

**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 July 2021, at 1.30 pm**



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**Present:** Cr J McPhail (Chair)  
Cr L Esler  
Chairman Horrell  
Cr L Ludlow  
Cr L McCallum  
Cr P McDonald  
Cr D Stevens

**In Attendance:** Mr D Rule (Interim GM, Integrated Catchment Management)  
Mr R Strong (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 July 2021.

**2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)**

An apology was noted on behalf of Phil Melgren from the Department of Conservation and Cr Roy.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr McCallum that an apology be accepted on behalf of Phil Melgren from the Department of Conservation and Cr Roy.**

**Carried**

**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*) – 1 April 2021**

The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Stevens, seconded Cr Ludlow that the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Services Committee, held on 1 April 2021 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*)**

The Chair noted the recent passing of the Climate Resilience Manager, Paddy Haynes. He acknowledged the contribution Mr Haynes had made to this Committee and his work with Environment Southland.

**9 Interim General Manager Integrated Catchment Management's Report – 21/RS/54****⇒ Item 1 – National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry**

Mrs Young took this item as read and introduced Keith Finalyson, a Land Sustainability Officer within her team.

This item was to inform Council on the work being done under the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF). Mrs Young noted that this work was a combined effort, and the Land Sustainability team was working closely with Compliance, IT, the Biodiversity and Biosecurity team, and also connecting with Policy and Planning team.

Mr Finlayson noted the following key points:

- previously each Land Sustainability Officer was assigned as a point of contact for certain number of forestry companies, they would also conduct one or two site visits annually;

- under the NES-PF forestry companies now need to notify Council of every activity over a pre-set threshold. For example, harvests over one hectare. They do this by filling out a form online which is sent to the Compliance division and on to Land Sustainability;
- the Land Sustainability team had been continuing to try and improve the process as everyone became familiar with the new requirements;
- all notifications receive acknowledgement; this lets the submitter know Environment Southland has received it;
- there is a vetting process which occurs with each notification to ensure minimum information requirements are met.

There was in-depth discussion and questions raised about how wilding pines are spread through improper practises being used. It was felt that some responsibility needed to be put back on the forestry owner. Mitigation measures were put in place with large buffers and stock grazing in these buffers, but it was felt that this would be an evolving space that Council would need to kept aware of.

**Resolved:**

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

**Carried**

⇒ **Item 2 – Enviroschools Programme – Term 1 2021**

This item was to inform the Councillors of the work that had been done recently in the Enviroschools Programme. Mrs Young noted that over the past two years' staff had widened the focus of the implementation to target a sustainable community principle by working more closely with catchment groups and other community groups and agencies.

The key themes for this year were:

- working with secondary schools in Southland and young people;
- supporting schools and communities to have a greater understanding of te ao maori, te reo and tikanga;
- encourage a greater understanding of local ecological health and biodiversity;
- connecting with the wider community and catchment groups.

Cr Ludlow enquired what could be done to reach more secondary schools and primary schools in the urban areas. Mrs Young replied that they had strong support in the Fiordland/Te Anau area so they engaged with the community to help get engagement at the local kindergarten and secondary school. At Gore they have really strong engagement from urban and rural schools. There had been initial work done with the secondary schools at Gore and it is hopeful that there will be opportunities there in the future. More work needed to be done to strengthen the engagement in Invercargill, but they had started working with James Hargest High School in the Biodiversity space.

Enviroschools do need to have a look at the NCEA framework and how this could be integrated into that learning Mrs Young said. Some teachers were better at understanding how to integrate this into the NCEA framework than others and applying it to the national standards. The Enviroschools team was focusing on getting a programme going in secondary schools that would create a long lasting relationship with schools which would then trickle out into the community.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Chairman Horrell, that Council note the report.**

**Carried**

### ⇒ **Item 3 – Work Programmes**

#### ***Shovel ready projects and Rock rip-rap supply***

Mr Strong gave a presentation on the work being done in this area noting the following key points:

- Waiau work was complete and there had been good feedback received with the end result;
- Mr Strong showed an example of the archimede type screw pumps that would be used at the Stead Street pumping station which are fish passage friendly;
- he showed the plan and layout of how these pumps would be installed;
- the installation will involve working closely with ICC and their Engineering Manager;
- WSB has been contracted to do the investigation and detail the design;
- there will be challenges for ICC with having the road and power lines right in the construction area;
- the design will allow for storm surge, wind fetch and other contributing factors in terms of the design height;
- the Gore project is a little behind schedule with the investigation of the design for the Waimumu stop bank, Boundary Creek and the protection of the main river system;
- issues had been raised about the height of the stopbanks on either side of the Mataura River, as well as constructing the rock linings for the river channel when there is very little river berm along the side of the stopbank;
- it was felt it would be best to concentrate on one side of the river during the construction season and then switch to the other side the following season;
- discussion arose about other means of flood protection that could be put in place at a later date;
- the Catchment Team had been in regular discussions with rock suppliers, with new quarries opening to meet rock supply demand;
- some of the rates for rock supply had been substantial and the team were having robust conversations around the rates that were being charged.

#### ***Whakamana te Waituna***

This is a large project that Environment Southland was working closely alongside Iwi and other partners on. Mrs Young noted the following work streams on the project:

- there will be two community engagement meetings next week, one with the Lagoon Control Association and another which was a community meeting and an opportunity for Iwi to connect with the community;
- in terms of the Kaitiakitanga work stream, Iwi were progressing this which was ongoing;

- the contaminant intervention work stream had installed two peak runoff control structures. These are to evaluate a large scale constructed wetland in the catchment.

#### ***Capacity Building Project***

Mrs Young reported that this project is working with the River Liaison Committees. They had done work on the Terms of Reference with the Liaison Committees and the second part of this project was beginning on how they look at funding activities from a whole of catchment perspective. This will involve discussing catchment rating around Southland and perhaps doing a stock take of sorts to get a better idea of the regime that is currently in place and how we could improve the process going forward.

#### ***Community field days and workshops***

Community field days and workshops were underway and the LAWS team were attending most of them. They were doing a lot of work supporting Thriving Southland and the team were often called to give technical information at these workshops. Predominately the workshops were around wintering and winter grazing, along with their farm plan workshops. The field days had good attendances and the LAWS team hoped to create a calendar so that Councillors could attend some of the field days if they wished too.

#### ***Contaminated Land Remediation Funding***

Mrs Young noted that funding had been received for two projects from the Ministry for the Environment. Ocean Beach was in its second stage of work and Environment Southland was working with Invercargill City Council and Iwi on this project. There was also a small amount of work to be done in Fiordland where the Department of Conservation were leading and funding work from the Contaminated Land Remediation Funding.

#### ***Resolved:***

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

**Carried**

### **⇒ Item 4 – Contracts and Progress on Works**

This item provided Councillors with an update on contracts and progress on works entered into by the Catchment Operations Division. No discussion arose under this item.

#### ***Resolved:***

**Moved Cr McCallum, seconded Cr Ludlow, that Council note the update on Contracts and Progress on Works.**

**Carried**

### **⇒ Item 5 – Lease Inspection Reports**

This item was to provide an update on the Lease Inspections.

Mr McIntosh explained the supporting document that he distributed at the start of the meeting which showed the bush reserves land that formed part of the Lease Reviews, as discussed at the previous Regional Services meeting. These reserves were mainly wetlands in the lower Oreti catchment. He informed the Councillors that HVA reports had been completed on most of the lease properties, but not on some of these small reserves.

The Chair enquired if the work noted in the report was going to be to budget. Mr McIntosh replied that there may be some over spend in the lower Oreti. This was due to a leaking shower being found in a bathroom which needed repaired.

**Resolved:**

**Moved Cr Ludlow, seconded Cr Stevens, that Council note the Lease Inspection Reports.**

**Carried**

**10 Department of Conservation Verbal Update**

As Mr Melgren was absent from the meeting, there was no verbal update from the Department of Conservation.

**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 2.40 pm.