

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Policy Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 8 February 2017, commencing at 11:45am

Membership:

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

Apologies:

Cr Sam Neill and Cr Maggie Lawton
The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Deaker
and Kempton.

In attendance:

Peter Bodeker
Fraser McRae
Scott MacLean
Gavin Palmer
Caroline Rowe
Nick Donnelly
Dale Meredith
Denise Anderson
Marian Weaver
Dean Olsen (Item 2)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as listed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016, having been circulated were adopted on the motion of Crs Hope and Noone.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2017/0627 **Wilding Conifers – Amendment to Pest Plan.** DPPRM, 02/02/17

The report detailed the recommended amendments to the Pest Plan in regard to Wilding Conifers.

Mr Bodeker advised that central government required regional councils to monitor and apply funding as an administrative and legal requirement and that this was the reason for a Council resolution to approve the changes to the pest plan was being sought.

Discussion was held on how the wilding conifer eradication management units were defined; the responsibility for engagement with the landholders, and the communications plan for the landholders within the management units, as detailed in the report.

Mr Bodeker advised that the units were done with a combination of official groups involved in the eradication activity, e.g. the Central Otago Wilding Conifer Group, Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Group, ORC and MPI. He reiterated that the eradication of wilding conifers was a community driven activity and that those organisations and groups were responsible to undertake engagement with landholders, not the ORC.

In response to a question Mr Bodeker advised that it was not compulsory for a landowner to complete eradication work on their property but that the funding being made available assisted this work occurring.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Noone

That the changes to the Pest Plan identified in Attachment 1 be approved.

Motion carried

PART B - FOR NOTING

Item 2

2017/0580 **Compliance of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.** DPPRM, 20/01/17

Mr McRae summarised the detail of the report and advised on the minor non-alignments between the Regional Plan: Water for Otago and the National Policy Statement (NPS). It was confirmed alignment of terminology between the Water Plan and the NPS would occur in the 2017-18 year.

Discussion was held on the processes followed and the quantity and quality controls in place.

Two questions were raised in regard to the monitoring of lake health. 1, if there had been different results established (due to different criteria of management being applied), .i.e. variation because of different management standards and 2, any auditing processes in place.

Dr Olsen confirmed there currently was a lot of discretion by regional councils as to where the monitoring is applied, due to how the NPS is written, e.g. monitoring of both the outlet and the body of the lake. He advised that currently TLI monitoring is underway and the State of the Environment (SOE) review is where the long term future of monitoring the lakes would be determined. He confirmed ORC was collecting robust quality data. He advised that no formal audits are undertaken but that this would be within the consideration of the SOE review.

Mr McRae advised that peer review occurs around the science management staff of regional councils and also that discussion is held between science management and MfE around consistency of approach, trends etc. He confirmed it is an interactive relationship.

Cr Woodhead left the room at 12:09pm.

Moved Cr Scott
seconded Cr Hope

- 1) *That the report is received.*
- 2) *That ORC's compliance with the objectives of the NPSFM 2014 is noted.*

Motion carried

Cr Woodhead returned to room at 12:10pm.

Item 3

2017/0621 **Plan Change 1D: Flow Requirements for Water Takes.** DPPRM,
01/02/17

Mr McRae clarified that a residual flow is a mechanism exclusive to a particular water take consent and is different from a minimum flow which is applied to multiple take consents.

Mr McRae advised that Plan Change 1D is about making plan provisions consistent and clear so that mining privilege holders will be well informed on the process for calculating the volume of water to be left at individual water takes

Mr McRae advised that Plan Change 1D was not about applying new provisions to the plan but it was more about tidying up some unclear and inconsistent provisions already in the Water Plan. He reiterated the plan change is to assist people to know what water flow is required to be maintained at the point of take.

Concerns were raised on the lack of communication and explanation to farmers and water users on the intention and reason for the Plan Change 1D. Several councillors advised that they had received numerous complaints in this regard.

Discussion was held and included:

- The need to clearly identify the purpose and process of Plan Change 1D with permit holders.
- The need to ensure that the intention of the plan change is well communicated.
- Seeking specific feedback on issues of concern for landholders and for Council.
- The priority of Plan Change 1D and whether this could be delayed to focus on further catchment minimum flow work.
- The need to provide landholders with certainty around the process of the plan change.
- To seek consultation on the specific issues of concern in the plan change through a process (other than a drop in type session format) to allow the detail to be communicated clearly and for specific feedback to be gathered.

Moved Cr Noone

Seconded Cr Bell

That Council ask staff organise a workshop as soon as practicable to discuss this matter.

Discussion was held on the timing of the workshop as the consultation process has already been notified for the proposed plan change. It was agreed that the workshop be held at the next committee round.

Moved Cr Noone

Second Cr Bell

That Council ask staff organise a workshop as soon as practicable to discuss this matter.

Motion carried

Moved Cr Scott
Seconded Cr Deaker

That the report be received.

Motion Carried.

Item 4
2017/0575 **Director's Report on Progress.** DPPRM, 20/01/17

The report provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Policy section for the period 5 November 2016 to 20 January 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07pm and reconvened at 3:10pm

Mr McRae advised that two reports Council had commissioned and detailed under section 2.2 (Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy) and 2.4 (Coastal Strategy) of this report on waterways research and coastal values assessments had been completed and he tabled a print copy of the report entitled '*Water ways Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Findings*' and '*Coastal Environment of Otago: National Character and Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes Assessment – Clutha, Dunedin and Waitaki section*' to the meeting.

Mr McRae advised that report recommendation a) *that the reports on the waterways research and coastal values assessment are received*, not be placed but that those reports be tabled at the next meeting of the Policy Committee to allow councillors to read the reports, prior to these being placed on the Council website.

Mr McRae advised that the waterways report was completed in conjunction with the Urban Water Quality Plan Change and strategy going forward and the other report on coastal environment, assesment, natural features and landscape were completed in conjunction with the three coastal district councils: WDC; CDC and DCC. He confirmed these reports would be appended to next directors report for the 22 March meeting of the Policy Committee. He advised that the water value report tabled would assist the water quality workshop discussion on 9 February 2017.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Scott

- a) ~~That the reports on the waterways research and coastal values assessments are received.~~ (to be held over to 22 March 2017 Policy Committee meeting)
- b) That this report is noted.

Motion carried

The meeting was declared closed at 3:25pm

Chairperson

