

**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 24 September 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

**Present:**

**Northland Regional Council**

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

**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

**Forestry Industry**

Mr Geoff Gover

**In Attendance:**

**Full Meeting**

Chief Executive Officer  
Operations Director  
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager  
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager  
Committee Secretary

**Part Meeting**

General Manager – Policy and Planning  
Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager  
Land Programme Manager  
Rivers Programme Manager  
Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager  
Policy Specialist - Water  
Economist  
Groundwater Management Specialist  
Marine Research Specialist  
Policy Analysts

**Members of the Public**

Ms Helen Moodie, Dr Tom Stephens (DairyNZ)  
Mr Warren Slater  
Ms Tania Pene  
Mr Kaio Hooper, Ms Denise Gillespie (Tangonge  
Wetland Restoration project)

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.32 am.

**Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**Absent**

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) was absent from the meeting.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest at any point in the meeting.

**Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management  
Committee meeting held on 30 July 2013 (Item 1.0)  
A581854**

**Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 30 July 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**Carried**

Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) arrived at this point of the meeting (9.34am).

**Tabled Item for Environmental Management Committee  
meeting – 24 September 2013 (Item 1A)  
A584207**

**Report from Peternel McLean Committee Secretary.**

**Moved (Blunden/Clarkson)**

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

(9.B) Mangere Catchment Group – additional nominations for membership

be received.

**Carried**

Mr Chris Jenkins (DOC) arrived at this point of the meeting (9.37am).

**Waiora Northland Water Progress – September 2013 (Item 2.0)**  
**Report from Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water.**  
**A581730**

**Moved (Rossiter/Clarkson)**

1. That the report Waiora Northland Water progress by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist – Water and dated 12 September 2013, be received.
2. That the unconfirmed minutes of the following meetings are received:
  - a. Mangere Catchment Group, 6 August 2013
  - b. Doubtless Bay Working Group, 28 August 2013
  - c. Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee, 28 August 2013
  - d. Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group, 27 August 2013

**Carried**

**Matters arising from Item 2.0:**

Dr Tom Stephens, Water Quality Specialist, DairyNZ was invited to address the committee. Dr Stephens has been involved in investigation work within the Mangere catchment as part of DairyNZ's commitment to the Waiora Northland Water project, and has contributed technical information for the Mangere catchment description. He was confident that the information contained within catchment descriptions provided a baseline from which measurable improvements in water quality as a result of altered practices could be assessed.

The Committee Chairman acknowledged and thanked Cr Davies-Colley for his efforts as the inaugural Chair of the Mangere Catchment Group.

**River Values Assessments Update (Item 3.0)**  
**Report from Darryl Jones, Economist, dated 17 September 2013.**  
**A581889**

**Moved (Blunden/Jenkins)**

1. That the report River Values Assessments Update by Darryl Jones, Economist, dated 17 September 2013 be received.
2. That the committee supports the use of the RiVAS methodology to assist with the process of assessing values of Northland rivers including by:
  - i. Providing the results of the RiVAS and economic assessments to the respective catchment stakeholder groups to assist with their process of assessing uses and values.
  - ii. Uploading the final reports of all four assessments onto the Waiora Northland Water homepage on the NRC website.

- iii. Reporting to the committee the possible application of RiVAS at a catchment scale level.
- iv. Reporting to the committee the possible development of a RiVAS application for assessing agricultural production values of rivers.

**Carried**

**It was further moved (Jenkins/Clarkson)**

1. That the report "Economic value of water allocation in Northland" as circulated to the committee by email on 17 September 2013 be received as a tabled item.

**Carried**

**Matters arising from 3.0**

Darryl Jones, Economist, provided a presentation which summarised the findings of the three RiVAS assessments that had been carried out, which were proposed to be made available on the NRC website. The presentation also included an economic value assessment, based on potential generation of economic return to the region. All assessment work is designed to assist stakeholder groups establish appropriate values for priority catchments and will also assist setting regional objectives for areas outside priority catchments.

**Water Allocation Update (Item 4.0)**

**Report from Susie Osbaldiston, Groundwater Management Specialist, dated 28 August 2013.  
A562258**

**Moved (Clarkson/Hunt)**

1. That the report Water Allocation Update by Susie Osbaldiston dated 28 August 2013 be received.
2. That the committee consider the need to hold a Water Allocation Workshop to provide greater detail on the projects presented in this report.

**Carried**

**Matters arising from 4.0**

Susie Osbaldiston, Groundwater Management Specialist, provided a presentation which gave an overview of the various projects underway in relation to water quantity and the allocation of water within the region. As with other work such as the RiVAS and economic assessments being carried out, this data will assist stakeholder groups understand the value of water in particular catchments, the trade-offs necessary between water allocation and water restrictions, and on a broader front assist the setting of regional objectives and limits. A water allocation workshop for the committee was proposed, to be scheduled for 2014.

## **Wetlands update (Item 5.0)**

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director; James Griffin, Policy Analyst and Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist, dated 16 September 2013.**

**A580636**

### **Moved (Ramsey/Jenkins)**

1. That the report Wetland Update by Tony Phipps, Operations Director; James Griffin, Policy Analyst and Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist and dated 16 September 2013, be received.
2. That staff establish a clear definition that describes northern heathlands and gumlands and use this to complete mapping their spatial extent.
3. That staff continue to develop the wetland management strategy and that it include northern heathlands.

### **Carried**

### **Matters arising from 5.0**

Some disappointment was expressed by committee members that the report did not extend to addressing all matters that had been discussed by the wetland working group, such as the potential for environmental / economic trade offs. The Chairman invited Mr Chris Jenkins to provide input to the wetland working group if his work schedule allowed.

## **Sedimentation in Northland's coastal environment (Item 6.0)**

**Report from Richard Griffiths, Marine Research Specialist, dated 24 August 2013.**

**A560043**

### **Moved (Rossiter/Blunden)**

1. That the report "Sedimentation in Northland's coastal environment" by Richard Griffiths, Marine Research Specialist, dated 24 September 2013 be received.

### **Carried**

## **Department of Conservation – Fonterra sponsorship (Item 7.0)**

**Report from Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services, Northern North Island, Department of Conservation, dated 30 August 2013.**

**A565199**

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

1. That the report provided by Mr Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services, Northern North Island, Department of Conservation on the Department of Conservation – Fonterra sponsorship initiative, be received.

### **Carried**

## **Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Item 8.0)**

Report by Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 11 September 2013.

A581222

### **Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)**

That the report Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 11 September 2013 be received.

**Carried**

## **Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group – membership (Item 9.0)**

Report from Ben Tait, Policy Analyst, dated 12 September 2013.

A538237

### **Moved (Rossiter/Brown)**

1. That the report Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group - membership by Ben Tait, Policy Analyst and dated 13 September 2013, be received.
2. That the committee amends the Terms of Reference for the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group to provide for additional positions for farming interests, hapū/iwi and the community at large (as per the proposed changes in the attached Terms of Reference).
3. That the following people be appointed to the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group:
  - Nicki Wakefield – Nominated by hapū /iwi
  - Juliane Chetham – Nominated by hapū /iwi
  - Clive Stone – Nominated by hapū /iwi
  - Jon Clotworthy – Nominated by dry stock farming interests
  - Murray Owen – Nominated by dry stock farming interests
  - Murray Byles – Nominated by dairying interests
  - Freya Lynch – Nominated by dairying interests
  - Andrew Warren – Nominated by forestry interests
  - Jack Price – Nominated by fisheries interests
  - Paul Dunn (marine services industry) – Nominated by other business/industry interests
  - Jeremy Busck – Nominated by environmental interests
  - Margaret Kay – Expressed an interest and recommended by staff
  - Neville Erceg – Expressed an interest and recommended by staff
  - Glen Mortimer – Expressed an interest and recommended by staff
  - Adrian Tonks – Expressed an interest and recommended by staff
4. That a further report including confirmation of any final nominations to the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group be provided at the Environmental Management Committee's meeting in November.

**Carried**

**It was further recommended (Rossiter/Brown)**

5. That additional representation to the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group be sought from the marine industry.

**Carried**

**Matters arising from 9.0**

A committee member raised questions over potential conflict of interest for Mr Glenn Mortimer who had been nominated to the group and staff agreed to canvass this with him. Also noted was the inclusion of the Chair of Environmental Management Committee as ex-officio member of the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group.

**Mangere Catchment Group – additional nominations for membership - tabled item (Item 9.B)**

**Report by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water, dated 19 September 2013. A584212**

**Moved (Clarkson/Davies-Colley)**

1. That the Mangere Catchment Group – additional nominations for membership - tabled item, by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water, dated 19 September 2013, be received.

**Carried**

**Environment Fund Update (Item 10.0)**

**Report from Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager dated 10 September 2013. A580775**

**Moved (Hunt/Rossiter)**

1. That the report Environment Fund Update by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 10 September 2013, be received.

**Carried**

**Matters arising from 10.0**

Cr Graeme Ramsey noted the low numbers of Efund projects in the Kaipara district and staff agreed to report back to the committee in relation to this.

**Environmental Monitoring for the Period 1-31 August 2013 (Item 11.0)**

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 11 September 2013. A581209**

**Moved (Hunt/Rossiter)**

1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 1-31 August 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 11 September 2013, be received.

**Carried**

**River Management Update (Item 12.0)**

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 11 September 2013.  
A581051**

**Moved (Ramsey/Clarkson)**

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 11 September 2013, be received.
2. That the draft minutes of the Awanui River Liaison Committee held 30 August 2013 and Kaihu River Liaison Committee meeting held 14 August 2013 be received.

**Carried**

**Biosecurity - Operational Plan reporting (Item 13.0)**

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 1 September 2013.  
A563784**

**Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)**

1. That the report Biosecurity - Operational Plan reporting by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 1 September 2013, be received.

**Carried**

**Biosecurity Responses Update: Kiwifruit Psu-V,  
Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback (Item 14.0)**

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 13 September 2013  
A582268**

**Moved (Maxwell/Booth)**

1. That the report, Biosecurity Responses Update: Kiwifruit Psu-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 9 September 2013, be received.

**Carried**



### **Matters arising from 14.0**

**Kauri dieback:** The Chairman of Northland Regional Council had been involved in a deputation to Wellington to secure ongoing financial support for work to protect kauri. As part of this a business case was being prepared and would be delivered to the Minister in December 2013.

**Mediterranean fanworm:** A short video graphically illustrated the level of infestation evident in the Waitemata Harbour which sparked considerable discussion.

### **It was further moved (Maxwell/Booth)**

2. That the committee request the NRC Chairman Craig Brown to work with staff to develop a media strategy.

**Carried**

## **Te Runanga O Te Rarawa, Te Runanga O Ngaitakoto: Lake Tangonge Wetland Restoration Project - presentation (Item 15.0)**

**Report by Peternel McLean Committee Secretary, dated 12 September 2013 and presentation by the Lake Tangonge Wetland Restoration Project Team. A565199**

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

1. That the presentation by the Lake Tangonge Wetland Restoration Project Team be received.

**Carried**

### **Matters arising from 15.0**

Mr Kaio Hooper was welcomed to the committee meeting by Mr Abe Witana. Mr Hooper provided a presentation regarding the historic significance of Lake Tangonge to Te Runanga O Te Rarawa and Te Runanga O Ngaitakoto, the current situation and aspirations for the area which included working with stakeholders to restore sections of the lake and wetland.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hooper both for his presentation and for his contribution to the Awanui Liaison Committee and stated his belief that the difficulties that are present are not unsurmountable. He further commended Mr Hooper's balanced viewpoint and trusted that the committee would reciprocate in a similar fashion and work towards positive outcomes. The Chairman also thanked Mr Witana for providing the welcome.

## **Closing Remarks**

In closing this final committee meeting of the triennium, the Chairman thanked the committee and subcommittees for their support and commitment. NRC Chairman Craig Brown thanked Cr Joe Carr for leading the committee.

## **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 12.56pm.