



**Report 06.718**

15 November 2006

File: E/6/12/2

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee held in the Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 34 Chapel Street, Masterton, on Tuesday, 14 November 2006, at 9.30am.**

**Matters for Council decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.**  
*Other matters for information of Council only are in italic type.*

**Present:**

Councillors Long (Chairperson), Baber, Buchanan, Kirton, Turver.  
Messrs Dalziell, McQueen, Read, and Southey.

**Officers Present:**

G Dick, G Campbell, D Cameron, S Forbes, W O'Donnell, L Race, C Robertson,  
T Taylor.

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

**RSW 155 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**RSW 156 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present who wished to participate in the meeting.

**RSW 157      Confirmation of Minutes**

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Cr Baber)*

*That the Committee:*

*Confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee (Report 06.599) held on 19 September 2006.*

**Matter for Recommendation**

**RSW 158      Regional Pest Management Strategy: Operational Report 2005/06**

**Report 06.645**

**File: WB/01/11/01**

Committee members extended their congratulations to Wayne and his team on the production of an excellent operational report.

*Resolved to Recommend*

*(Mr Southey/Cr Buchanan)*

*That the Council*

- (1) Approves the Annual Report on the implementation of the 2005/2006 Operational Plan for the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.*
- (2) Notes that a copy of the Annual Report will be forwarded to the relevant Ministers.*
- (3) Notes that the Annual Report will be made available for public inspection.*

**Matters Reported for Information**

**RSW 159      Land Management Funding – Public Meeting**

**Report 06.630**

**File: WO/03/40/10**

The Manager, Land Management indicated that the formation of a hill country advisory group was supported by staff and aligned well with the integrated catchment management concept.

Cr Buchanan said that before setting the terms of reference preliminary discussions should occur with the various chairs of all the river and catchment scheme advisory committees on how best to develop an approach for region-wide sustainable land management.

Mr Dalziell referred to a recent newspaper article on the issues in the Gisborne District where erosion and government forestry programmes in the 1990's had failed. This article was tabled for the Committee's information.

Cr Kirton left the meeting at 10.08am.

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Mr Dalziell)*

*That the Committee:*

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

**RSW 160 Review of Greater Wellington's Hydrological Monitoring Network**

**Report 06.544**

**File: ENV/05/04/01**

Laura Watts was present for the discussion on this item.

Members noted that this was the first review undertaken of GW's hydrological monitoring network since 1999.

Mr Read referred to the recommendations for the river station network that had been ranked according to priority. He considered that the installation of a floodwarning gauge in the Awhea-Opouawe catchment should be given a higher priority and that the floodwarning system in the Huangarua River should be improved.

Members thanked Laura for the excellent report.

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Mr Read)*

*That the Committee:*

- (1) Receives the report; and*
- (2) Notes the contents.*

**RSW 161 National Rabbit Calicivirus Biocide Programme**

**Report 06.644**

**File: WB/02/15/01**

*Resolved*

*(Mr Read/Cr Turver)*

*That the Committee:*

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

The meeting was adjourned between 10.35am and 10.50am for morning tea.

**RSW 162 Divisional Managers' Report**

**Report 06.588**

**File: WS/08/05/01**

**Staff**

Graeme Campbell was attending his first meeting of the Committee in his capacity as the newly appointed Manager, Flood Protection.

**Environment Management**

**Regional Policy Statement Review (RPS)**

Mr Southey expressed his disappointment at the short notice given to councillors and appointed members of the Committee to attend the Regional Policy Statement workshop on 8 November. Officers agreed to relay the notice concern back to the relevant staff.

Mr Read attended the workshop and provided an update for the members.

**New Structure**

Mr Dalziell reported that there was an element of confusion regarding the new management structure making it difficult for ratepayers to know which divisional manager to contact.

Officers reported that information and key contacts for the Catchment Management Division would feature in a forthcoming Rural Services newsletter. It was noted that the Environment Management Division structure had featured in the previous Rural Services newsletter.

### **Biosecurity – 1080 Reassessment**

Members noted that the submission period had been extended to the end of January.

### **Flood Protection – Restrictions on Waihenga Bridge**

Officers updated the Committee on Transit NZ's proposal to close the Waihenga Bridge when the gauge reading reached 4.5m at Waihenga due to safety concerns from scouring around the bridge piles. It was noted that Transit NZ had not written or consulted with GW regarding their proposal.

Officers were asked to write to Transit NZ seeking additional information.

### **Land Management – Farm Environment Awards**

Members were advised that it had been decided to proceed with the Awards for this year given the number of entries that had now been received. It was noted that a review of the Awards was considered appropriate.

### **BioWorks – Land Management Planting**

Mr Dalziell noted from the BioWorks report that they were doing much of Land Management's riparian and shelterbelt planting programmes and queried whether this would impact on their core possum control contract work.

Members were advised that the Upper Hutt staff undertaking this work were employed to undertake additional revenue work and not the Animal Health Board operational programmes.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Mr Dalziell)*

*That the Committee*

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

### **RSW 163 Questions**

There were no questions.

**RSW 164      General Business**

Cr Buchanan updated members on the Wellington Regional Strategy.

Members noted that the strategy was now out for public consultation with submissions having closed on 13 November. 440 submissions had been received of which half had related to the strategy and the other half to the governance and funding arrangements. Hearings are scheduled for 4, 5 and 6 December and a report of the sub-group will be reporting back to the WRS Strategy Committee on 14 December with recommendations. A report will be submitted to the Council for consideration in late January 2007.

Cr Baber left the meeting at 12 noon.

12.10pm      The meeting closed.

Cr F R Long  
CHAIRMAN

Date: