



Report 08.919
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Committee Council
Author Cr Rex Kirton, Chair, Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply, Parks
and Forests

Report of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee Meeting held on 27 November 2008

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee that took place in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber on 27 November 2008.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

3. Greater Wellington Regional Council's role in providing parks – project plan and timetable

Councillor Baber raised an issue that the market research proposal, *Discussion guide for the Strategic Review of the Regional Parks and Forests in the Greater Wellington Region*, needs to balance the community expectations and the cost of operating the parks. In the discussion that followed, other Councillors also raised the issue about whether the questions in the research proposal would produce all the required information.

Murray Waititi explained that the market research, the first such in-depth study since 1976, was intended to test the fundamental assumptions about the regional parks, for example, how they operate at present and whether they met peoples' expected experience now and in the future. The market research company is refining the survey questions and these will be tested on focus groups. A survey of some 1,000 respondents will be called for and the budget for the project is set at \$25,000. The survey and accompanying results are expected to be completed within four months.

The survey results, once sanctioned by the Council, will provide a basis for the future management of the regional parks looking out some 20-40 years.

Councillor Aitken was pleased to support the project and was also keen that the basic premises – what is a park, biodiversity, open access, type of engagement (walkways, footbridges, etc.) are explored fully.

Councillor Wilson inquired about whether any provision had been made for the needs of differing communities (e.g. Kapiti and Masterton).

Amanda Cox advised that the survey covers the entire Region and the results would be able to be analysed by locality to tease out this information.

Mr Teri Puketapu asked that owners of land, an important group, that adjoin a regional park to be included in the survey.

4. Water Supply Annual Report 2007/08

Murray Kennedy highlighted some aspects of the report. In particular, the low amount of total dissolved solids present in the water supplied to our customers and the “A1” gradings for the treatment plants at Te Marua and Wainuiomata. However, the water that is supplied to the ultimate consumer may have a lower rating because water is supplied through pipes managed by the city customer.

Mr Teri Puketapu enquired whether comprehensive information regarding water charges (from territorial authorities) could be made available. Mr Kennedy advised that such detail should be available in the Regional Water Strategy.

5. Divisional Manager’s report

Councillor Donaldson enquired about the future management of Whitireia Park. Murray Waititi advised that progress with Ngati Toa has been delayed because that iwi has been engaged in finalising its Waitangi Tribunal claim. However, recently, Ngati Toa has been able to discuss this matter with the Council because the national elections have stalled these Treaty settlement negotiations. Part of the settlement to that claim covers land within the park and this may affect the form that the joint governance arrangement takes.

Stuart Macaskill Lake 1 is presently being refilled now that the repairs to the base of the tower have been completed. The lake is expected to be filled over a period of two to four weeks and will only be delayed because of rain over the period.

6. Exclusion of the public

The Committee then discussed and considered the Forestry annual report and proposals.

7. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee’s meeting are attached as Attachment 1.

8. Recommendations

That the Council:

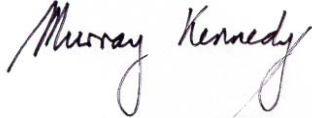
1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



Cr Rex Kirton
Chair, Parks, Forests and
Utilities Committee

Report prepared by:



Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment:

Public minutes of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee meeting