

**NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee Meeting
Council Chambers, NRC, 36 Water Street, Whāngārei
Monday 2 December 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

Present:

Northland Regional Council

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)
Cr Craig Brown (Deputy Chairman)
Cr Paul Dimery
Cr Dennis Bowman

Whāngārei District Council

Cr Tricia Cutforth

Far North District Council

Cr Ann Court

Kaipara District Council

Commissioner Richard Booth

Department of Conservation

Mr Chris Jenkins (deputising for Ms Sue Reed-Thomas)

Environmental Interest Groups

Dr Greg Blunden

Farming Community

Mr Alan Clarkson

Forest Industry

Mr Geoff Gover

Maori Interests

Mr Keir Volkerling

In Attendance:

NRC Staff:

Ms Helen Moodie (DairyNZ)
Chief Executive Officer (from 9.48am)
Operations Director
General Manager – Policy and Planning
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager
Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager
Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager
Policy Programme Manager
Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager
Consents Programme Manager
Policy Specialist - Water
Committee Secretary
Groundwater Management Specialist
Policy Analyst
Economist
Environmental Monitoring Officer - SOE

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.30 am.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed committee members to the meeting, and provided the opportunity for personal introductions from members. Acknowledgement was given to Mr Chris Jenkins, Regional Director of Services for the Department of Conservation (deputising at this meeting for Ms Sue Reed-Thomas), for his valued input over the previous term of the committee.

Apologies

Moved (Brown/Blunden)

That the apology from Cr Bill Shepherd for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict made at any time during the meeting.

Further Appointments to the Environmental Management Committee (Item 1.0)

A597391

Moved (Brown/Carr)

1. That the report Further Appointments to the Environmental Management Committee from Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary dated 20 November 2013 be received.
2. That the committee resolve to appoint the following additional members to the Environmental Management Committee:

Far North District Council	Cr Ann Court
Whangarei District Council	Cr Tricia Cutforth
Kaipara District Council	Commissioner Richard Booth
Department of Conservation	Ms Sue Reed-Thomas
Maori Interests	Mr Keir Volkerling
Environmental Interest Groups	Dr Greg Blunden
Farming Community	Mr Alan Clarkson
Forest Industry	Mr Geoff Gover

Carried

**Terms of Reference for Environmental Management
Committee (Item 2.0)
A597094**

Moved (Jenkins/Clarkson)

1. That the report Terms of Reference for Environmental Management Committee from Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary dated 19 November 2013 be received.
2. That the committee recommends to council the following amendments to the Terms of Reference:
 - a preamble added under "Functions" stating the main purpose of the committee is to provide an advisory service and to make recommendations to council on environmental matters
 - an additional function to be inserted; being to coordinate with other agencies on matters concerning environmental management in Northland.

Carried

**Receipt of Minutes of the Environmental Management
Committee meeting held on 24 September 2013 (Item 3.0)
A597092**

Moved (Clarkson/Jenkins)

1. That the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 24 September 2013 be received.

Carried

**Proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for
Freshwater Management (Item 4.0)
Report from Justin Murfitt – Programme Manager Resource Policy dated
12 November 2013.
A595432**

Moved (Blunden/Gover)

1. That the report Proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management by Justin Murfitt – Programme Manager Resource Policy and dated 12 November 2013 be received.
2. That staff assess the proposed changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and associated national objectives framework and report back to the committee (or council) as the need for and content of a submission.
3. That a report be brought to a future committee meeting providing time series trend data for Northland lakes.

Carried

Waioira Northland Water progress – November 2013 (Item 5.0)
Report from Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water, dated 20 May 2013.
A596880

Moved (Brown/Clarkson)

1. That the report Waioira Northland Water progress by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist – Water and dated 19 November 2013, be received.
2. That the unconfirmed minutes of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group meeting, dated 17 October 2013 be received.

Carried

Water Allocation – Dairy Farm Water Takes (Item 6.0)
Report from Susie Osbaldiston, Groundwater Management Specialist, dated 11 November 2013.
A595375

Moved (Brown/Cutforth)

1. That the report Update on Dairy Water Takes by Susie Osbaldiston dated 11 November 2013 be received.
2. That further detail on the delivery of the key message be included in a Water Allocation Workshop proposed for the committee next year.

Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Item 7.0)
Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 19 November 2013.
A581222

Moved (Brown/Jenkins)

1. That the report Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 19 November 2013 be received.

Carried

Northland – Potential for Primary Industry Growth (Item 8.0)
Report from Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 21 November 2013.
A597688

Moved (Clarkson/Cutforth)

1. That the report Northland, Potential for Primary Industry Growth by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 21 November 2013, be received.

2. That an informal email working group (Cr Cutforth, Mr Volkerling, Mr Booth, Mr Clarkson, Dr Blunden) propose priorities for consideration and subsequent presentation at the proposed meeting with Ministry of Primary Industry staff on Tuesday 12 December in Whangarei.

Carried

Environment Fund – Land Management and Biosecurity Projects Funding Update (Item 9.0)

**Report from Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager, and Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 25 November 2013.
A594947**

Moved (Carr/Brown)

1. That the report Environment Fund – Land Management & Biosecurity Projects Funding Update by Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager, and Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 25 November 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 9.0 (1):

Following discussion regarding the funding of pest control work at Kai Iwi lakes, Recommendation (2) wording was adjusted and a further motion put, as follows:

It was further moved (Carr/Brown)

1. That \$230,505 of funding is transferred from the land management reserve to fund the additional expenditure of \$114,545 for land management fund applications and \$80,960 (***\$115,960 less \$35,000 for pest control work related to Kai Iwi lakes***) for biosecurity fund applications.
2. That a report detailing the funding requested for pest control and related work at Kai Iwi lakes be brought to the next Environmental Management Committee meeting.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 9.0 (2):

A report to cover the appointment of a Councillor to the Environment Fund grant approval process will be brought to the next Environmental Management Committee meeting.

CoastCare Update (Item 10.0)

**Report from Laura Shaft, CoastCare Co-ordinator, dated 18 November 2013
A597013**

Laura Shaft provided a presentation to accompany her paper which highlighted how NRC staff supported local community groups by providing advice and materials

(funded through the Environment Fund). Promotion of activities is through newsletters and Facebook, and activities include community planting days.

Moved (Jenkins/Blunden)

1. That the report CoastCare Update by Laura Shaft, CoastCare Co-ordinator dated 18 November 2013, be received.

Carried

**Recreational Swimming Water Quality Programme (Item 11.0)
Report from Jean-Charles Perquin, Environmental Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment and Compliance, dated 24 September 2013.
A561430**

Mr C Jenkins left during the course of this item (12.06 pm).

Moved (Court/Blunden)

1. That the report Recreational Swimming Water Quality Programme dated 24 September 2013, prepared by Jean-Charles Perquin, Environmental Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment and Compliance, be received.
2. That the recreational swimming water quality programme continue to be supported by council as a valuable programme for informing the community about water quality at popular swimming sites.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 11.0 (1):

Considerable discussion took place on the nature and location of water quality sampling in the programme, the potential for identifying sources of pollution, and the practicality of including pathogen testing. The committee were advised that testing was carried out in line with national guidelines, and that these needed to be reviewed.

It was further moved (Court/Blunden)

3. That a report be brought to the next Environmental Management Committee to consider best way forward for investigating and where possible improving water quality at problem sites in Northland.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 11.0 (2):

Following a request from Cr Court, the Chairman requested it be minuted that officers were to ensure agenda items were brought to the committee in a timely fashion, rather than being seen as “fait accompli” actions.

River Management Update (Item 12.0)

Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 11 November 2013.

A594954

Moved (Brown/Bowman)

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 11 November 2013, be received.
2. That the draft minutes of the Kerikeri-Waipapa River Liaison Committee held 20 September 2013 be received.

Carried

Kaeo Stage 1 Flood Works Update (Item 13.0)

Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 8 November 2013.

A590207

Moved (Brown/Bowman)

1. That the report Kaeo Stage 1 Flood Works Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 8 November 2013, be received.

Carried

Update on Biosecurity responses; Appointment of representative to the TBfree Northland Committee (Item 14.0)

Report from Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 18 November 2013.

A596987

Moved (Brown/Blunden)

1. That the report Update on Biosecurity responses by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 18 November 2013, be received.
2. That the committee recommend to council the appointment of Mr Alan Clarkson as their representative on the TBfree Northland Committee.

Carried

Climate and Water Resources – Update (Item 15.0)

Report by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager,
dated 20 November 2013.

A598344

Moved (Carr/Clarkson)

1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programmer Manager dated 20 November be received.
2. That the council supports the proposed response/monitoring plan.

Carried

Fifty Years of Soil Conservation in Northland (Item 16.0)

Report by Bob Cathcart, Land Management Specialist, dated 11 November
2013.

A595119

Bob Cathcart provided a presentation to accompany his paper on soil conservation practices over the period of time he has been involved with this work in Northland.

Moved (Carr/Cutforth)

1. That the report Fifty Years of Soil Conservation in Northland by Bob Cathcart, Land Management Specialist, and dated 11 November 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 16.0:

The Chairman led applause for the presentation and voiced the committees thanks and gratitude to Bob for his endeavours for improving soil conservation in the region.

2014 Calendar

Proposed dates for committee meetings in 2014 would be circulated by email to allow for committee members feedback. Confirmed dates would be advised following the council meeting on 10 December 2013.

Conclusion

The meeting closed at 12.48pm.