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**West Coast Catchments Committee**  
**OPEN MINUTES**

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Minutes of a meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee held on 5 September 2018 in the Council Chambers of the Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East at 10.00am.

	<b>Present:</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Weo Maag (from 10.15am)	
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mark Brough (from 10.17am)	
<b>Waikato Regional Council</b>	Cr Fred Lichtwark	
<b>Otorohanga District Council</b>	Cr Deborah Pilkington	
<b>Waitomo District Council</b>	Cr Sue Smith	
<b>Local Community Representatives</b>	Mark Brough	Catherine Holland
	Tom Mandeno	John Reeves
	Mike Moss	Kristel van Houte
	Stephen Reid	
<b>Te Tokanganui-a-noho</b>	Weo Maag (Chair)	
<b>Maniapoto Maori Trust Board</b>	Ray Wi	
<b>Co-Chairman Integrated Catchment Management Committee</b>	Cr Stu Kneebone (Chair from 10.00am to 10.15am)	
	<b>In attendance</b>	
<b>Waikato Regional Council</b>	Jolene Francis, Zone Catchment Manager – West Coast and Central Waikato	
	Grant Blackie, Acting Lower Waikato West Coast Catchments Manager	
	Gavin Dawson, Democracy Advisor	

**SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

The meeting was opened and chaired by the Chair, Integrated Catchment Management South (Councillor S Kneebone) to item four of the meeting. A new Chair was provisionally appointed in item four of the meeting.

**Apologies**

The apologies from Councillor Alan Livingston, Councillor Tipa Mahuta, and Councillor Lisa Thomson for Absence were accepted.

WCC18/17

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the apologies from Councillor Alan Livingston, Councillor Tipa Mahuta, and Councillor Lisa Thomson for absence were accepted.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/17)**

**Confirmation of Agenda**

(Agenda Item 2)

It was proposed and agreed that an agenda item 'Members Reports' be added to the end of the agenda.

Cr Kneebone moved/M Moss seconded.

WCC18/18

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the agenda of the meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee of 5 September 2018, as circulated, with the addition of Members Reports, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/18)**

**Disclosures of Interest**

(Agenda Item 3)

Members discussed disclosures that had been declared in the register already. It was noted that these did not need to be disclosed.

**SECTION B: FOR RECOMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to the West Coast Catchments Committee**

(Agenda Item 4) Doc #12970309

This agenda item and report was introduced by the Chair, Integrated Catchment Management (Councillor S Kneebone).. The process for the election and appointment of a provisional Chair and Deputy Chair was described and explained, along with the formal adoption process that would be used at the Integrated Catchment Management Committee.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The Integrated Catchment Management Chair (Councillor S Kneebone) welcomed all members and staff present, especially new members to the Committee. Those present introduced themselves to the assembled.
- The role and responsibilities of the Committee was discussed in relation to the wider Council governance system, including the ways in which all members could be most effective in the advancement of the Zone, according to the Terms of Reference of the Committee.
- The work and plans completed to date was discussed. It was noted that the Committee had achieved many positive results in its planning and work programmes, and it demonstrated the effectiveness of the Committee to date.

The Chair of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee called for nominations for Chair of the West Coast Catchment Committee.

Councillor Sue Smith nominated Weo Maag as Chair for the West Coast Catchment Committee. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Fred Lichtwark.

In the absence of any other nominations, the Chair of the Integrated Catchment Management Committee declared Weo Maag Chair for the West Coast Catchment Committee.

Cr Smith moved/Cr Lichtwark seconded.

WCC18/19

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report "Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to the West Coast Catchment Committee" (Doc #12970309 dated 24 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/19)**

Cr Smith moved/Cr Lichtwark seconded.

WCC18/20

**RECOMENDED**

**THAT Weo Maag be appointed as Chairperson of the West Coast Catchments Committee.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/20)**

Councillor Kneebone vacated the Chair and Weo Maag assumed the chair at 10.15am.

The Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee (W Maag) called for nominations for Deputy Chair of the West Coast Catchment Committee.

Weo Maag nominated Mark Brough as Deputy Chair for the West Coast Catchments Committee. The nomination was seconded by Mike Moss

In the absence of any other nominations, the Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee declared Mark Brough Deputy Chair for the West Coast Catchments Committee.

W Maag moved/ M Moss seconded.

WCC18/21

**RECOMMENDED**

**THAT Mark Brough be appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the West Coast Catchments Committee.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/19)**

**SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

(Agenda Item 5) Doc #12493381

The minutes of previous meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee dated 21 May 2018 were received and accepted as a true and accurate record.

The following discussion points were raised:

- It was noted that Mike Moss was an apology.
- It was noted that Councillor Lisa Thomson was not present at the meeting.
- It was noted that written reports were preferred to allow members of the Committee to better understand and prepare for meetings, and to meet other legal requirements.
- It was noted that the Benching best practice matter was ongoing and update was requested at the next meeting.

Cr Kneebone moved/T Mandeno seconded.

WCC18/20

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the Minutes of the West Coast Catchments Committee meeting of 21 May 2018 be received and approved as a true and correct record.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/20)**

**Issues and Actions from the Previous Meeting**

(Agenda Item 6) Doc #12981546

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (J Francis). The report provided the Committee an update on issues and actions that have arisen since the previous meeting.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The Working Group on Whitebait Fisheries that has been formed by the Minister for Conservation was discussed. It was noted that the construction and use of white baiting stands were a permitted activity under the Regional Plan and that there were conditions in place that regulated the location and design of the stands.
- The political, social, cultural, and economic challenges and issues of whitebait fishing was discussed.
- The desire to have the Waikato Regional Council send a letter to the Minister for the Environment in support of a moratorium on whitebait fishing was discussed. It was noted that the Committee could not write to the Minister as directly, rather the

Committee would need to write through the Office of the Chair of the Waikato Regional Council.

M Moss moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

WCC18/21

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report "Issues and Actions Report" (Doc#12981546, dated 27 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/21)**

**Chair's Report**

(Agenda Item 7) Doc #12415302

This report was presented by the newly appointed provisional Chair (W Maag). A verbal update was provided for the information of the Committee on matters of particular relevance to the Zone.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The regular content that should be included in his future reports was discussed. It was noted that a majority of the report in the future would focus mainly around the activities and decisions that are made at the Integrated Management Catchment Committee, and other periodic matters as they arise.

W Maag moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

WCC18/22

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the "West Coast Catchments Committee Chair report - verbal update" (Doc#12970780 dated 24 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/22)**

**West Coast Zone Status Report**

(Agenda Item 8) Doc #12979779

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (J Francis). The report updated the Committee on the Zone financials, activities and work programmes since the last Committee meeting.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The Zone Plan review process and timeframes were described and discussed.
- It was noted that the Zone was performing well financially and delivering a high level of service across all work programmes. The need to reprioritise work plans was ongoing as needs of the Zone changed overtime.
- The matter of the riparian planting projects was discussed. Discussion centred on the sourcing and procurement approach and criteria that was currently used, and other possible improvements or approaches that could be considered in the future.

Cr Kneebone left the meeting room at 11.15am.

Mike Moss left the room at 11.20am.

Cr Kneebone entered the meeting room at 11.22am.

- The Hill Country Erosion Fund was described, explained, and discussed. It was noted that the work to date had achieved a high number of positive outcomes and has a high level of landowner uptake.
- It was noted that the successes to date have been possible due to effective collaborative relationships between the Waikato Regional Council and stakeholders.
- It was noted that an application would be made to the Hill Country Erosion Fund in October that would include the whole Waikato Region. This application was still being formulated and could not be presented presently.
- It was noted that a workshop may be held in the future on the proposed application to the Hill Country Erosion Fund.
- It was requested that the Committee receive a report on the progress to date on the eradication of possums at the next meeting.

M Brough moved/Cr Pilkington seconded.

WCC18/23

**RESOLVED**

**THAT this report 'West Coast Zone Status Report to 30 June 2018' (Doc #12979779, 24 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/23)**

**Biodiversity Report**

(Agenda Item 9) Doc #12971468

This report was presented by the Senior Biodiversity Officer (A Julian). The report provided the Committee with information on biodiversity issues and priorities within the West Coast Zone.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The role of the Council in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the Waikato region was explained and discussed, along with the challenges and constraints that the Council faced in order to meet its statutory and regional commitments.
- Aspects of the Willis Report was discussed in relation to Local Government and the Resource Management Act.
- It was noted that Waikato Regional Council takes a balanced approach to biodiversity and must consider a range of factors such as resourcing levels, funding sources, and other policy or political factors that have an impact on an issue.

W Maag moved/Cr Lichtwark seconded.

WCC18/24

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report 'West Coast Catchments – Biodiversity' (Doc # 12971468, dated 24 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/24)**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.05pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.25pm.

Cr Pilkington left the meeting at 1.28pm.

Cr Kneebone left the meeting at 1.28pm.

## **SECTION B: FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### **Pest Plant Survey in Riparian Margins**

(Agenda Item 10) Doc #12971391

This report was presented by the Biosecurity Officer – Pest Plants (H Hodgson). The report updated the Committee on the recent survey within the Waikato region of the occurrence of pest plants occurring in riparian margins.

The following discussion points were raised:

- It was noted that the survey intent was to establish baseline data that could be used for future surveys that would take place every five years.
- The approach and methodology that was used in the survey, along with the way in which it integrated with the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).
- Concern was raised that there needed to be a more comprehensive and proactive approach to the implementation of the RPMP and the eradication of other pests plants that are not listed in the report. The Committee expressed a desire to make a recommendation to reflect their concerns.
- The Committee discussed how the reports that have been provided to the Committee could be strengthened and provide more relevant information.

W Maag moved/M Moss seconded.

WCC18/25

#### **RESOLVED**

1. **THAT the report 'Pest Plant Survey in Riparian Margins' (Doc #12971391, dated 24 August 2018) be received.**

#### **RECOMMENDED**

2. **THAT the West Coast Catchment Committee recommends that the Integrated Catchment Committee support and enable Waikato Regional Council staff to use a proactive and measurable approach to eradicate Woolly Nightshade and Tutsan , throughout the West Coast Catchment Zone and the wider Waikato Region.**

**The motion was put and carried (WCC18/25)**

Cr Kneebone entered the room at 1.45pm.

## **SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL**

### **Kauri Dieback National Pest Management Plan**

(Agenda Item 11) Doc #12975475

This report was introduced by presented by Zone Manager (J Francis), the Deputy Chair of the Committee (M Brough) provided relevant information, and the Senior Biodiversity Officer (A Julian) answered questions. The report updated the Committee on recent Ministry for Primary Industry led changes to the national kauri dieback programme, including the proposed development of a National Pest Management Plan for kauri dieback.

The following discussion points were raised:

- It was noted that there was a new treatment that could be used to treat and eradicate Kauri Dieback, however, it has not been tested and the effectiveness of the treatment was unknown due to the lack of knowledge on the history and evolution of the virus.
- Locations where the virus had infected Kauri was discussed, along with spread and evolution of the virus. It was noted that the development of the Kauri Dieback management and eradication plan was ongoing and the Committee would be informed as more information was released by Central Government.

Cr Kneebone moved/M Moss seconded.

WCC18/26

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report “National kauri dieback changes and Tairua update” (Doc#12975475, dated 8 August 2018) be received.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/26)**

**SECTION B: FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**Regional Asset Management Plan**

(Agenda Item 12) Doc #1 12972927

This report was presented by the Acting Lower Waikato West Coast Catchments Manager (G Blackie). The report outlined the purpose of the plan, as it relates to the protection of and the investment in river and catchment management infrastructure throughout the Waikato region by the Council.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The value and role of flood protection and biodiversity was discussed. It was noted that wetlands played an important role in the storage and holding of water.
- The legal and illegal clearing and draining of wetlands was discussed. It was noted that it was important to promote the positive benefits that wetlands offered.

Cr Lichtwark moved/Cr Smith seconded.

M Moss voted against the motion.

WCC18/27

**RESOLVED**

**1. THAT the document titled Regional Asset Management Plan – Recommendation for Adoption (Doc #12972927 dated 24 August 2018) be received.**

**RECOMMENDED**

**2. THAT the West Coast Catchment Committee recommend to Integrated Catchment Management Committee that the ‘Regional Asset Management Plan’ be finalised for adoption by Council.**

**The motion was put and carried (wcc18/27)**

Meeting closed at 2.20pm.