

**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  
Monday 14 April 2014, commencing at 9.30 am

**Present:**

**Northland Regional Council**

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)  
Cr Bill Shepherd (ex officio) (from 10.25am)  
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**

Ms Sue Reed-Thomas)

**Environmental Interest Groups**

Dr Greg Blunden

**Farming Community**

Mr Alan Clarkson

**Forest Industry**

Mr Geoff Gover

**Māori Interests**

Mr Keir Volkerling

**In Attendance:**

Ms Helen Moodie (DairyNZ)  
Ms Ruth Marsh (Living Waters Bay of Islands)  
Messrs Allan Halliday, Hona Edwards, Solomon Tipene,  
Richard (Dick) Shepherd, Millan Ruka (Ngā Kaitiaki o  
Ngā Wai Māori)

**NRC Staff:**

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

**Part attendance:**

Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager  
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager  
Policy Programme Managers  
Environmental Monitoring Programme Managers  
Land Management Programme Manager  
Rivers Programme Manager  
Policy Specialist - Water

Environmental Monitoring Officers  
Land Management Advisors  
Estuary Management Advisor  
Iwi Liaison Officer  
Biosecurity Officer

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.30 am.

## **Apologies**

### **Moved (Bowman/Gover)**

That the apology from Crs Craig Brown and Paul Dimery for non-attendance and from Cr Shepherd for lateness, be received.

**Carried**

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Committee members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest during the course of the meeting. There were no declarations of conflict made at this point of the meeting.

### **Confirmation of Minutes: Environmental Management Committee meeting 24 February 2014 (Item 1.0)** **Report from Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary, dated 2 April 2014.** **A629850**

#### **Moved (Blunden/Clarkson)**

1. That the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 24 February 2014 be confirmed.

**Carried**

### **Waioira Northland Water Progress –March 2014 (Item 2.0)** **Report from Natalie Glover, Water Policy Specialist, dated 3 April 2014.** **A620129**

#### **Moved (Clarkson/Cutforth)**

1. That the report Waioira Northland Water Progress by Natalie Glover, Water Policy Specialist and dated 3 April 2014, be received.

**Carried**

**Matters arising from Item 2.0:**

Mr Keir Volkerling noted a potential conflict of interest as he is involved with three iwi currently appealing the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

**Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Item 3.0)**

Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 31 March 2014.

A581222

**Moved (Blunden/Bowman)**

1. That the report Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 31 March 2014 be received.

**Carried****Matters arising from Item 3.0:**

FNDC Cr Ann Court provided the committee with the background to the Paihia and Kerikeri wastewater treatment plant resource consent history, which had been delayed as a result of Environment Court processes but was now again making progress. The Committee Chairman noted his appreciation of this perspective, and asked that Cr Court provide additional wastewater budget figures for the committee's information at its next meeting. Dr Blunden also noted the significant progress being made on the three wastewater treatment plants in the Doubtless Bay catchment.

**Farm Dairy Effluent – update on FDE monitoring activities (Item 4.0)**

Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 25 March 2014.

A625937

**Moved (Blunden/Gover)**

1. That the report Farm Dairy Effluent – update on FDE monitoring activities from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 25 March 2014 be received.
- 2(a) That the committee supports the establishment of a NRC Dairy Industry Liaison Group on a similar basis to NEIP Group, with an expanded scope.
- 2(b) That the council be represented by Crs Shepherd and Carr, the Operations Director and a Senior Programme Manager.

**Carried****Matters arising from Item 4:0**

The Committee Chairman requested staff provide further analysis showing compliance comparison levels of current results against 2003/4 rules, as he voiced his concern over what was perceived as increasingly tighter requirements masking

improvements within the industry. Dr Blunden also suggested that improved clarity and a more positive picture could be gained by providing three separate graphs rather than condensing information into one table (ref Figure 1 in the item).

## **Recreational Swimming Water Quality Programme - Investigating and improving water quality at problem sites (Item 5.0)**

**Report from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager and Jean-Charles Perquin, Environmental Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment and Compliance, dated 24 March 2014. A609661**

### **Moved (Cutforth/Carr)**

1. That the report Recreational Swimming Water Quality Programme - Investigating and improving water quality at problem sites by Jean-Charles Perquin, Environmental Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment and Compliance and dated 24 March 2014 be received.
2. That the recreational swimming water quality programme continue to be supported by council for informing the community about water quality at popular swimming sites, and for investigating and, where possible, improving water quality at problem bathing sites in Northland.
3. That the Northland DHB is asked to take financial responsibility for carrying out a single site pathogen sampling programme (three samples) at Whangarei Falls.

### **Carried**

***Cr Ann Court opposed the motion.***

### **Matters arising from Item 5.0:**

John Ballinger, Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager – State of the Environment, provided a presentation supporting the agenda item. He agreed to provide the committee with some additional information on guidelines identifying water quality in terms of suitability for swimming or wading and also to investigate the reasons for the higher than normal “unsuitable swimming” levels recorded in 2007/08. Considerable discussion took place over the merit of pathogen testing, and also the advances that had been made in microbial source tracking (MST). Dr Blunden noted that this tool had great potential within priority catchments and would be encouraging its use by catchment working groups. The committee considered that Northland DHB should be requested to fund a three-sample pathogen testing programme at Whangarei Falls, but should this request be declined, the committee would consider further whether to proceed with this sampling or not.

## **Land and Water Aotearoa: National River Water Quality Website Launch (Item 6.0)**

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 4 April 2014.  
A626245**

### **Moved (Carr/Clarkson)**

1. That the report Land and Water Aotearoa: National River Water Quality Website Launch by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 4 April 2014 be received.

**Carried**

## **Environment Fund and Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan update (Item 7.0)**

**Report from Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager, Kerry Webster and Debbie Johnson, Land Management Advisors, dated 14 April 2014.  
A627877**

### **Moved (Carr/Volkerling)**

1. That the report Environment Fund and FWQIP update by Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager, Kerry Webster and Debbie Johnson, Land Management Advisors dated 18 March 2014, be received.
2. That \$36,209 of funding is transferred from the Land Management Reserve to fund the land management projects granted funding approval in March 2014 and the purchase of poplar poles.
3. That no changes are made to the Environment Fund funding criteria for the 2014/15 financial year.

**Carried**

### **Matters arising from Item 7.0:**

Debbie Johnson, Land Management Advisor provided a presentation to support the agenda item. Committee Chairman Joe Carr expressed a desire to see a greater use being made of mapping overlays showing soil types etc, and eventually build a picture of how many Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans we needed to roll out. Dr Blunden noted a potential conflict of interest as he was currently working through the FWQIP process but did comment on it being an efficient and helpful process. The Chairman acknowledged Dr Blunden's situation but considered that it should not prevent him being involved in discussions or voting.

## **Northland Regional Pest Management Strategies 2010-15: Review process (Item 8.0)**

**Report from Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and  
Gail Townsend, Biosecurity Officer, dated 28 March 2014.  
A620613**

### **Moved (Carr/Clarkson)**

1. That the report Northland Regional Pest Management Strategies 2010-15: Review process by Gail Townsend, Biosecurity Officer and dated 28 March 2014, be received.
2. That the council approve the process for the review of the RPMS outlined in this agenda item.
3. That a workshop be undertaken with the Environmental Management Committee on 26 May 2014 to consider the scope of the review of the Northland Regional Pest Management Strategies and related issues.

**Carried**

## **Update on Biosecurity responses: Queensland fruit fly, Marine pests, Kauri dieback and Pest fish (Item 9.0)**

**Report from Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated  
14 April 2014.  
A626254**

### **Moved (Carr/Gover)**

1. That the report, Update on Biosecurity Responses: Queensland fruit fly, Marine Pests, Pest fish and Kauri dieback, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 24 March 2014, be received.

**Carried**

### **Matters arising from Item 9.0:**

A proposed business case to fund pest fish actions aimed at reducing the risk of spread and eradicating key pest fish species was to be considered during the proposed Regional Pest Management Strategies workshop in May.

## **River Management Update (Item 10.0)**

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 1 April 2014.  
A629620**

### **Moved (Bowman/Blunden)**

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 1 April 2014, be received.
2. That the draft minutes of the Kerikeri-Waipapa and Waitangi River Liaison Committees, both held on 27 March 2014 be received.

**Carried**

### **Climate and Water Resources Update (Item 11.0)**

**Report by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager, dated 3 April 2014.**

**A630028**

#### **Moved (Volkerling/Cutforth)**

1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programmer Manager dated 3 April be received.
2. That the committee supports the proposed response/monitoring plan.
3. That staff provide an initial assessment to a future committee meeting on the international Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as it relates to Northland.

**Carried**

### **Environmental Monitoring for the period 1 – 31 March 2014 (Item 12.0)**

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 2 April 2014.**

**A629216**

#### **Moved (Clarkson/Shepherd)**

1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 1 – 31 March 2014 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

**Carried**

### **Shellfish Decline at Mair Bank – update (Item 13.0)**

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, and Ricky Eyre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Coastal, dated 3 April 2014.**

**A627595**

#### **Moved (Blunden/Court)**

1. That the report Shellfish decline at Mair Bank – update, by Colin Dall, Consents/ Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, and Ricky Eyre, Monitoring Programme Manager - Coastal, and dated 3 April 2014 be received.
2. That the committee support the request to MPI for urgent action, including the immediate closure of the Mair Bank pipi fishery.
3. That the NRC Chair and CEO talk to the Minister of Primary Industries to seek his active assistance in this matter.

**Carried**

## **Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori – Tuna Survey Presentation (Item 14.0)**

**Report by Rachel Ropiha, Iwi Liaison Officer, dated 3 April 2014.  
A629037**

### **Moved (Carr/Volkerling)**

1. That the report Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori – Tuna Survey by Rachel Ropiha, Iwi Liaison Officer and dated 3 April 2014, be received.
2. That the presentation provided by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori be received.

### **Carried**

#### **Matters arising from Item 14.0:**

On behalf of the Chair and the Committee, Mr Keir Volkerling welcomed members of Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori to the meeting. Mr Allan Halliday led the group's presentation which outlined the aims of the group which is a hapū collective in the Wairua and Mangākahia catchments. Supported by a strategic plan, the group aims to return life to the waterways in its catchments through collaboration, relationships, working together, and education.

The Committee Chairman voiced his appreciation to the group for the presentation and the work being achieved, and noted his desire for NRC to support the aims of the group and to further work together. Mr Volkerling also provided a commitment to support the group through his work at a legislative level.

### **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 12.52pm.