Bay catchment ratepayers nominated by Te Hiku Community Board
Clara Lugnet	Doubtless Bay Promotions Inc

Carried

Dairy Industry Water Accord and Waterway Fencing Requirements (Item 6.0)

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director and Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 12 July 2013.
A553723**

Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)

1. That the report Dairy Industry Water Accord and Waterway Fencing Requirements by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager dated 12 July 2013 be received.
2. That staff report back on the need and possible scope of a Water Accord “regional programme of action” and on the option of increasing the scope of the Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group to include development of such a programme.

Carried

Northland Effluent Improvement Project - update (Item 7.0)
Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water & Wastes
dated 16 July 2013.
A554489

Moved (Hunt/Maxwell)

That the report Northland Effluent Improvement Project - update by Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water & Wastes and dated 16 July 2013 be received.

Carried

Wetlands update (Item 8.0)

Report Tony Phipps, Operations Director; Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist and James Griffin, Policy Analyst, dated 27 June 2013.
A535571

Moved (Maxwell/Rossiter)

1. That the report Wetland Update by Tony Phipps, Operations Director; Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist and James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 27 June 2013, be received.
2. That staff continue to progress the wetland management strategy as described in the key five work streams (and summarised in conclusions) being:
 - Policy review and development (current pRPS)
 - Improving regional plan wetland provisions
 - Guidance development
 - Top 150 wetlands
 - Implementation through regulation, promotion and advice, and incident response and enforcement.
3. That a separate report on gumlands be prepared and presented to the next EMC meeting, so the committee can further consider the gumland issue and proposed approach.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 8.0

Dr Blunden reported on the working group's recent meeting which had considered the draft wetlands item prior to its inclusion in the agenda. Discussion continued on timeframes for potential plan changes, as well as progress with Top Wetlands and the management of gumlands. Cr Ramsey requested more information on the response from Top Wetland landowners who have been contacted and the success in promoting protection of the wetlands. These matters will be reported to the September committee meeting.

Environment Fund Update (Item 9.0)

Report from Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 12 July 2013.
A553586

Moved (Rossiter/Clarkson)

1. That the report Environment Fund Update July 2013 by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 12 July 2013, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Carr/Ramsey)

2. **That the committee recommends to council** to adopt the proposed changes to allocation and funding subsidies in line with the criteria set out in table below, with the changes taking effect for new applications received after 31 August 2013; and to increase funds available by up to \$400,000 in the 2013-14 financial year from the NRC Land Management Reserve.

Table 1: Recommended changes to allocation and funding subsidies.

	Farm Properties - Water Quality Improvement & Biodiversity ¹	Top Wetlands	NPS Priority Catchments/Lakes & Community Groups ²	Soil conservation - poplars & willows	Coastal	Biosecurity ³	Total
Recommended Subsidy	Dairy farm waterway fencing 30%; cap range \$1000 to \$5000. Hill country/ drystock 50%; cap range \$2000 to \$7000.	50%	Up to 100%	50% provision of materials (i.e. poles provided at \$4 each)	100% provision of materials.	100% provision of materials.	
Land owner contribution	Balance of cost of works or labour &/or materials.			Plant material purchased at 50% cost	Labour	Labour	
Current Funding (per annum)	\$410,000					\$75,000	\$485,000
Current Subsidy	50% cap for waterway fencing \$10,000	50%	N/A.	100% provision of materials	100% provision of materials	100% provision of materials	

¹ Focused on supporting water quality and biodiversity initiatives on farm properties, supporting the Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan programme.

² Supporting water quality initiatives within Freshwater Priority Catchments/Lakes and for supporting other community-group based land management initiatives.

³ Funding to ensure that qualifying pest control projects outside the Community Pest Control Area programme are assisted. Recommend that this funding is established under a separate 'Biosecurity Fund' that operates outside the Environment fund.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 9.0

NRC Chairman Cr Brown requested that the committee Chairman ensures the council understands that this recommendation is for the current year only, and that any future Environment Fund increases would go through the normal annual plan process.

Environmental Monitoring for the Period 25 April – 30 June 2013 (Item 10.0)

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 16 July 2013.
A553901**

Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)

That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

Carried

River Management Update (Item 11.0)

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 11 July 2013.
A553657**

Moved (Hunt/Clarkson)

1. That the report "River Management Update" by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 11 July 2013, be received.
2. That Mr Ken Subritzky is appointed to the Northern Representative position on the Awanui River Liaison Committee.
3. That staff write to FNDC seeking its position on the potential transfer of the Pararore stop bank and floodgate assets to the NRC, so that these may be managed as part of the Awanui River Management Scheme.
4. That the draft minutes of the Kerikeri-Waipapa and Waitangi River Liaison Committee meetings of 29 May 2013, the Kaihu River Liaison Committee meeting of 19 June 2013 and the Kaeo-Whangaroa River Liaison Committee meeting of 22 June 2013 be received.
5. That as recommended in the Kaeo-Whangaroa River Liaison Committee meeting of 22 June 2013, the following is approved:
 - To proceed with Stage 1 Works 2013-2014 (on the basis of)
 - Over half subsidized
 - Good contract rates
 - Deflects high velocity flows away from town
 - To defer Stage 2 and monitor performance of Stage 1 in order to make a more informed decision on Stage 2 options and prevent over capitalising.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 11.0

Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager provided a presentation to update the committee on the Kaeo Flood Deflection scheme, including the Liaison Committee's recommendation on the deferral of Stage 2 (as per resolution 5 above). Mr Howse reported that in order to mitigate the impacts of deferring the Stage 2 works, staff would work on options for additional flood protection for individual properties/buildings with owners.

Biosecurity responses - update (Item 12.0)

Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 15 July 2013.

A554177

Moved (Rossiter/Blunden)

That the Biosecurity responses – update report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 15 July 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 12.0

Kiwifruit Vine Health – Psa-V

The agenda order was adjusted to enable this item to be heard earlier in the meeting (10.00am). Messrs Alan Worsford, Don Kemp and Robbie Bell from Kiwifruit Vine Health (Whangarei and Kerikeri growers) provided an update on their organisation's work targeting the Psa-V kiwifruit vine disease. Over the last year NRC biosecurity staff have assisted KVH with the removal of kiwifruit from abandoned orchards. Publicity campaigns aimed at raising awareness and educating the public have also featured as part of the organisation's strategy in dealing with the disease, and Mr Worsford acknowledged the support of NRC which assisted the campaign and provided a regional perspective. The continuation of NRC support with the Psa-V eradication campaign was requested.

The Chairman thanked the presenters and acknowledged the benefit of the kiwifruit industry to Northland's economy.

Mediterranean Fanworm

Cr Davies-Colley reported on the activities of the charter group which consists of Whangarei shipyard operators and Northland Regional Council staff, which is making good progress developing management plans and processes to tackle incursions of marine pests, notably Mediterranean fanworm. The cost to this region to remove the pest is currently in the order of \$250,000-plus. He expressed the concern that not enough was being done in the Auckland region to prevent the spread of the pest to Northland, and requested that a stronger approach be taken with both Auckland Council and the Ministry of Primary Industries to get action. It was agreed that public education was a key element and that most boaties were unaware of the problem, and once advised were willing to take appropriate action to remove the fanworm.

NRC Chairman Cr Brown acknowledged Cr Davies-Colley's input to the charter group and undertook to consider further approaches to Auckland Council and MPI with the aim of getting support for raising public awareness about Mediterranean fanworm through publicity campaigns in the Auckland - Waitemata region.

Update on Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in Northland – tabled item (Item 13.0)

Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 28 July 2013.

A556930

Moved (Rossiter/Maxwell)

1. That the Update on Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in Northland – tabled item, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 28 July 2013, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Davies-Colley/Hunt)

2. That the Chairman of the Environmental Management Committee ensures that TBfree Northland always has a Northland Regional Council representative at its meetings.

Carried

Conclusion

The meeting closed at 12.19pm.