

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday, 23 November 2016, commencing at 10:57am

Membership:

- Cr Maggie Lawton (Chairperson)
- Cr Stephen Woodhead (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Carmen Hope
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Michael Laws
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Andrew Noone
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr Gretchen Robertson

Cr Lawton welcomed attendees to the meeting.

A correction to the membership list was noted for the Committee and Deputy Chair than that listed in the agenda.

Cr Lawton congratulated Dr Palmer on his appointment to the Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group. This panel of ten experts will advise central government on adaption for climate change.

Apologies: Nil.

Leave of Absence: Nil.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Nick Donnelly
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Fraser McRae
- Scott MacLean
- Adam Uytendaal
- Dean Olsen
- Lauren McDonald (minute taker)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum held.

PART A RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2016/1138 **Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee** DCS 8/11/16

The report provided the Terms of Reference for consideration and recommendation to Council.

Suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference were noted as:

- Purpose:
addition of the word “identify” to the first bullet point.
Addition of the words “by and for Council” to the second bullet point
- Explanatory Comment:
a separation of Resource Science analysis and monitoring into two separate bullet points for resource science research and investigation and then SOE reporting.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Kempton

That the Terms of Reference with the suggested amendments for the Technical Committee be considered and a final version presented to Council on 7 December 2016, for adoption.

The motion was not put to the meeting for vote.

PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 2

2016/1075 **2016 Air Quality Results, DEHS, 15/11/16**

The report presented Otago’s ambient air quality monitoring results for 2016 and examined the long-term trends in PM₁₀.

Dr Olsen, Manager Resource Science spoke to the report in the absence of the author, Ms Mills.

Dr Olsen was asked to outline the trends in air quality observed in the report. He advised that the variability in ambient air quality in individual towns depended on the climate, which was the main driver of trends. He commented that for most sites the trends had not changed drastically, other than for Dunedin city, which had a significant improvement in air quality since 2012.

A question was raised in regard to the timing of the air quality monitoring undertaken. Dr Palmer noted that there is 24 hour monitoring

through the year at some locations, with monitoring over the winter months at other locations and that measurement were taken at the site with the poorest air quality.

Discussion was held on the challenges to meet the National Environmental Standards Air Quality (NESAQ), in particular for Central Otago with its extreme cold in winter and the current review by MfE on the health-related effects of PM_{2.5}.

Mr McRae confirmed that this Council had taken an even handed approach with the regime set in place with the air sheds for Otago. He commented that Central Otago is an environment that the NES did not expect to have to operate in.

Discussion was held in regard to public health and the debate over health problems being caused by air quality or the cold winter conditions. It was noted that good clean air quality, warm houses and good health all need to be considered, and it was not an either, or, situation.

Cr Robertson commented it was good to see the 10 year trend analysis – which would assist in refining Council policies and that it would be beneficial to see the full analysis of the statistics.

Staff were thanked for the comprehensive report.

It was requested that a report be provided to the committee once the NESAQ is released by MfE.

Moved Cr Lawton
Seconded Cr Deaker

- 1. That the report be received.*
- 2. That the state of air quality in Otago be noted.*

Motion carried

Item 3

2016/1108 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 18/11/16

Topics covered in the report included: Leith Flood Protection Scheme; Clutha bioenergetics and instream habitat modelling; lake monitoring and lake snow; Chard Road landslide (Kawarua Gorge) and the Dunedin City District Plan Natural Hazards submissions.

Dr Palmer confirmed that the technical review of the Dunedin City District Plan Natural Hazards Submissions was progressing well and that the finalised technical information would be ready for endorsement by ORC in the New Year.

Lake monitoring and lake snow - Dr Olsen confirmed that the technical experts workshop would be held in the third week in December 2016. He advised that the results of the workshop and recommendations would then come to the Technical Committee and through the Annual Plan process.

Dr Palmer explained that the technical workshop was an initiative outside the Annual Plan process and that the workshop would ensure the research is focussed around solutions and would lead to the next steps that need to be taken.

Dr Uytendaal advised that lake snow was present in Lake Wanaka over the summer months and disappeared over autumn and winter, but that Lake Wakatipu has had lake snow present over the winter months also. Lake Hawea only had a small quantity of lake snow found to be present. He advised that currently ORC is taking the opportunity to add some additional parameters for sampling on the lakes to specifically understand the location, cycle and volume of lake snow in the lakes.

Dr Olsen advised that there was no standard method for quantifying lake snow.

It was questioned if there were any international lakes which had lake snow present and if there was any precedence known. Dr Olsen advised that lake snow had been recently detected in Youngs Lake in Washington D.C. but that the water was not taken for municipal supply so did not have the same impact as for Wanaka. It was commented that it is likely that the ORC would be the world leaders in analysing lake snow.

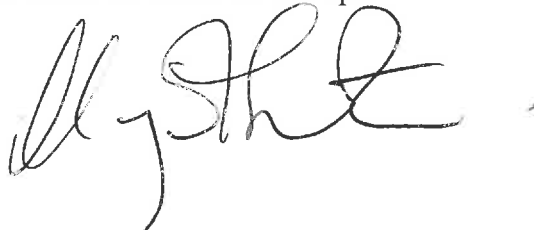
Cr Laws left the room at 12:10pm

Moved Cr Lawton
Seconded Cr Deaker

That the report be received.

Motion carried

The meeting was declared closed at 12:11pm



Chairperson