



Report 10.255
Date 4 May 2010
File E/06/32/03

Committee Council
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Report on the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 4 May 2010

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at The Regional Council Centre on 4 May 2010.

2. Submission on Wellington City Council's Draft 2010 Climate Change Action Plan

Jane Davis spoke to this report. The Wellington City Council's draft *Climate Change Action Plan* complements the approach Greater Wellington is currently developing to mitigate climate change. The submission recognises that the regional climate change responses are being developed collaboratively. In discussion, Councillors expressed a concern about the currency of the plan attached to the report. Jane will investigate and confirm that the plan reported on is the 2010 draft proposal.

3. Stuart Macaskill Lakes – revised construction programme for upgrade works

Tony Shaw outlined some key conflicts and risks that had been identified with the current construction programme covering the upgrade of the Stuart Macaskill Lakes. That programme had restricted flexibility, with a number of processes to happen concurrently and insufficient time provided to obtain construction materials. A revised construction programme, which reshuffles the work on Lake 2 lining by one year, is being formulated to minimise such risks. The timing of certain tasks is being adjusted and the capital spend re-spread over the project's five year construction period.

Councillors were advised, in response to a query, that a communication plan will be developed to keep the community informed and updated as the work begins and progresses. There is an opportunity to get the public to take action and reduce their water consumption ahead of summer 2011/12 particularly with only one lake available for water supply.

4. Great Outdoors summer events programme

Catherine Wylde gave a summary of the Great Outdoors summer events programme in which we planned for 66 events in an effort to get more people into the regional parks. Some 12,234 people participated in the 60 events held, and of these around 27% were first time attendees, while 54% indicated that they would not have done this much physical activity otherwise. The satisfaction rating at 4.75 (out of a possible score of 5.00) from those who attended was outstanding. Some eight new events were added this summer.

These events are held in partnership with territorial authorities and community groups together with support from a number of sponsors. Councillors were advised that all such assistance is formally acknowledged.

The programme has been promoted by a flyer and inserted into community newspapers and this has improved the reach of our advertising campaign, especially for those who do not use the internet.

5. Visitor monitoring framework - update 5

Amanda Cox reported the findings of the survey of users of the two forests (Pakuratahi and Akatarawa), and the Wainuiomata Recreation Area has produced some useful information for marketing the facilities. Also, some inexpensive improvements were suggested such as better signage and distances to particular features.

6. Proposal to merge the Greater Wellington Environmental Awards and Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board/DoC Conservation Awards

Matt Velde spoke to this report and highlighted the change in philosophy of the proposed Encore Awards, in opening up awards to anyone in the Wellington region in line with the former Wellington Conservation Board and Department of Conservation Awards. Officers were comfortable with this change, given that DoC had not been overwhelmed with a flood of inquiries and applicants for awards.

Mr Velde said if the awards were approved this year's ceremony would probably be held at Parliament. Councillors commented that the standard of the awards had improved and suggested that officers look for more sponsors and partners to support the awards. It was also agreed that efforts should be made to further consolidate the various regional environmental awards in order to bring more coherence to these awards.

Councillors inquired why the Horizons Regional Council was not included in the proposal when Hawke's Bay seemed to be. Mr McKenzie from the Department of Conservation (DoC), explained that the DoC conservatory boundary covered an area of the north island from Mahia to Makara and did not stretch to the Manawatu. He also explained that the combined awards would be open to those in the Wellington region and that DoC was looking at

working with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for a separate awards in that area.

7. **Group Report for period ended 31 March 2010**

Murray Kennedy gave an update of the group's activities either underway or undertaken over the past six weeks. Councillors were advised that a water taste problem has been remedied and that we have not had any further water taste concerns subsequently.

Councillors were reminded that on Sunday 9 May there will be a planting day at Whitireia Park for those who would like to attend.

8. **Electricity purchases**

In the public excluded section, the way electricity is purchased was considered. Chris Laidlaw and Geoff Williams spoke to a report and the recommendations were endorsed.

9. **Recommendations**

That the Council:

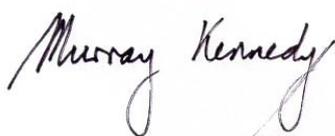
1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



Cr Chris Laidlaw
Chair, Regional Sustainability
Committee

Report prepared by:



General Manager
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