



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MAORI COMMITTEE

**Date:** Tuesday 26 May 2009

**Time:** 10.15am

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

**Present:** M Mohi – Chairman  
E McGregor – HBRC Councillor  
L Remmerswaal – HBRC Councillor  
H Hilton  
N Taylor  
M Black  
M Apatu  
P Paku  
F McRoberts  
T Tareha  
C Lambert

**In Attendance:** A Newman – Chief Executive  
A Dick – HBRC Chairman  
L Lambert – Manager Policy  
C Reed – Senior Planner  
V Moule - Kaitohutohu  
M Drury- Minute Secretary

Chairman Mohi welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that due to time restraints. Item 12 would be presented out of order.

1 **KARAKIA- HAAMI HILTON**

12. **CE UPDATE – WATER ISSUES**

**Water Harvesting Update**

Mr Newman updated the Committee on progress to date with the proposed water harvesting project. Mr Newman noted the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries visit to the region recently where the Minister viewed several sites and showed considerable interest.

Mr Newman then gave a presentation which outlined the strategic, policy and demand management processes involved in order for Council to put in a place a strategic water framework whereby water requirements in the region would be better managed in the future. It was noted that originally 20 sites were considered for possible storage dams but for various reasons there were now 5 sites being considered for further feasibility work.

Mr Newman stressed that to date a pre-feasibility study had been completed but there was a large amount of work to be undertaken to see if the water storage project was feasible. It was fundamental for all parties involved to relate effectively – failure to do this could result in a breakdown of the coalition which could put the project at risk. In this regard Mr Newman acknowledged the need for on-going consultation with tangata whenua.

**Tukituki River Cleanup**

Mr Newman also outlined Council's plans to create a forest investment which would assist CHB in their plans to reduce phosphorous loadings into the Tukituki as the nutrient rich water would be diverted to irrigate the planned forest and the sludge would be extracted from the pond. This would also reduce the direct cost to CHB for a land based wastewater treatment by about \$5m. Land negotiations for this project were currently being investigated.

Mr Paku suggested that there must be other solutions to the water problems in the region and felt Council was taking a narrow focus with their current investigations. Mr Newman noted that wastewater from the ponds could not be applied to grazing land because of health reasons and the proposed forest management system was the lowest cost alternative.

In response to a question from Mr Apatu, Mr Newman advised that Council could consider a similar feasibility study be undertaken on the Ngaruroro river.

Mr T Tareha joined the meeting at 11.00am.

**Bridge Pa**

Mr Newman also advised the Committee that he understood that to date the Bridge Pa community had not agreed to a community reticulated water scheme and stressed the importance for this decision to be made sooner rather than later as the 100% funding from MoH/HDC for the reticulation scheme may not be available in the future.

The Committee noted that the Community had expressed concern in regard to the water rate of approximately \$170.00 per year payable to HDC.

The Committee requested that all ongoing activities and discussions be documented by Council so that if the issue 'flared up' again in the future, the Council could point to the steps it had taken to resolve the matter and the decisions taken, or not taken, by the Bridge Pa community.

### **Resolution**

1. That the Committee receive the Chief Executive Officer's verbal report on the above matters.

**Black/Remmerswaal  
CARRIED**

Mr Newman left the meeting at 11.15am

### **2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs V Wairau and Messrs A Tipene and T Gilbertson

**Apatu/Black  
CARRIED**

### **3 SHORT TERM REPLACEMENT(S) ON COMMITTEE**

There were no short term replacements on Committee

### **4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2009**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28 April 2009, a copy having been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

**Tareha/Hilton  
CARRIED**

### **5 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2009**

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2009**

#### **8. Proposed Stormwater Plan Change**

Mr Black advised that the working group set up to give feedback on the draft stormwater plan change had advised staff that they were concerned about the criteria to be used to define "sensitive receiving environments". In particular, the working group felt that Tikanga Maori should be a standalone qualifying criteria and not rely on two or more other criteria having to be met in order for an area to be deemed a "sensitive receiving environment." He was disappointed this had not been reflected in the re-write.

#### **14. General Business - Winstones**

Mr Apatu reported that a kaitiaki monitoring group had been formed as part of the consent conditions for Winstones. The group had recently met with Winstones and discussed the concerns expressed in regard to the stockpiling of gravel which was on the boundary edge on the seaward side of the site. Mr Apatu advised this was the first meeting with Winstones and the formation of a very good relationship with Winstones.

### **6 CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL BUSINESS**

- (i) Update on Peka Peka
- (ii) Judge Joe Williams Speech

- (iii) Roy's Hill
- (iv) Karamu Watercress

## 7 ACTION ITEMS

### Resolution:

1. That the Committee receives the report "Action Items from Maori Committee Meetings".

**McRoberts/Black  
CARRIED**

## 8 POTENTIAL LAND USE CHANGE

Mrs Lambert reminded the Committee that following the presentation of this matter at its 28 April meeting, the Committee had requested further information to enable them to discuss the item in more detail. Mrs Lambert outlined the Council's previous instructions to staff to prepare an interim plan change to existing plan provisions in the Regional Resource Management Plan and the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan.

Mr Reed gave a presentation which summarised the Council's current approach to land use activities and what the current drivers pressuring the need for reconsidering the current approach were.

Mr Reed presented a series of questions to the Committee to stimulate discussion and feedback amongst Committee members for incorporation of ideas into an interim plan change and possible future draft plan change for land use activities. The Committee discussed the issues raised and the proposed measures and noted the following:

- Current Council practices generally do not require land owners to monitor effects of their activities. Monitoring could be possible if the activity required a resource consent and a consent condition required the approval of a land management plan or similar prior to the project commencing – this could result in a reduction of direct effects on land or rivers;
- Consideration should be given to seasonal-type rules applying to subdivisions and earthworks to control risk of sediment loss and runoff during winter months;
- Farmers are mindful of their environmental responsibilities but not all farmers have, or respect, the same caring environmental values;
- Although Council's current approach has very limited controls on land use activities, there is scope under the Resource Management Act for a broader range of land use restrictions to be introduced for water quality and soil conservation purposes;
- The Council's current approach is not perfect, but it is preferable over a poorly targeted regulatory approach; (farmers don't react well to being told "what not to do").
- A set of 'backstop' rules would be required (which hopefully would not need to be used) that carefully balances the right to farm while protecting environmental values;

- If Council was to go too far down the regulation line, there could be strong opposition from the farming community;
- Continuing education initiatives are necessary to encourage landowners to be “good neighbours” in work practices;
- Non-point source discharges need to be addressed alongside point-source discharges;
- Need to review effectiveness of existing rules applicable within ‘sensitive catchments’
- Need to apply a ‘catchment level’ approach to nutrient losses and nutrient management and consideration of ‘whole of farm’ nutrient assessments;
- Allowing stock to stand/eat/defecate etc in waterways is culturally insensitive to Maori;
- Discharges of contaminants directly into water should be avoided. Discharges should be managed to filter through wetlands and land before entering water.
- A proactive approach to avoiding pollution based on best available science and understanding of values (social, ecological, cultural and economic) is the best practice for sustainability in the future;
- Kaitiakitanga is very important to iwi. Iwi values need to be identified and understood by decision-makers;
- There needs to be an in-depth understanding of “wairua” - Council is balancing economic values against environmental values – if environmental values are compromised in any way, then economic value would decrease;
- Farming on eroding hill country and intensive dairy farming needs to be addressed. Horizons OnePlan identifies “highly erodible land” which may offer an example of how the Council may address issues in draft plan change;
- Increase profile and purpose of Regional Resource Management Plan Schedule 1 to be better incorporated into policy and consent decision-making;
- Strong environmental bottom lines should be identified that are robust for consent decision-making while enabling flexible farming operation within that bottom line.

**Resolution:**

1. That the Committee receives the information.

**McGregor/Tareha  
CARRIED**

9 **TUKITUKI CATCHMENT**

Mrs Lambert updated the Committee on the water quality management issues which had been identified by the Tukituki Stakeholders Group which included environmental and economic issues.

To date, the Group had not yet finalised any agreed recommendations to go forward to the Regional Council.

Mrs Lambert advised that the Liaison Group hoped to report back to Council in the near future via the Environmental Management Committee and it was hoped that members of the Maori Committee would be present.

Chairman Mohi congratulated Council staff involved with the Liaison Group for their excellent input to date.

**Resolution**

1. That the Committee receives the information.

**Hilton/Black  
CARRIED**

10 **HAPU MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE**

Mr Moule reminded the Committee that they had requested a 'scoping report' be completed by Mr Bill Hodges. This report was completed in September 2008.

Mr Moule summarised the next steps in the process of developing Hapu Management Plan.

The Committee discussed the proposed steps and agreed that individual Hapu should develop their own template for their Management Plan which would give them the ability to amend the Plan themselves. They requested that Mr Moule have discussions with an interested Hapu and report back to the Maori Committee meeting at a later date.

**Resolution:**

- 1 That Mr Moule have further discussions with a Hapu and a report be prepared for the Maori Committee meeting.

**Remmerswaal/Hilton  
CARRIED**

11 **COUNCIL CULTURAL AWARENESS PROPOSAL**

Chairman Mohi outlined a proposal for staff to have the experience of going onto a marae and learning about protocol on a marae in a half day cultural awareness hui.

Councillor Remmerswaal agreed it was a great initiative but requested consideration be given for an overnight stay on a marae at a later date.

**Resolution**

1. That Chairman Mohi and Mr Moule finalise details to provide a half day "cultural awareness hui" for staff and Councillors of the Regional Council.

**Remmerswaal/Apatu  
CARRIED**

13. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Update on Peka Peka**

Councillor Dick updated the Committee on work currently being undertaken at the entrance off State Highway 2 at Peka Peka. This work will progress over the next 12 months

Mr Hilton expressed concern that if the use of explosives was contemplated, full consultation with iwi ('upstream') would be required. He was given an assurance that this would be the case.

### **Judge Joe Williams Speech – Speaker Series**

Councillor Remmerswaal reported on the last Speaker Series Breakfast where Judge Joe Williams was guest speaker. Councillor Remmerswaal also stated that Councillors and staff attended a workshop following the breakfast which was very informative.

Judge William's speech is on HBRC's website.

Chairman Mohi suggested that Moana Jackson should also be considered as a speaker for the Speaker series this year.

### **Roy's Hill**

Mr Black tabled an item in regard to Roy's Hill Artificial Recharge which highlighted concern that there did not appear to be any assessment of the total volume of the recharge contribution to the unconfined aquifer nor of the duration of positive effect. Mr Black suggested that it was time for Council to consider putting a cap on the amount of water able to be withdrawn from the Heretaunga aquifers and to prioritise the use of water with domestic and reticulated water requirements being accorded higher priority than water takes for commercial or economic gain. Chairman Mohi requested that Mr Black forward a report for consideration at the Environmental Management Committee.

### **Karamu Watercress**

Councillor Remmerswaal queried whether watercress located in the Karamu Stream had been sprayed.

The Committee also noted that there is a planting week for the Karamu Stream from 3-6 June with a Councillor/staff planting day on 2 June. All Maori Committee members had received an invitation.

### **Closure:**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1.15pm.

Signed as a true and correct record.

**DATE:** .....

**CHAIRMAN:** .....