

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 June 2016 commencing at 9:00am

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:

- Peter Bodeker
- Gavin Palmer
- Fraser McRae
- Nick Donnelly
- Caroline Rowe
- Scott MacLean
- Lauren McDonald
- Deborah Mills
- Adam Uytendaal
- Sharon Hornblow
- Chris Valentine
- Dean Olsen
- Rachel Ozanne

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Scott advised that for Item 5, he declared he had an interest in a forestry holding and would pass the chairing of this item to Cr Brown.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Croot.

Moved
Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/0796 **Pomahaka River and Taieri River Morphology and Riparian Management Strategy. DEHS 20/5/16**

The report describes the morphology and riparian management strategies developed to help protect and enhance the recreational, cultural and ecological values associated with the Pomahaka riverbed and Taieri riverbed and their margins. The development of each strategy is part of the 2015/16 Annual Plan target RW1 - 3:

Cr Scott summarised the report including the strategies, principles, and objectives, community values and financial considerations for sustainable river management on the Taieri and Pomahaka rivers, noting that increased work would mean increased cost for river management activity.

Discussion

A question was raised in regard to Council having a more active role in river management by holding a gravel extraction consent which would be able to be used by the community.

Dr Palmer advised that those were details that ORC needed to work through including the options of either full transfer of the consent to another party, as has been done for the Shotover Delta. In regard to the Leith, ORC hold the consent and the contractor was in effect operating under the ORC's consent in a contractual agreement. Dr Palmer advised that this was a common approach of other regional councils. In the case where there was not a commercial contractor with their own consent, ORC may hold the universal consent and provide for the small number of consents for gravel extraction, from time to time, where appropriate for river management.

A comment was made that the Council's responsibility needed to be clearly defined as to who has the legislative responsibility if anything goes wrong or if consent conditions were not adhered to.

A comment was made that a communications publication needed to be developed with clearly presented information (an example was given of the PC1C documents) explaining the three or four key points in regard to where the Council and landowner responsibilities and permissions sat, as commonly people don't tend to reference back quickly to a full comprehensive technical report. Mrs Rowe was requested to investigate the development of this type of communication.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Shepherd

That;

- 1. these reports are received;*
- 2. the Pomahaka River and Taieri River morphology and riparian management strategies are endorsed; and*
- 3. the financial considerations associated with the strategies are noted.*

Motion carried

Item 2

2016/0793

Cardrona River Channel Morphology. DEHS, 20/5/16

The report described the changes in morphology that have occurred since the last comprehensive survey was undertaken in 2007, and places these more recent changes within the context of longer term trends. It fulfils the 2015/16 Annual Plan target.

Dr Palmer advised that this work was an Annual Plan target and would lead into the next strategy plan for the Cardrona River morphology and riparian management.

A question was raised in regard to the work currently being undertaken on setting the minimum flow for the Cardrona River and if there was a timing consideration of those two processes.

Dr Palmer advised that these would be aligned and the intention was not to have duplication, go over known information, or hold multiple meetings, but to deal with all the issues at the same time. He acknowledged the processes were 'separate but related' and a values assessment had already been completed on this catchment. Dr Palmer confirmed that the river management strategy did not rely on the minimum flow work being completed.

Mr McRae confirmed that interface with the community would occur at the same time for minimum flow setting and river morphology. Work has commenced on the Cardrona to look at other ways of managing water in that river. Mr McRae confirmed that the focus was on setting minimum flows on Otago's major rivers first and to have these in the Water Plan.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Woodhead

That;

- 1. this report be received and noted; and*
- 2. this report is used to inform the Cardrona River morphology and riparian management strategy.*

Motion carried

Item 3
2016/0698

**Technology-based solutions for air quality management:
A Discussion Document. DEHS, 20/5/16**

The report summarised the factors behind the improvement in New Zealand's air quality over the last 10 years and discusses the various options available to assist with the reduction in particulate emissions from solid-fuel burners. This fulfils two targets in the 2015/16 Annual Plan.

Cr Scott summarised the report by Deborah Mills, Environmental Scientist including the considerations to reducing particulate emission, through a wide range technological solutions, such as ULEBs for domestic heating, residential community heating schemes and secondary controls.

Cr Scott commented that in the reduction of particulate concentrations, that no scheme was likely to succeed in reducing PM₁₀ concentrations to meet NES Air Quality levels (within reasonable energy input limits) and that the option of the greatest improvement would come through reducing "operator" intervention with domestic burners.

Dr Palmer advised that this work was part of the Annual Plan targets and supported other pieces of work which would inform the air quality management strategy.

Councillors thanked Ms Mills for a very interesting and thoroughly researched report which offered potential options to inform air quality management strategies.

In response to a question, Ms Mills advised that Canterbury, Nelson and the Bay of Plenty had trials of ULEBS underway and that Otago would review how these trials could contribute to the Otago air quality strategy.

Cr Woodhead commented, as had been reported to Council previously, that the Ministry for the Environment had signalled the review of the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality and completion was due for July/August with a discussion document from the Crown. He advised once this document was received, Council would then be in a position to review how this fits together and perhaps workshop this for Otago.

Mr Bodeker commented that residential community heating schemes would need to be partnered with TAs and sought Council's expectation on whether initial investigations with the TAs and developers should proceed to seek their interest on what could be done. Councillors encouraged establishing communication with the TAs and on opportunities.

Moved Cr Croot
Seconded Cr Bell

That;

1. *this report be received; and*
2. *this report be used to inform the Otago Air Strategy.*

Motion carried

Item 4
2016/0803

Natural Hazards on the Clutha Delta, Otago DEHS, 25/5/16

The intention of the report is to inform decisions relating to the Clutha Delta between Balclutha and the coast, including how to manage infrastructure that is part of ORC's Lower Clutha Flood Protection and Drainage Scheme. This report includes the 2015/16 Annual Plan target 12: Assess effects and implications of shoreline retreat and sea level rise.

It was commented about the need for communication and presentation of the report to the community to be well managed.

Cr Woodhead commented that he thought there was reasonable understanding in the Clutha Delta community of these challenges and that Coastal erosion data had been provided to this community in the past.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Robertson

That;

1. *this report be received and noted; and*
2. *this report is presented to the Clutha District Council and the Clutha Delta Community.*

Motion carried

Cr Brown chaired item 5, due to the conflict of interest declared by Cr Scott

Item 5
2016/0847

Update on Glendhu Forestry (Plan Change 6A) Water Quality Monitoring Project. DEHS 24/6/16

The objective of the Glendhu catchment study is to measure the effects of a multi-year pine harvesting operation on water clarity, suspended sediment yield, stream sedimentation and potential effects on instream biota. This report meets the 2015/16 annual plan target to provide an update report to ‘summarise the results thus far of forest harvesting in the Glendhu Forest on stream health and water quality’.

Cr Brown advised that this project is a catchment project – one in tussock land and one in forestry and the report outlined the purpose of project to measure sediment load coming off those catchments through the cycle of the forestry project

Dr Palmer advised that this project was part of RWQ implementation programme.

In response to a question raised on the set back of trees to the stream, Dr Uytendaal advised that it was a positive of the study to be able to have a good close look at the mitigation efforts that have been put in place, including setback of trees amongst other factors would be considered.

Moved Cr Shepherd
Seconded Cr Robertson

That;

- 1. this report be received and noted; and*
- 2. Plan Change 6A mediation parties be updated on progress with the study.*

Motion carried

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4
2016/0809

Director’s Report on Progress. DEHS, 27/5/16

Topics covered in the report are: Leith Flood Protection Scheme, Water of Leith flood forecasting, Green Island sea level, Flood schemes Piping risk investigations, Seismic hazard information, and Modelling to inform minimum flow setting processes.

Dr Palmer advised that the Leith work was moving forward to substantial completion by mid June and there had been some delay due to weather. In regard to the Clutha bioenergetics modelling work, there has been some delay in completing the field work due to the flow situation which would now take the field work into summer, but that this would not affect the setting of the minimum flow.

Dr Palmer advised that the site is owned by NIWA and was going to be closed. DoC administer the island and Council pays for the maintenance of the site, which has value for the South Dunedin and Clutha Delta work.

Moved Cr Deaker
Seconded Cr Croot

That the report is noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 10:30am

Chairperson

