

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 4 June 2014 commencing at 10.46 am

Present:

- Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)
- Cr Doug Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Leave of Absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Matt Hickey
- Deborah Mills (for Item 1)
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Eckhoff.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0824 **Spatial study of air quality in Arrowtown and Wanaka.**
DEHS, 26/5/14

The report summarised spatial air quality studies carried out in Arrowtown and Wanaka during winter 2013. Results from the studies provided additional information regarding air quality in the Arrowtown and Wanaka airsheds which would assist in the development of a larger monitoring strategy.

A question was raised as to whether moving monitoring sites could confuse long term records. Ms Mills explained that changing sites was not ideal but in the case of Arrowtown the monitor had to be moved quickly. The monitor was now in the worst part of town, so it was expected that the readings would be higher.

It was noted that in Arrowtown air quality appeared to be worse in the morning when people lit their fires, but in Wanaka the late afternoon/early evening period was worse, probably because of restaurants starting up. Dr Palmer advised that some local education programmes had been carried out, and future programmes would be developed. Interaction with TLAs and developers was suggested to ensure air quality issues were taken into account in new residential areas.

Ms Mills advised in response to a question that the current monitors were not able to determine the source of residue collected.

The location of air quality monitoring sites was discussed, and Ms Mills advised that the spatial studies done to date confirmed those monitors were in the best locations being locations with the highest concentrations of PM₁₀. The Alexandra and Cromwell sites would be investigated this year to ensure they too were in the best locations.

Rapid development in some Air Zone 2 areas was noted, and comment was made that while these areas currently had to meet the national woodburner standard of 1.5 µg/m³, consideration should be given to developing policy to advocate for 0.7 µg/m³ in Air Zone 2.

It was suggested publicity was needed to clarify that PM₁₀ was particle size, not a fuel component, as some people seemed to think.

Cr Kelliher moved
Cr Robertson seconded

1. *That the results from this report be used to inform the monitoring component of the air quality management strategy being developed this year.*
2. *That the results be shared with the communities.*
3. *That this report be noted.*

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/0832

Assessment of liquefaction hazard in the Dunedin City district.
DEHS, 26/5/14

The susceptibility of land to earthquake-induced liquefaction in the Dunedin City District had been assessed for ORC by GNS Science. The GNS report was circulated separately.

Dr Palmer noted a correction to Item 3 of the committee report, to read “..... the permanent population of land classified as Domains B or C is approximately 32,620 ~~55,856~~ (27% of Dunedin’s total)

Comment was made on the statement in the report that while activity intervals on Akatore and Titree were long compared with more active faults, the location of other fault lines was not known. It was suggested that this reference be highlighted to the DCC.

It was noted that South Dunedin and the Upper Harbour were identified as key areas with the greatest population. How to highlight this to the community would be discussed through the DCC’s District Plan process.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Robertson seconded

That:

1. *The report is noted.*
2. *The report “Assessment of liquefaction hazards in the Dunedin City District” and its associated GIS dataset is uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database, and provided to the Dunedin City Council.*

Motion carried

Item 3
2014/0826

Natural Hazards technical reports to inform the Dunedin City District Plan. DEHS, 26/5/14

The report explained that a series of six technical reports had been created to help inform the review of the natural hazard provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan. Reports covering the characteristics and likely geographical extent of a range of natural hazards, including Coastal Communities, Taieri Flood Hazard, and Urban streams flood hazard, were circulated separately.

Dr Palmer noted that the report included new information on the Kaikorai Valley flood hazard; refining of information on the North Taieri, Tirohanga Road and Wyllies Crossing areas; and adjustment to Water of Leith/Lindsay Creek maps. There were some rating implications where adjustment to benefit zones was needed, and this would be addressed during preparation of the 2015-25 Long Term Plan.

In response to a question Dr Palmer confirmed that the ORC had sufficient resources to be able to work with TLA staff on their district plans, and noted that to date discussions had also been held with WDC and CDC.

In response to a question Dr Palmer explained that natural hazards information was contained in the hazard register, which was a dynamic document and could be updated as new information became available. The next generation of the database would increase capacity and make it easier to use.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That:

- 1. This report be received, and*
- 2. The series of six technical reports outlined above be noted, endorsed, and provided to the Dunedin City Council to inform the review of the natural hazards provisions of the Dunedin City District Plan.*

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/0822 **Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study.**
DEHS, 9/5/14

The committee report summarised the full report “Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study” (circulated separately) which presented the results of long-term State of the Environment monitoring at two sites in the Shag River/Waihemo catchment, intensive water quality monitoring in 2012-2013, and ecological surveys carried out in 2012-2013.

Cr Brown moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That this report and the technical report “Shag River/Waihemo Catchment: Water Quality Study” be received and noted.

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/0788 **Water quality of Lake Tuakitoto catchment.** DEHS, 26/5/14

The Committee report summarised the full report “Water quality and ecosystem health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment” (circulated separately).

In response to a question Dr Palmer advised that work was under way to establish an operating regime which would create a balance between land drainage and ecosystems. Changes had also been made to operational staffing and decision making. It was anticipated that within 6 to 12 months all the arrangements for improved water level management would be in place.

Comment was made that because of similar soil types and rainfall, similar water quality issues had been experienced throughout South and West Otago for a long time. There would be ongoing issues with Lake Tuakitoto, in part because it was shallow, and just above sea level.

Mr Hickey commented that the standards in Schedule 15 of Plan Change 6A were targets, not limits. He noted that there was a lot of sediment in the lake, which could not be disposed of quickly. The location of the lake also had an effect, with wind stirring up the sediment. Factors included NNN, which was common across South Otago, leaching, and *e.coli*, partly from the large number of birds. The establishment of a management regime was critical, and staff were working with DoC, Fish and Game, and landowners.

Note was made of a comment from the National Chair of Federated Farmers that farmers would have to get used to the idea that higher stocking rates in some areas could not continue, and that too much fertiliser was being applied.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That this report and the technical report "Water quality and ecological health in the Lake Tuakitoto catchment" be received and noted.

Motion carried

Item 6
2014/0854

Management flows for Tuapeka River ecosystems. DEHS, 20/5/14

The Committee report presented the management flow report "Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River" (full report circulated separately).

In response to a comment about maintaining the native fish population, Mr Hickey explained that some species could survive deprecation by trout, others, for example galaxiid, could not. The consenting process could allow a flow to prevent trout migration upstream, and most native populations lived in the upper levels of rivers above the minimum flow.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Kempton seconded

That this report and the technical report "Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River" be received and noted.

Motion carried

Item 7
2014/0825

Director's Report on Progress. DEHS, 21/5/14

The report described progress with Council's flood protection, land drainage and river management programmes, and the management of natural hazards and civil defence and emergency management, and provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Resource Science Unit.

It was noted that there was a lot of frustration over perceived slow progress with Kakanui River issues, and farms had suffered significant damage. Arriving at a community solution through the consultation process would take time, and a solution to immediate problems was needed. Dr Palmer advised that once terms of engagement had been

signed with a person to lead the development of the Kakanui/Kauru river management plan, that person would be able to start work. He advised that in the meantime staff were working on localised gravel issues to deal with river alignment.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 12.02 pm.

Chairperson

