



greater WELLINGTON
THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Report 03.526

4 September 2003

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Thursday, 4 September 2003 at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Buchanan (Chairperson), Barr, Evans, McDavitt, Shields and Turver

Officers Present

Messrs Pryce, Sherriff, Skene, van Schalkwyk and Waddy, Amy Norrish, Luci Ryan, Nicola Shorten, and Dr Bradbury

Also Present

Councillor Kirton

Public Business

Procedural Items

E 221 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Turver/Cr Barr)

That the apology from Councillor Yardley, Mr Chapman and Mr Rush be confirmed.

E 222 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public who wished to participate in the meeting.

E 223 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Responding to a question from Councillor Turver, Dr Bradbury advised that a meeting of the working group, referred to in Item 209 of the minutes, will be arranged soon.

Resolved (Cr McDavitt/Cr Evans)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2003, Report 03.435, be confirmed.

Harbour Matters

There are no Harbour matters for consideration.

Civil Defence Matters

Matter for Information

E 224 **Report on Marketing of Hazards and Emergency Management Information**

Officers agreed to investigate the possibility of publishing hazard fact sheets and emergency telephone numbers in the Telecom Yellow Pages.

Report 03.470 File: Z/3/3/1

Resolved (Cr Evans/Cr Barr)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Environmental Matters

Matters for Decision

E 225 **Belmont Edge Protection Improvements**

Report 03.476 File: WGN/03/0275/1

Resolved (Cr Shields/Cr McDavitt)

1. *That the report be received and contents noted.*

2. *That, under delegated authority of the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Committee grants, in accordance with Part II and sections 105, 107 and 108 of the Resource Management Act 1991, land use consents WGN030288 [22797] and WGN030288 [22811], water permits WGN030288 [22812] and WGN030288 [22813] and discharge to water permit WGN030288 [22814], to the Flood Protection Department, subject to the conditions set out in Attachment 1.*

E 226 **Environmental Education Annual Report**

Councillors suggested that education initiatives could have a higher profile through:

- publicising some of the positive outcomes that have resulted from the education programmes.
- involving schools in events such as the opening of the new extension to the Hutt River trail.

Councillor McDavitt suggested 'transport' as a topic for environmental education in secondary schools. He said he has received many requests from students for relevant information on transport issues recently, which could indicate pupils' increasing interest in such issues and a high level of relevance to the secondary school syllabus. He suggested that Council use this opportunity to extend the Council's programme to include secondary schools. Any programme developed by Council would need to be relevant to secondary schools curriculum and well aligned with assessment criteria.

Councillor McDavitt also proposed that government departments be included in the 'Take Charge' programme. Geoff Skene said that officers had considered involving government departments, using the waste reduction scheme that has recently been implemented at the Council.

Report 03.493

File: ENV/15/01/01

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Barr)

That the Committee accepts the report as evidence of the Council's implementation of its environmental education programmes for 2002-03.

E 227 **Divisional Manager's Report**

Delivery of Key Messages

Councillor McDavitt pointed out that presentations to territorial authorities on issues such as air quality ought to involve more than problem identification. He said that key messages need to be developed and clearly communicated.

Stormwater

Councillors indicated they would like to be updated as the regional stormwater strategy is developed. They would particularly like to have input into material that is discussed with territorial authorities.

Kapiti Groundwater – Saline Intrusion Alarm Level

Councillor Turver requested that a saline intrusion alarm level be determined for Kapiti groundwater. John Sherriff assured Councillor Turver that this work is being progressed this year.

Harbours

Councillors endorsed the actions of Mike Pryce (Harbour Master) and his staff in responding to the bulk carrier incident on 21 August 2003.

Following some discussion about the appointment of Mike Pryce to the Advisory Committee on the National Port and Harbour Safety System, Councillor Buchanan advised committee members that he would discuss the matter with staff to ensure the process was well managed. Councillor Turver requested that officers regularly report on the Advisory Committee's progress.

Emergency Management

Councillor Turver requested that a report on the Road Access Restoration Plan be submitted to the Passenger Transport Committee, once it is completed.

Report 03.499

File: ENV/15/01/01

Resolved

(Cr Shields/Cr Turver)

- (1) That the report be received.*
- (2) That Councillor Buchanan and Councillor Turver attend the forthcoming Resource Management Law Association's conference.*

Matters for Information

E 228 The Freshwater Ecosystems Programme: Progress and Direction

Report 03.471

File: ENV/05/03/01

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Shields)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 229 **Resource Consents Annual Compliance Report 2003**
Report 03.465 File: ENV/08/01/01
Resolved *(Cr Barr/Cr Evans)*
That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 230 **Deployment Strategy for the Hazmobile**
Report 03.489 File: ENV/18/02/03
Resolved *(Cr Buchanan/Cr Shields)*
That the report be received and the contents noted.

Members of the Committee asked whether territorial authorities should provide some funding for use of the Council's hazmobile.

E 231 **WREA Update**
Report 03.505 File: ENV/15/02/03
Resolved *(Cr Turver/Cr Shields)*
That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 232 **Decisions on Non-notified Resource Consent**
Report 03.477 File: ENV/1/8/4
Resolved *(Cr Buchanan/Cr McDavitt)*
That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 233 **Regional Council Input to Statutory Planning**
Report 03.469 File: X/26/1/1
Resolved *(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver.)*
That the report be received and the contents noted.

The Committee agreed that Councillors McDavitt and Buchanan would discuss the Northern Growth Management Plan with officers to ensure that all issues are covered.

E 234 **Pollution Control Report for the Period 27 June to 8 August 2003**

Report 03.466

File: ENV/17/02/01

Resolved

(Cr Evans/Cr Barr)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Other Matters

E 235 **Questions**

Diagram to Determine Territorial and Regional Authority Responsibilities

Councillor Evans suggested that the flow diagram used for the parks plan be used as part of the Council's planning processes. The diagram would help define the boundaries of responsibilities for territorial and regional authorities.

While the Committee agreed that the flow diagram was helpful, many felt it should only be used as a guide. There needs to be flexibility in deciding which activities the Council undertakes. Gaps are often at the interface between territorial and regional authorities' responsibilities and often the decision can depend on more pragmatic issues, such as which council is best placed at the time e.g. agricultural collection.

Wellington Harbour Freshwater Springs

Councillor Barr stated that the freshwater springs in Wellington Harbour ought to be included in the subject of an investigation as they are an important part of the Harbour's ecosystem. Councillor Buchanan said that while Council could look at funding further study in this area as part of its marine biodiversity programme, the fisheries resource is managed by the Ministry of Fisheries.

E 236 **General Business**

Council Responsibility for Threatened Eel Species

Councillor Barr raised the question of whether the Council should support the Department of Conservation's concern for the long-finned eel, which is now defined as a threatened species. He suggested that Council should be involved as it has responsibilities for freshwater biodiversity.

Councillor Buchanan clarified that while the Council is involved in maintaining the habitat and water quality of freshwater it is not its duty to manage fishery issues. This is the role of the Ministry of Fisheries.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

CR I BUCHANAN
Chairperson