

Please note that these minutes remain unconfirmed until the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee on 26 March 2009



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Report 09.27

4 February 2009

File: E/06/27/02

Minutes of the Meeting of the Catchment Management Committee held in the Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 34 Chapel Street, Masterton, on Tuesday, 3 February 2009, at 9.30am

Present:

Councillors Buchanan (Chairman), Kirton, Laidlaw, Lamason, Wilde and Wilson
Messrs Barton, Card, Gawith and Royal.

Also Present

Councillor Baber

Officers Present

Benham, Cameron, Campbell, Clarey, Flack, O'Donnell, Longworth and Race.

Public Business

CM 90 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

CM 91 **Possible Conflict of Interest Declarations**

Mr Card, as a member of the Animal Health Board Representatives Committee declared a conflict of interest with regard to AHB matters.

CM 92 **Public Participation**

No members of the public wished to participate in the meeting.

CM 93 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved *(Cr Lamason/Cr Laidlaw)*

That the Committee

Confirms the minutes of the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee held on 20 November 2008 (Report 08.888).

CM 94 **Regional Pest Management Strategy Review – Hearings Committee Report**

Report 09.09 File: WB/01/11/01

Resolved *(Cr Wilson/Mr Card)*

That the Committee

- (1) Receives the report.*
- (2) Notes the content of the report.*
- (3) Recommends that Council approves the amended Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.*

CM 95 **Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme – Revised Development Works Programme**

Report 09.06 File: WO/02/01/02

Noted the tabled amended recommendations.

Members were given a background on the development works programme established 10 years ago and noted that since that time major floods had occurred in 2004 and 2006 which had changed priorities. The Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Advisory Committee had reviewed the programme and supported the proposed amendments.

Members raised issues as to the dynamics of the river, and the ecological value of the river system.

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Lamason)

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- (1) *Receives the report.*
- (2) *Notes the content of the report.*
- (3) *Approves the changes made to the existing development works programme amounting to a reduction of \$731,975, as set out in 5.3 of this report.*
- (4) *Approves the addition of two new items totalling \$675,000, as set out in section 5.4 of this report.*
- (5) *Approves the retention of the balance forecast in the development works programme as a contingency.*

CM 96 **Proposal to Revoke an Appointment of Council to Control and Manage a Soil Conservation and River Control Reserve at Upper Hutt**

Report 09.02

File: N/03/09/17

Noted the tabled amended recommendations.

Resolved (Cr Lamason/Cr Laidlaw)

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- (1) *Receives the report.*
- (2) *Notes the content of the report.*

- (3) *Endorses the revocation of the appointment to control and manage the Crown soil conservation and river control reserves being Sections 745 and 746 Hutt District.*

CM 97 **Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan 10 Year Review – Process**

Report 09.04

File: N/06/31/01

The Committee noted that the review of the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan was progressing and was the first of the floodplain management reviews on the western side of the region. It is proposed to use this as a model for the Otaki and Hutt Rivers.

Cr Laidlaw enquired as to whether GW and DoC were on the same wave length as far as climate change was concerned. Members were advised the GW takes the lead from the Minister for the Environment who are the body that collects the information and makes recommendations. This review was incorporating the advice of the Ministry regarding climate change.

Cr Buchanan indicated that this was the first review since the promulgation of the National Standard of Flood Risks. No implications were expected in relation to the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan.

Resolved

(Cr Wilson/Mr Gawith)

That the Committee

- (1) *Receives the report.*
- (2) *Notes the content of the report.*
- (3) *Endorses the proposed process and timeframe for the 10 year review of the Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plan.*

CM 98 **Flood Damage, Wairarapa – October 2008**

Report 09.03

File: WO/02/50/04

Noted the tabled amended recommendations.

Members were advised that following the Wairarapa floods in October 2008 flood damage had occurred in a number of areas and a programme of repair works had been prepared. Council approval was required for the general rate funding from the Flood Contingency Reserves.

Cr Buchanan indicated that there had been very strong support and approval from the various Advisory Scheme Committee meetings and landowners on the allocation of their funds.

Resolved (Cr Laidlaw/Cr Kirton)

That the Committee recommends to Council:

- (1) *Receives the report.*
- (2) *Notes the content of the report.*
- (3) *Notes that in accordance with his delegated authority, the Divisional Manager, Catchment Management has authorised expenditure of up to \$150,000 from the Council's Flood Contingency Fund for urgent flood damage repairs in the Upper Ruamahanga-Gladstone Section, Waipoua, Waingawa and Waiohine River Schemes.*
- (4) *Approves the expenditure of up to a further \$150,000 from the Upper Ruamahanga-Gladstone Section, Waipoua, Waingawa and Waiohine River Schemes reserves for the flood damage repairs.*

CM 99 **Streams Alive – Review of Progress**

Report 09.08

File: WO/03/40/10

Mr Royal commented on the brilliant work being carried out around the Waitohu catchment and indicated it was a shame to hear that the requested additional funding was an issue.

Resolved (Cr Lamason/Mr Royal)

That the Committee

- (1) *Receives the report.*
- (2) *Notes the Review opportunities.*

Report 09.07

File: WO/03/40/10

Members were given a brief summary of the issues discussed at the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meeting held in December 2008.

Mr Gawith said that the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee supported Federated Farmers on seeking amendments to the rule on soil disturbance within the coastal environment management area. Mr Barton hoped that common sense would prevail as in some instances it was too restrictive and interfered with landowners seeking to run their own normal farm business. Cr Buchanan had informed the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee that this matter had been before the Council prior to the Committee being formed.

Mr Card hoped that everyone was being treated on the same basis and indicated that the South Island was a good example with NZED. He asked what GW staff were telling landowners regarding the emissions trading scheme.

Cr Buchanan told members that the proposed emissions trading scheme for NZ was on hold and under review in terms of its implementation. There was already in place a national market for carbon that can be accessed by farmers but there were risk profiles around this.

Mr Card considered that caveats were required about any information that comes from GW. Cr Buchanan indicated that it was logical for GW to be involved and said that there was a need for caveats around risk. There will be an ETS. Research was being undertaken on a practical basis and there may be a huge influence on land use. Farmers needed to be carefully advised.

Mr Gawith felt that consideration of the ETS on a farm by farm basis would sit better with the region.

Committee members were welcome to take the opportunity to attend the next meeting of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee scheduled for 9 February 2009. Copies of the WHCAC Committee agenda were made available.

Resolved

(Mr Gawith/Cr Buchanan)

That the Committee

- (1) Receives the report.*
- (2) Notes the content of the report.*

The meeting was adjourned between 10.43am and 11.02am for morning tea.

CM 101 Divisional Manager's Report

Report 09.05

File: WS/08/16/01

Mr Barton wished to raise his concerns about Canada Geese. He indicated that a significant report was being put together for the Minister of Conservation by DoC regarding the management of Canada Geese. Canada geese are a big issue for the Wairarapa and were spreading. Under Schedule 1 Fish & Game NZ have total control of Canada geese and under their Constitution must provide hunting opportunities. Mr Barton considered that GW did not appear to support changing to Schedule 5 which was disappointing.

Mr Card said that Canada geese were a supreme gaming bird that could travel long distances. The only answer to the problem was a very severe cull.

Mr Barton said that with Canada geese numbers having increased significantly in recent years there was a need to undertake massive culling. Further culling would only then be required periodically.

Cr Buchanan informed members that GW had been reluctant to become involved because of legal reasons but the Committee needed to be more informed.

Mr O'Donnell updated the Committee on the current Schedule 1 status with Canada geese being under Fish & Game's control. A plan and funding would be required by a management agency in order for a Schedule 3 status to be effective.

Mr Cameron reported on the Afforestation Grant Scheme and indicated that since the report was prepared staff were working with a further 5

landowners totalling 350 hectares in applications this year. Decisions will be made in March with a further round of applications in July.

Mr Gunn reported that total catchment management were pursuing the concept of five super catchments.

Cr Buchanan indicated that with regard to super catchments, discussions with the Regional Sustainability Committee would create opportunities in terms of the new regional plans. An integrated approach across the two committees would be required if the Council was to approve this direction. There was a preference to look at growing this region through TCM and how the integrated management of resources and community involvement is undertaken will quietly lead the country as to how our land is managed.

Cr Laidlaw said it was very encouraging with the biodiversity work being done and the movement towards a mega catchment approach.

Mr Card asked whether it would pay to put all resources into one catchment. Cr Buchanan said there is a need as a region to build the framework in which catchment management will work. The review of regional plans will provide an opportunity to work with our communities to develop the framework.

Cr Baber extended an invitation to members and staff to join the proposed Regional Sustainable Committee workshop.

Resolved

(Cr Lamson/Cr Laidlaw)

That the Committee

(1) Receives the report.

(2) Notes the content of the report.

Noted

Officers were asked to prepare a report for the March or April Committee meeting with options on the current status and implications of Canada Geese.

The meeting finished at 11.58am.

Cr I M Buchanan
CHAIRMAN

Date: