



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ASSET MANAGEMENT AND BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2010

Time: 9.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber
Hawke's Bay Regional Council
159 Dalton Street
NAPIER

Present: K Rose - Chairman
A Dick
N Kirton
E McGregor
L Remmerswaal
C Scott
E von Dadelszen
F Wilson
M Apatu
H Hiha

In Attendance: A Newman – Chief Executive
M Adye – Group Manager Asset Management
C Leckie – Manager Biosecurity (Item 7)
C Perley – Manager Land Management (Item 9)
C Glode – Manager Engineering (Item 8)
L Coubrough – Asset Management Engineer (Item 8)
P Whitesell – Asset Management (Item 8)
Sally Chandler – Minute Secretary

1. APOLOGIES

Tim Gilbertson

Wilson/von Dadelszen
CARRIED

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 February, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and confirmed.

McGregor/von Dadelszen
CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010

There were no matters arising.

5. ACTION ITEMS FROM ASSET MANAGEMENT & BIOSECURITY MEETINGS

- Paper on Environmental Awards – it was noted that this had been discussed at the Council meeting on 24 February 2010.
- Council Branding – This item to be carried over to next meeting 11 August 2010.
- Land Management Outcomes and Implementation – This item is referred to in the agenda papers for today's meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS

- (a) Haumoana/Te Awanga Coastal Erosion
- (b) Rotary Pathways
- (c) Silver Fern – Farmer of the Year
- (d) Dairy Liaison Committee

7. BIOSECURITY OPERATIONAL PLANS 2010/11

Mr Leckie spoke to this agenda item. Highlights from this paper included:

- Havelock North urban possum control programme – this is going well.
- Argentine Ants – good progress being made on the long term management of Argentine Ants. Council is currently undertaking surveillance activities which is showing ants are more widespread than initially thought, with approximately 2500 properties confirmed as affected. The survey has not been completed. Expected completion date is March 2011.

The Committee questioned Mr Leckie on some of the items within the Operational Plans including:

Feral Goats – A stakeholder user group has been established. This forum is working on the long term management of feral goats.

Rabbits – Mr Leckie noted that immunity to introduced Calici virus was around 60% so rabbit numbers are expected to increase.

Possums – Fur is being harvested from initial possum control operations in northern Hawkes Bay. This trial has been very successful and will continue. The next step is to scale it up to wider scale implementation. There is no commercial interest in the meat.

Privet – Mr Leckie advised the Committee that the backlog of approximately 300 privet related complaints had been cleared from approximately 98% of properties in the last 2 – 3 years.

Bird numbers on Napier hill – along with community feedback, an independent consultant has confirmed increasing numbers of Kereru, Bellbirds and Tui on Napier Hill. Ongoing monitoring is planned. Monitoring will be done annually at the same time of the year with the next set of survey results available end of summer 2011.

Mr Heiha commented on the impressive amount of bird song he heard in the Te Awahohonu as a result of 1080 drops in this area.

There had only been one request from a farmer in relation to assistance with wild pigs in the last 2 years. Mr Campbell noted that control techniques were limited with guns and dogs being the best option.

Councillor Remmerswaal asked how plants are identified to become a 'pest' and be part of the plant pest strategy.

Mr Leckie advised that a number of issues are looked at from a cost/benefit perspective. For example what are the potential long term costs to the region if it is not controlled, what are the benefits of Council intervention, and what would be the cost and practicality of control.

Councillor Remmerswaal asked if Purple Ragwort on Hastings District Council land would be treated. Mr Leckie advised that HDC work with Council to control plant pests on their land.

Councillor Scott asked how the Argentine Ant community programme was running and whether NCC was supporting it. Mr Leckie advised it was progressing well with good support from NCC and Port of Napier.

Councillor Scott also asked if any further PCA's had been signed up? Mr Leckie noted that there will be a further 20,000 ha included into the PCA programme for 10/11.

In response to a question from Councillor Dick, Mr Leckie advised the Committee that the control programme for Pinus Contorta in the Rangitaiki is 100% funded by Council. 70 ha have been cleared to date and we will continue with this work. The relationship with the Maori Trusts is good.

Mr Leckie advised that a Wilding Pine expert has recently been in this area and he has provided a report giving an overview of the regional Contorta problem and opportunities for coordinating with other agencies (particularly DOC) to control Contorta in the region. The control of Pinus Contorta in the Rangitaiki area is a key part of the regional control strategy.

In response to a question on Chilean Needle Grass Mr Leckie, advised that at present we don't have any tools to effectively manage this pest. However a new product from Australia called "Task force" was presently being assessed and the tool may be available in the next two years subject to it gaining regulatory approval from ERMA.

Mr Apatu - commenting on the Didymo summer awareness programme noted that Maori Land Trusts in the upper reaches of some of the region's rivers would be happy to assist in these areas.

Staff were asked to correct the wording at the bottom of page 2 of the Animal Pest Plan to readdensities at 5% or below rtc and land...

Resolution:

That the Committee recommends Council:

1. Agree that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted policy on significance and that Council can exercise its discretion under Sections 79(1)(a) and 82(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community and persons likely to be affected by or to have an interest in the decision due to the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided.
2. Adopt the:
 - 2.1. Animal Pest Operational Plan 2010/11.
 - 2.2. Plant Pest Operational Plan 2010/11.
 - 2.3. Phytosanitary Operational Plan 2010/11.

In accordance with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 1993; after the inclusion of any amendments made as a result of the Committee's consideration.

**McGregor/Scott
CARRIED**

8. HERETAUNGA PLAINS FLOOD CONTROL SCHEME – RIVERS – REVIEW OF LEVELS OF SERVICE

The Chairman welcomed Gary Clode to the meeting.

Mr Adye then introduced Larissa Coubrough and Pat Whitesell to the Committee.

Mr Clode explained the reason for this report and outlined the purpose of the review.

Councillor Scott asked if the remediation work, as a result of sawfly infestation, had affected the level of protection provided by the Scheme. Mr Clode advised that the reestablishment of natives and willows was good and in his estimation would provide a level of protection for a 50 year flood event.

To a question on 'Old Mans Beard' the Committee was advised that 80 kms of Upper Tukituki river edge have been attended to. This is an ongoing problem and requires spraying every year.

Mr Clode advised the Committee that a number of drains and streams within Napier had been evaluated in terms of their environmental value. This work will enable Council to prioritise proposed remedial work and quantify changes as a result of that work.

Mr Clode advised that the Plantation Drain project had been deferred to February 2011.

To a question from Councillor McGregor on the potential to use river berm land for a higher economic return, Mr Adye advised that any alternative use of river berm land could not compromise flood protection, however staff are currently looking at possible options.

Mr Adye noted that the outcomes of the review may change some of the current river management practices.

It was noted that input from community groups into Council's environmental enhancement work has been significant especially in the Karamu.

Resolution:

That the Committee recommends Council:

- 1.1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted policy on significance and that Council can exercise its discretion under Sections 79(1)(a) and 82(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community and persons likely to be affected by or to have an interest in the decision due to the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided.
- 1.2. Endorses the Project Brief for the Heretaunga Plains Flood Control and Drainage Scheme – Rivers, Level of Service Review, and notes that Committee will be updated and have input to the project as it progresses.

**Wilson/von Dadelszen
CARRIED**

The Committee broke for morning tea at 10.15 am

9. REVIEW OF RLS, LAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

At its meeting in February 2010 the Asset Management and Biosecurity Committee requested the Land Management Team provide further detail on key performance measures.

Mr Chris Perley, Manager, Land Management presented this agenda item suggesting changes to Council's Regional Landcare Scheme and revised key performance measures.

Discussion on the proposed changes to the Regional Landcare Scheme (RLS) set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the agenda item, was generally supportive. An additional recommendation was however included so that there was clarity that the current RLS funding divisions are to be consolidated.

The Committee also discussed the proposed additional outcome measures set out in Appendix 3 of the agenda item. Councillor Kirton suggested that mixing current measures with new measures was confusing and believed the new measures should be separated out and included as part of a land management operational plan to be brought back to the Committee in August. This was agreed by the Committee and added to the recommendations.

Resolution:

That the Committee recommends Council:

- 1.1. Agrees that the decisions to be made are not significant under the criteria contained in Council's adopted policy on significance and that Council can exercise its discretion under Sections 79(1)(a) and 82(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 and make decisions on this issue without conferring directly with the community and persons likely to be affected by or to have an interest in the decision due to the nature and significance of the issue to be considered and decided.
- 1.2. Approves revised approach to the Regional Landcare Scheme including that:
 - 1.2.1. Projects be assessed based on a scoring system based on the number of and extent of multiple beneficial outcomes provided by the project
 - 1.2.2. Priority be given to projects that score equal to or over 65/100.
 - 1.2.3. The following levels of subsidy to be provided:
 - Projects with a score above 80/100 can warrant an increase of up to 80% contribution (unless the project is in a priority catchment, with specific approval for a Group Manager when a contribution of up to 90% may be agreed to)

- Projects with a score of 40 to 80 = a contribution of 50%
 - Projects with a score of less than 40 will either be rejected or critiqued with a view to reducing the contribution to as low as 25%, at the discretion of staff.
- 1.2.4. Bulk subsidisation of pole planting be provided at 50% through pole purchases from the nursery.
- 1.2.5. The current division of Regional Landcare Scheme operational funding into a variety of separate areas of allocation be consolidated.
- 1.3. Approves the expansion of research and demonstration work, up to a maximum of \$150,000 of investment from the RLS budget in any one year, on research and investigation work to:
- Evaluate and disseminate how particular environmental, economic and social outcomes might be achieved in practice.
 - Use as seed funding wherever possible to leverage funding from other sources.
- 1.4. Agrees that covenanting continue to be required for larger jobs in order to protect the Council investment.
- 1.5. Instructs staff to monitor the level of uptake of the RLS subsidy provision throughout the 2010/11 year and report be brought back to each Asset Management and Biosecurity Committee, meeting commencing November 2010 and for the remainder of that financial year; with that report including recommendations for any changes to the criteria, scoring system and level of subsidy if staff believe that staff believe appropriate. This ongoing 3 monthly reporting will be reviewed at the AM&B Committee meeting in August or September 2011.
- 1.6. Approves the Land Management measures as outlined in Appendix 3.
- 1.7. Instructs staff to produce a schedule of land management activities, performance measures and outcomes that clearly inform on progress towards achieving its land management goals.

**Scott/Remmerswaal
CARRIED**

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This agenda item was carried over from the 9 February meeting. It was agreed that while the information was now a bit out of date it was still of some value to new members.

Mr Adye agreed to update Appendix 1 for the Committees information if any changes are made.

Resolution:

That the Committee recommends Council:

- 1.1. Note the respective responsibilities of Council staff associated with the management, operations and maintenance of Council's infrastructure and land assets.

**Dick/Wilson
CARRIED**

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Haumoana/Te Awanga Coastal erosion

In response to question from Councillor Remmerswaal Mr Adye advised the Committee that Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council are working with the WoW group. Independent planning advice relating to consents had been commissioned.

Rotary Pathways

From comments made by Councillor Remmerswaal Mr Adye said he would consider ways to be more proactive in community and media engagement relating to Rotary Pathways.

Silver Fern Farmer of the Year

Councillors Scott and McGregor attended a recent field day where Tim & Lucy Aitken were awarded the Silver Fern Farmer of the Year. Councillor Scott commented on this award and the consistently good farming practices that have been achieved on this farm.

It was noted however that HBRC staff were not obvious from their clothing and it was thought this would be something to consider for future events.

Dairy Liaison Committee

Chairman Rose requested members of the Committee may like to attend the next Dairy Liaison Committee meeting which will include afternoon tea. This would be the last one before the October elections.

Closure:

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

DATE:

CHAIRMAN: