

**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,
1 April 2021, at 2.00 pm**



Present:	Cr J McPhail (Chair) Cr L Esler Chairman Horrell Cr L Ludlow Cr L McCallum Cr P McDonald Cr E Roy Cr D Stevens
Also Present:	Mr P Melgren (DOC)
In Attendance:	Mr D Rule (Interim GM, Integrated Catchment Management) Mr P Haynes (Catchment Manager) Mr B Rickertsen (Digital Media Co-ordinator) Mr D McIntosh (Property Officer) Mrs F Young (LAWS Manager) Mrs N Baxter (Personal Assistant)

1 Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Regional Services Committee meeting for April 2021.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

No apologies were recorded as the committee had full attendance.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

5 Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*) – 26 November 2020

Resolved:

Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Ludlow that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Services Committee, held on 26 November 2020 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 to discuss.

7 Questions (*Patai*)

There were no questions raised.

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

Neither the Chairman nor any Councillors provided reports for the meeting.

9 Interim General Manager Integrated Catchment Management's Report – 21/RS/28

⇒ Item 1 – Floodway Land Management Report and Draft Annual Budget 2021/22

Mr McIntosh spoke to this item informing the committee that following the working party meeting there had been a discussion about budgets for the future. Repairs and maintenance equated to 25% of annual income and that was what he had put into the budget as a maximum for repairs and maintenance. He said he had not put anything in the budget for capital works as he was still gathering information on what needs to be done. There was a part in the budget that could be used for work such as renewing a roof of one of the houses for example.

Cr McCallum asked if any surplus of the 25% would go back into the general funds once the work was complete. Mr McIntosh confirmed it would. Cr McCallum then raised having a capital amount that can be used across any of the lease properties without having to come back to the Committee all the time. That it is for general maintenance, a capital programme and then anything over and above that is then brought back to the Committee. Mr McIntosh said that he tries to keep everything within the budget, he had already done some of the work that needed done ASAP such as leaks. But he did believe that within five years one of the houses would need \$100,000 spent on it. The plan was in time to include this information in the budgets going forward.

The Chair noted that in the Long-term Plan Council is going to be looking at the lease funds, but there needs to be a discussion with the Catchment Liaison Chairs also.

There was group discussion about the surplus funds policy, and the discussions that needed to be held with the Catchment Liaison Committee and the Working Party. The Chair will action moving this discussion forward with the correct people and possibly include it in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Stevens, that Council:

- 1. note the proposed 2021/22 annual budget for capital works and expenditure associated with the Floodway Land Lease Districts;**
- 2. note that the proposed 2021/22 annual budgets for Floodway Land Lease Districts will come back to the Council for inclusion in the Long-term Plan and budget setting programme during January/February 2022**

Carried

⇒ **Item 2 – Lease Inspection Reports**

In speaking to the lease inspection reports, Mr McIntosh said that there were six or seven farm plans still to be completed on the Lease Properties. Nutrient budgets were harder to get the Lessees to complete. Mr McIntosh and Nathan Cruickshank from the LAWS team had discussed with the Lessees the benefits of doing a nutrient budget but there had been little uptake. Mr McIntosh will continue to push Lessees to complete nutrient budgets.

Cr Esler asked about wetlands and protecting them, and if the Lessees knew about this. Mr McIntosh said yes, wetlands had already been fenced off and Lessees were aware of them.

Cr Ludlow asked if HVA reports had been completed on the lease properties. Mr McIntosh said that the bigger properties had been done including the flax reserves and QEII. But some of the smaller properties had not had an HVA report done. Cr Ludlow asked if there would be value in having these noted on the Lease Inspection Report. It was felt that this would be good to know and that reports should include what reports had been done on the property. Group discussion followed about what should be included in the Lease Inspection Reports.

Cr Roy noted that the length of tenure was noted on the report, but it would be good to know if Lessees were long term tenants or not. Mr McIntosh said that ES had purchased the land off a lot of the Lessees and they had then leased the property back from Environment Southland. Often children of the Lessees would then take over the lease or the neighbour would.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council receive the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters of the Lease Inspection Reports – and direct staff to add additional information to the lease inspection reports as discussed today.

Carried

⇒ Item 3 – Property Working Party

There was no discussion under this item.

Resolved:

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

Carried

⇒ Item 4 – Work Programmes

Gravel Issues: Mr Haynes spoke to this item saying that gravel was an issue in most catchments and that Mataura catchment was in the process of getting a global consent to extract gravel. Gravel was also raised at the Oreti and Waiau Catchment Liaison Committee meetings and they too would like a global consent. He said that DOC, Fish & Game and Iwi had met in the past to discuss a consent and it had worked well. Mr Haynes suggested getting them together again to discuss consents for the Waiau and Oreti catchments before any other applications were applied for.

Cr McDonald commented that it was good to hear that this was being progressed. He was concerned that Council may need external expertise to look into the long term outcomes of removing gravel. Mr Haynes said that Dr Henry Hudson had done this work for Environment Southland in the past and the information he provided was still relevant.

Cr McCallum felt that there needed to be a framework done on slowing the river flows down. Mr Haynes said that the river engineers were looking into ways of slowing the river flows.

Chairman Horrell commented that DOC had changed its stance about gravel consents which was positive for Council applying for global consents.

Shovel Ready Projects: The Waiau project was nearing completion and was likely to be completed under budget. Mr Haynes hoped to do some more work with the remaining funds. The Boundary Creek project was due to start next week and would be completed this works season. The Mataura project was due to start around 27 April 2021. There were issues with rock supply which had been remedied with another quarry being opened to supply rock Mr Haynes said. Between the three quarries there should be enough rock to complete the work. Mr Haynes also advised of another quarry opening at Piano Flat.

Waiau Catchment Liaison Mediation Process: Mr Haynes advised that mediation with the Waiau Catchment Liaison Committee went well. They had put aside some of their

issues to come up with a positive outcome. The next step was for Environment Southland to provide costs to do the work required, then there would be a discussion around where funding would come from for this work.

Cr McCallum asked if there will be enough rock to do this work plus the BAU work. Mr Haynes said that Fulton Hogan's approach had been disappointing, but the issues had now been resolved.

Mr Haynes then responded to a question Cr Roy had asked earlier in the meeting about who owns the stopbanks around Dipton and who was responsible for their maintenance because some were in a bad way. Mr Haynes responded that that the stop banks were checked every 12 months as part of the asset management work Oliver Prescott was doing. Mr Haynes said that it was on the website if people wanted to look up what was Environment Southland owned stop banks and what was privately owned stop banks.

[Cr McDonald left the meeting]

There was a query about the Gore stop banks and the trees being removed. Mr Haynes replied that the Gore stop banks were meant to be completed this year, but have been delayed. MBIE had approved this change in works and this work will be done next year. The tree removal issue from the stop banks around Gore needed to be sorted before then.

Mrs Young gave a short presentation on the LAWs team updates.

Charlton Waimumu

- 25 farmers were planting natives in the Charlton Waimumu area - 500 metres per farm.
- Environment Southland was working with Hokonui Runanga, Catchment Division.
- Environment Southland was funding pre-release spraying and planting. Farmers were responsible for follow up spraying and maintenance and Environment Southland had a contract with the farmers for them to complete this work in the following years.

ACE

- Funding had been confirmed from Thriving Southland for the next three years.
- The main Workstreams to come from this work was – Stream walks, Farm Plans, Sediment Traps, Future Farms and Communications.
- There was farmer lead work teams with Dairy NZ, Fonterra and Beef and Lamb.
- There was also a new independent chair and project co-ordinator appointed.

Targeted Catchment

- This is a new project utilising information from across Environment Southland.
- It would be focusing on areas that need urgent improvements.
- A team member was assigned an area or sub-catchment.
- It involved working with individuals and the community to lift good management practices and take action.

Aquavan

- The Aquavan had visited both Gore and Waihopai Catchment which is run through the Otago University Centre for Marine Science.
- Two venues were held with over 700 children and 17 schools attending.

- The catchment was shown as a bowl that gathers water and provides a marine environment/estuary as a place where marine life lives and sediment settles. They showed what we do on the land affects our estuary.

Chairman Horrell raised the possibility of the Charlton Waimumu planting project being at risk of farmers not doing the follow-up work. Mrs Young assured Council that there were contracts in place to ensure farmers did the follow-up work required following the planting on their farms.

Resolved:

Moved Chairman Horrell, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note the update on the Catchment Operations and Land and Water Services Work Programmes.

Carried

⇒ Item 5 – Contracts on Progress on Works

Mr Haynes spoke to this item noting the report covered all the work done between October and December 2020.

Cr McCallum enquired about finding cables or pulling fences or trees down and wondered why Council was doing this work. Mr Haynes said that some property owners didn't feel it was their job to do this and were contributing to the work, so Council would also do these tasks for the property owner.

Resolved:

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

Carried

10 Department of Conservation Verbal Update

- Major flood event at Piano Flat which had badly damaged the swing bridge, barbeques and river banks in this area.
- In the Catlins four Sea lion pups had been born.
- They had 22 Yellow eyed penguins hatch and they have moulted and are doing well.
- DOC were going to Whenua Hou and tagging adult Yellow Eyed Penguins to find out more info on what they do.
- Tiwai was a big topic with media requesting a lot of OIA responses.
- Two Jobs for Nature had been successful and further information will be released at a later date.

Resolved:

Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Roy, that Council resolve to note the update from DOC.

Carried

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

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

11 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 2.08 pm.