

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

WAIWHETU STREAM ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Report of an extraordinary meeting held at the Hutt City Council Chambers,
Administration Building, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt on
Monday 15 February 2010 commencing at 3.00pm

PRESENT: Cr P Lamason, GWRC (Chair)
Cr I Buchanan, GWRC
Cr S Greig, GWRC
Cr P Glensor, GWRC
Cr R Jamieson, HCC
Cr R Styles, HCC
Mayor DK Ogden, HCC
Mr T Puketapu
Mr L Roberts, Waiwhetu Stream Working Group

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs F Wilde, Chair, GWRC
Cr R Wallace, HCC
Mr D Benham, Chief Executive, GWRC
Mr S Duncan, Project Manager, HCC (part meeting)
Mr B Sherlock, General Manager City Infrastructure, HCC
Mr E Breese, Principal, Tonkin Taylor
Mr G Campbell, Manager Flood Protection, GWRC
Mr W O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment
Management, GWRC
Mr T Porteous, Project Manager, Waiwhetu Stream
Project, GWRC
Mr A Allen, Assistant Engineer, Waiwhetu Stream
Project, GWRC
Mr N Corry, General Manager, Environment
Management Group, GWRC
Mr J Coakley, Consultant, URS
Mr R Grobecker, Engineer, Waiwhetu Stream Contract, CPG
Ms S Turner, Senior Committee Advisor, HCC

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Matters requiring specific consideration by Council are shown as "**RECOMMENDED**" while those matters which are within the Subcommittee's power to determine are shown as "**RESOLVED.**"

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments are recorded under the item to which they relate.

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3. **PRESENTATION**

Officer responses to requests for further information in relation to report No. WSAS2010/1/2 Waiwhetu Contract 1268 Costs Update by officers from GWRC.

The Chair commented that the meeting was an Extraordinary meeting, although the order paper had not clearly identified this.

Mr T Porteous, Project Manager, Waiwhetu Stream Project, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) responded to a number of requests from the meeting of 3 February 2010. With regard to additional funding he confirmed that GWRC had had further discussions with the Ministry for the Environment, however, they had not received a response. He added that GWRC had also written to the Minister for the Environment and had briefed the Member of Parliament, Paul Quin.

The General Manager City Infrastructure, Hutt City Council (HCC), introduced Mr E Breese, Principal, Tonkin Taylor, to discuss levels of contamination and contaminant treatment through the Silverstream landfill. Mr Breese advised that landfill acceptance guidelines and guidelines for cleaning contaminated sites worked on differing lead levels. He noted that some Waiwhetu material was unstable requiring it to be mixed into a landfill as part of its containment. He further noted that the physical characteristic of the material denoted how it would be contained. As an example dry material would be used to contour the landfill prior to its being capped.

In response to a question from Mayor Ogden, Mr Breese stated that ambient background levels at the Silverstream landfill were expected to be low, thereby meeting landfill guidelines.

In response to a question from Mayor Ogden, the General Manager, Environment Management Group, GWRC advised that although there were guidelines for landfill their management was up to the local authority. With regard to cleanfill sites he advised that there were ANZECC guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30pm and reconvened at 3.40pm due to a fire alarm.

In response to a question from a member, Mr E Breese advised that leachate from the Waiwhetu Stream was weak and would meet resource consent requirements.

The General Manager, City Infrastructure, HCC, advised that groundwater at the Silverstream landfill site had been monitored for over thirty years with no contamination problems. He noted that material from the Waiwhetu Stream was not suitable for the new landfill area at Silverstream whereas the larger mass of the existing site would provide an opportunity for a trickle down effect, making it safer.

In responding to previous discussion on lines of communication between GWRC and HCC, the Project Manager, Waiwhetu Stream Project, GWRC advised that senior officers from both councils were now meeting weekly or more frequently if required. He further advised that further areas of contamination and some recontamination had been located prompting the requirement for further funding.

The Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that a number of methodologies would be considered to reduce costs. These would include accelerating the remaining excavation, trialling a new installation method for the concrete panels in the U channel and re-using the cleanfill on site.

In response to a question from Mayor Ogden, the Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, confirmed that leaching back under the stream banks had occurred due to a lack of knowledge on how the sides of the stream had been modified. In response to a question from the Chair he stated that the widening and deepening of the Waiwhetu Stream would greatly reduce the potential for flooding to houses on Riverside Drive. He advised that the remediation work, once complete, would ensure the protection of the 70 houses flooded in 2004. He confirmed that the issue of contamination had to be addressed first.

In response to questions from members, the Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that the estimated project finish time would be the end of

April. He confirmed that the on-site cleanfill would be tested for contaminants.

In response to questions from Mayor Ogden, the Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that he was unaware of levels of pollution up stream from Bell Road. He confirmed that GWRC was committed to the remediation and the floodplain management of the area. He further confirmed that, although some houses on Riverside Drive were required to have their LIM reports reflect the possibility of flooding, further remediation was not currently planned. He confirmed that GWRC did not have a budget for further work which could cost many millions of dollars.

The Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that legal advice had been sought, and ACENZ had been consulted on the possible liability of the consultants to the project. He further advised that the project was complex and proving negligence would be difficult. It would need to be proved that poor advice had been received on the testing undertaken. He stated that GWRC did not believe the consultants had been negligent.

Cr Jamieson stated that he had not seen a copy of the legal report although he had requested it. He further stated that the original estimates of contamination were highly inaccurate and although not necessarily a matter for the Courts some form of contribution from the consultants should be considered.

The Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that the consultants, CPG, had agreed to reduce their fees by \$100,000, without prejudice. In response to a question from a member, he confirmed that the consultants had taken all due care and he did not believe they had been negligent. He commented that \$500,000 had been expended on testing and the project had had to commence.

The Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, addressed the final request from the meeting of 3 February 2010. He advised that a number of options were being considered to reduce costs He further advised that savings could total \$300,000. He added that as there was no guarantee of savings the budget requirement remained at \$2.6M.

The meeting adjourned at 4.25pm and resumed at 4.35pm.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a) **Report No. WSAS2010/1/2 Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Study Waiwhetu Contract 1268 Costs Update.**

Report from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee meeting held on 3 February 2010 - circulated pages 1-11.

Speaking under public comment Mr R Moore stated that the increased contamination was no surprise. He said the presence of lead and other heavy metals indicated contamination from local businesses. He suggested that they should also be held responsible and contribute to the cleanup.

In response to a request from members, project cost variances for GWRC and HCC were tabled. Cr Styles noted that a net figure of \$167,000 encompassed \$267,000 in costs less excavation savings of \$100,000

Mrs Wilde advised that the savings in consultants' fees would be put toward the project costs, plus a further contribution of \$130,000, would increase the GWRC contribution to \$1M.

Cr Styles advised that costs provided were a 'worst case' scenario with officers confident that savings of \$300-400,000 could be achieved. He suggested a contribution of \$1.2M from HCC in conjunction with GWRC's contribution of \$1M.

The Manager Flood Protection, GWRC, advised that a \$300,000 shortfall in budgeted funding requirements remained, however, the extra funding of \$2.2M would significantly contribute to completing the project.

Mayor Ogden thanked GWRC for their contribution toward ensuring the ongoing remediation work. He reiterated the importance of the project for the safety of Hutt City residents.

RESOLVED:

Minute No. WSAS 100101(2)

"That the Subcommittee:

- (i) receives the report;*
- (ii) notes the contents of the report including additional funding costs of \$2.6M;*
- (iii) notes the offer by CPG to reduce their fees by \$100,000 which, at the suggestion of Greater Wellington Regional Council, should be attributed to the cleanup component of the project; and*

- (iv) requests officers to report back on matters at the next appropriate meeting."

RECOMMENDED: Minute No. WSAS 100102(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Hutt City Council provide additional funding of \$1.2M to complete the clean up for the lower reaches of the Waiwhetu Stream."

RECOMMENDED: Minute No. WSAS 100103(2)

"That the Subcommittee recommends that Greater Wellington Regional Council provide additional funding of \$1M, made up of \$870,000 for the widening and deepening work and \$130,000 additional contribution for the cleanup, to complete the flood improvement and cleanup works for the lower reaches of the Waiwhetu Stream."

b) Unconfirmed Minutes of Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee.

Unconfirmed minutes from the meeting held on 3 February 2010 – circulated pages WSAS R/1 to WSAS R/6.

5. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

Cr Prue Lamason
CHAIR