

**Minutes of the Regional Services Committee
(Ropu Tiaki Waka-a-Rohe) meeting of the Southland
Regional Council, held in Regional House, corner North Road
and Price Street, Invercargill, on Thursday,
14 November 2019, at 1.30 pm**



Present:	Cr J McPhail Cr L Esler Chairman Horrell Cr L Ludlow Cr L McCallum Cr E Roy Cr Stevens	(Chair)
Also Present:	Mr P Melgren	(Department of Conservation)
In Attendance:	Mr J Streat Mr R Phillips Mr P Haynes Mr D McIntosh Mrs A Henderson Mrs N Baxter	(Director, Operations) (Chief Executive) (Catchment Manager) (Property Officer) (Senior Communications Coordinator) (Executive Support Secretary)

1	Welcome (<i>Haere mai</i>)
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The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Regional Services Committee meeting for November 2019.

2	Apologies (<i>Nga Pa Pouri</i>)
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Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr Esler that an apology be recorded on behalf of Cr McDonald.

Carried

3	Declarations of Interest
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There were no declarations of interest.

4 Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations presented at the meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*) – 25 July 2019

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Roy that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Services Committee, held on 25 July 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

6 Notification of Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*He Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

6.1 Supplementary Reports

There were no supplementary reports tabled for inclusion in the agenda.

6.2 Other

There were no other items of business raised by Councillors for inclusion in the agenda.

7 Questions (*Patai*)

There were no questions asked by the Councillors.

8 Chairman and Councillors' Reports (*Nga Purongo-a-Tumuaki me nga Kaunihera*)

Chairman Horrell reported that it was great for Southland to win the supreme award for the Most Improved River at the New Zealand River Awards 2019 in Wellington. It was very pleasing to see the work Environment Southland staff have done over the years being acknowledged.

Cr McCallum also informed the committee that himself, Mr Haynes and Mr Streat attended a meeting at Waituna do discuss some of the catchment works (planting, spraying, erosion management, digger work, planting etc.). He said that it was a very positive meeting and he encouraged more of these small meetings being held to engage with the public.

9 Election of Deputy Chair to the Committee

Cr Roy nominated Cr McDonald as Deputy Chair.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Roy, seconded Cr McCallum that Council resolve to appoint Cr Peter McDonald as Deputy Chair to the Committee.

Carried

10 Director of Operations' Report – 19/RS/96**⇒ Item 1 – Draft 2020 Schedule for Annual Catchment Liaison and Regional Services Committee Meetings**

Mr Hayes spoke to this report advising it was to inform the committee of the Catchment Liaison meetings which will be happening in February 2020.

Cr McCallum enquired as to progress with these meetings, as he felt that the same contentious issues had come up every year and wondered if the Capacity Building Project was making any progress with solving some of the reoccurring issues. Mr Haynes said that progress had been slow but Sam Dixon had been appointed as a Co-ordinator of the project to keep it moving. Mr Streat noted that there will be a workshop to inform Councillors on what was happening in the Capacity Building Project in the future. Staff will also be meeting with the Chairs of the Liaison Committees to help guide them so that the meetings run more smoothly.

Cr Esler enquired as to the setup of these Catchment Liaison Committees. Mr Streat gave a brief description of how the committees work and said that he would discuss it more in depth outside of the meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow that Council resolve to note the report.

Carried

⇒ Item 2 – Catchment Operations Work Programmes***Mataura Catchment Group Grants***

Mr Haynes informed the group that the Mataura Liaison Committee had created grants for the six catchment groups in the area to use to fund river works. He informed the committee that the six catchment groups could apply to receive \$5,000 each to help fund the work that they need to do. To apply for these grants there is certain criteria which must be met before the grant will be released. The criteria had been formulated based on a similar scheme operated by the LAWS division, and the formulated draft grant criteria was being sent to the Mataura Liaison Committee for their consideration before it was put to Council for final approval.

Waituna

Mr Haynes informed the committee that the consent application was in the process of being finalised. There was concern that the sediment traps would trap gravel as well as sediment, however, but once this issue has been resolved a final consent application would be submitted to Council.

Cr McCallum enquired as to the place of the sediment traps and how many sediment traps there would be. Mr Haynes said that there would be two sediment traps trialled, Mr Streat informed the committee that the final places for these traps to be installed had not yet been confirmed. Cr McCallum felt there should be a media release done to notify the public about the sediment traps being trialled in the Waituna area.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Roy that Council resolve to note the update on the Catchment Operations Work Programmes.

Carried

⇒ Item 3 – Contracts and Progress on Works

Mr Haynes noted that this report showed the work that had been completed in the last three months in detail by the division.

Cr Esler enquired as to the cost involved with these works, and if these works were sent out for tender. Mr Hayes replied that a lot of the works are charged by the hour and every year Environment Southland issues a request for tender for prices per hour to cart rock and do these works. It was noted that usually the cheapest contractor is chosen. The contractor must also be a part of Sitewise to conform with the ES health and safety requirements.

There was group discussion about what happens to the wood chips once the willows have been chipped and the planting and removal of willow along the riverbanks.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Stevens, that Council resolve to note the update on Contracts and Progress on Works.

Carried

⇒ Item 4 – Lease Inspection Reports

Mr McIntosh spoke to this item giving the councillors a brief outline of the lease blocks and the work he does.

Chairman Horrell enquired about the leases that were due to roll over and asked if these leases were being renewed. Mr McIntosh informed the committee that the leases that had expired recently had been renewed.

Cr Stevens asked if the property in Te Anau was able to be sold. Mr McIntosh said that there would be discussion about the possibility of a sale at the next Property Working Party meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr McCallum that Council receive the September 2019 quarter of the Lease Inspection Reports.

Carried

⇒ Item 5 – Property Working Party

This item had been presented for the meeting to note the Property Working Party minutes. No discussion arose.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Chairman Horrell that Council note the minutes of the Property Working Party.

Carried

⇒ Update from the Department of Conservation Representative

Mr Phil Melgren from the Department of Conservation gave the Committee a verbal update, summarised as follows:

- DOC had completed its 1080 operation except for in the Blue Mountains due to a late germination of Beech seed creating an abundance of food. No follow up monitoring had been completed at the time of the meeting on the other 1080 drop areas.
- The Mahua monitoring was going well.
- DOC had been working collaboratively with the University of Texas doing Sea Lion tagging to monitor where they were going and to provide additional data.
- A new dog had been trained to search for Spartina Grass. The dog (Bailey) will be working with one of the DOC supervisors (Graham Miller) who has joined the Conservation Dog Programme.
- The Yellow Eyed Penguins are declining rapidly. Cod Fish Island had 12 nests this season which is down on 14 last season and 30 nests the season before. The penguins appear to be starving and being attacked in the marine environment. Central Government had given funding towards research into the Yellow Eyed Penguins.
- DOC is in the middle of Operation Endurance which is the full eradication of predators on Auckland Island.
- There are about seven Titi Islands which are now predator free and DOC are still working collaboratively with the Titi administering body assisting with monitoring and doing predator control.
- The Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust are busy reviewing the Management Agreement which expired at the end of August. They are also considering amendments to the Funding Agreement and Access Agreement in the process.

Cr Roy enquired if SCAT analysis was being undertaken since the Yellow Eyed Penguins appeared to be starving. Mr Melgren replied that a SCAT analysis had been completed but it was too early to determine what was causing the starvation. A combination of warmer waters and over fishing were suspected as contributing factors, but it is unproven at this stage.

Cr McCallum had been told that the increased sediment coming out of the rivers was causing murky water and making it difficult for penguins to fish and wondered if this could be affecting them? Mr Melgren said this is also a possibility, but then the little blue penguins had not suffered which somewhat contradicted that theory. DOC are getting onto this issue though and intervening earlier to try and save more of the yellow eyed penguins.

11 Extraordinary and Urgent Business (*Panui Autaia hei Totoia Pakihi*)

There was no extraordinary or urgent business considered by the meeting.

12 Public Excluded Business (*He hui Pakihi e hara mo te iwi*)

There was no public excluded business considered by the meeting.

Termination

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.11 pm.