

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
on Wednesday 27 January 2016 commencing at 10.35 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 Sam Neill**
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**
- Cr David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

Apologies: **Cr Trevor Kempton** (entered the meeting at 10.39 am)

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott McLean**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Brown and Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2015/1304 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 24/12/15

Topics covered in the Director's report included: Clutha Bioenergetic Modelling, Leith Flood Protection Scheme, and Dunedin District Plan and Natural Hazards.

Comment was made that bioenergetic modelling could have big implications for the setting of minimum flows, particularly in unreliable low flow rivers. Dr Palmer explained that IFIM (Instream Flow Incremental Methodology) was sufficient on most occasions, and this bioenergetic modelling of the Upper Clutha was an exception. He did not see it as setting a precedent for a method to be applied automatically to other rivers.

Support was noted for minimum flows on water short tributaries of the Clutha, but it was queried when the decision was made to apply a minimum flow to the Clutha main stem. There was a concern that a minimum flow on the Clutha would be to the detriment of people in Central Otago.

It was noted that the schedule of minimum flow work had been set some time ago. Bioenergetic modelling was part of the information required for informing a minimum flow process, and in this instance replaced IFIM. The minimum flow process for the Clutha would be different because of the size of the river, with a good deal of it being rooted in the economic potential for the region from Clutha water. The river was important environmentally and economically, including for hydro.

Dr Palmer explained that the bioenergetics modelling was best done now to get it off the critical path of the project, and he noted that it was determined as part of LTP progress. Mr McRae commented that there was nothing in the Water Plan around the values of the Clutha. He also noted that there was a default minimum flow on the river through the hydro consents, and Lake Dunstan provided limited storage in the upper Clutha. There was possible tension between irrigation and hydro power needs.

The amount of work needed on the Clutha minimum flow process was noted, and it was queried whether the work needed to be reordered to fit in with next year's Annual Plan process. A workshop was needed soon, and there needed to be clear engagement with the community.

Mr McRae commented that the information already presented to Council on the potential for irrigation throughout Central Otago would be useful for this project.

Cr Kempton returned to the meeting at 10.39 am

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.05 am.

Chairperson

