
West Coast Catchment Committee
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the West Coast Catchment Committees held in Council Chamber, Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton on 21 May 2018 at 10.00am.

Present

Waikato Regional Council
Waikato District Council
Otorohanga District Council
Waitomo District Council
Department of Conservation
Local Community
Representatives
Te Tokanganui-a-noho
Maniapoto Maori Trust Board
Waikato-Tainui
Co-Chairman Integrated
Catchment Management
Committee

Members

Cr Fred Lichtwark
Cr Lisa Thomson
Cr Deborah Pilkington
Cr Sue Smith
Natasha Hayward
Andrea Hanna
Tom Mandeno
Weo Maag (Chair)
Ray Wi
Maxine Moana-Tuwangai
Cr Stuart Kneebone

Staff

Matthew Davis (Manager, Lower Waikato/Waipā/West Coast Catchments)
Jolene Francis (Zone Manager – Central Waikato and West Coast)
Gavin Dawson (Democracy Advisor)

Apologies

The apologies from Councillor Lisa Thomson (Waikato District Council), Mark Smyth, and Kristel van Houte were accepted.

Accepted

SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr Lichtwark moved/Cr Pilkington seconded.

WCC18/08

RESOLVED

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the West Coast Catchment Committee of 21 May 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (wccc18/08)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes

(Agenda Item 4) Doc #12255358

Cr Smith moved/T Mandeno seconded

WCC18/09

RESOLVED

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the West Coast Catchment Committee meeting of 23 March 2018 be received and approved as a true and correct record.**
- 2. THAT the extract Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting of 11 April 2018 be received.**

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/09)

Issues/Actions from previous West Coast Catchment Committee Meetings

(Agenda Item 5) Doc #12415287

The report was presented by the Zone Manager (J Francis) to report back on actions and issues discussed at the West Coast Catchment Committee meeting held on 23 March 2018 and previous meetings.

During questions, answers and related discussion the Committee noted the following points:

- The matter of soil mapping project in sensitive areas was raised. It was noted that the mapping information is available to members who are interested, with any information to date would be distributed accordingly through the Zone Manager.
- The Zone Scorecard project raised. Zone Manager (J Francis) commented that West Coast information is summarised in the status report. Also, work undertaken from the inception of the West Coast Zone has been summarised. It was noted that a tool was currently being developed by council where information on catchment management works (i.e. native planting, retirement, pole planting) would be available for the public to access.

C Lichtwark moved/Cr D Pilkington seconded.

WCC18/10

RESOLVED

THAT the report “Issues/Actions from previous West Coast Catchments Committee Meetings” (Doc # 12415287 dated 30 April 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/10)

West Coast Chair report – Verbal Update

(Agenda Item 6) Doc #12412533

This report was presented by the Chair the Committee. In speaking to the report, the Committee received an update on the following matters:

- That a submission was made on the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan in May 2018 as agreed by the Committee in previous meetings.
- North King Country Rivercare group have organised a field to empower and enable local communities and land users to develop skills needed to play an active part in environmental and conservation programmes or projects by providing information and skills training. Whaingaroa Harbour Care will be hosting an event in Raglan in May.

C Lichtwark moved/C S Smith seconded.

WCC18/11

RESOLVED

THAT the “West Coast Catchments Committee Chair report - verbal update” (Doc #12412533 dated 30 April 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/11)

SECTION B: FOR RECCOMENDATION TO COUNCIL

West Coast – Zone Status Report to 30 April 2018

(Agenda Item 7) Doc #12415302

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (J Francis). The report provided an update on the financial performance and the status of zone activities for the financial year to date, for the West Coast Zone.

During questions, answers and related discussion the Committee noted the following points:

- It was noted by some members of the Committee that a cost benefit analysis of the projects and programmes being implemented in the Zone could be of benefit to assess the effectiveness of the range of work done to date.
- It was noted that Council wide strategies are an important guide for the planning, implementation, and funding of projects and programmes that may be delivered across the region. By following the strategies and plan consistency can be achieved in funding and delivery across the region.
- The matter of how all other non-Waikato Regional Council riparian projects could be included in Committee reporting and other data sources was discussed. It was noted that the existing data presented, only includes Council instigated projects, and it would be beneficial to see the Zone wide totals to get a more clear idea on the progress being made. The proposed Farm Environment Plans was suggested as way to combine this data and provide a clearer picture.
- The challenges of securing funding to complete erosion prevention projects was raised. It was noted that the Ministry for Primary Industry, would in the future, be providing more funding and clarity around the criteria for funding this week for various funding sources, such as the Hill Country Erosion Fund.
- The matter of clearing and levelling soil (benching) to construct fence lines was discussed. It was noted that best practice standards for this are noted in the Integrated Catchment Management guide on sediment control and management methods. In addition, it was noted that poor benching practices can increase the chances of hillside erosion because the soil is stripped away completely and creates another path for water to travel downhill.
- Some in the Committee had concerns around the way in which benching is used across the region and expressed a desire to have Council officials review literature on the matter and provide updates for the community and land users or managers. It was agreed that a resolution should be passed that would recommend that the Integrated Catchment Management Committee proceed with the proposed action (see resolution WCC18/12 (2) below).
- The matter of the appointment process for the incoming catchment committees was raised. It was noted that a number of people that wished to put in an application missed the deadline. The risk that well qualified and suitable candidates may not be included was raised and that this situation could create skill gaps on the incoming catchment committees. The Democracy Services Manager (M Ahipene) stated that late applications could be considered at the discretion of the Council, which is due to happen on Thursday 24 May. There were mixed views on the appropriateness of the intervention and the inconsistency that it may present. However, it was agreed that the decision should be left to the Council to vote on.
- It was noted that the Zone is in a healthy financial position and there may be an increased budget for the Zone in the next financial year. A clear, measured, and evidence based approach will be used to plan and implement any operational or capital expenditure to manage and achieve effective use and positive outcomes.

W Maag moved/M Moana-Tuwhangai seconded.

WCC18/12

RESOLVED

THAT the report “West Coast Catchments – Zone Status Report to 30 April 2018” (Doc # 12415302 dated 30 April 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/12)

Cr Kneebone moved/W Maag seconded

WCC18/13

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Integrated Catchment Committee request that Council staff review current literature in relation to benching best practice and update Waikato Regional Council's best practice guidelines as appropriate.

The motion was put and carried (WCC18/12)

SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update – May 2018

(Agenda Item 8) Doc #12291830

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (J Francis). The Manager provided the Committee with an update regarding the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan process.

During questions, answers and related discussion the Committee noted the following points:

- The next steps in the long term planning process was explained to the Committee. Final decisions would be made in June 2018.
- The submission from the Zone was discussed and reflected comments made on the matter in the Chair's report and previous meetings on the matter of the submission.

W Weo moved/A Hanna seconded

WCC18/14

RESOLVED

THAT the report "2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update – May 2018" (Doc # 12291830 dated 1 May 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCC18/14)

Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Plan Change One Update – April 2018

(Agenda Item 9) Doc #2396288

This report was presented by the Sustainable Agriculture Advisor (B Tikisetty). The report updated the Committee on the Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Plan Change One process.

The matters were discussed:

- The Farm Environment Plans were discussed in relation to how they should be developed by accredited consultants and how industry bodies and co-operatives were assisting their members and stakeholders with the development of these plans.
- The submission process for Farm Environment Plan proposals was discussed, along with the role that the Council had in approving the plans.

- It was noted that a project to profile a sub catchment in the Lower Waikato (Whangape) was being undertaken. In addition, it was stated that the aim of the profile is to provide an idea of the way in which land was used and managed in the profiled area.
- It was noted that the need to encourage land users to be proactive in the development and implementation of various environmental various interventions on their properties. In addition, it was stated that by being proactive, land users and owners can use a more sustainable and feasible approach to the funding and implementation of their chosen projects.

W Maag moved/R Wi seconded.

WCC18/15

RESOLVED

THAT the report 'Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Plan Change Update – March 2018' (Doc #12396288 dated 30 April 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/15)

West Coast Harbour Catchment Planning – Project Update

(Agenda item 10) Doc #12421292

The Consultant for the West Coast Harbour Catchment Planning Project (P Singleton) presented a report on the progress to date, on the identification and prioritising of environmental factors that may have an impact of wider project in the future.

In his presentation he noted the following:

- That a holistic approach which includes environmental, scientific, and social factors, would be needed to get an accurate indication of the importance and priority of a matter or issue for consideration.
- That matters which would be considered in an area or sub catchment zone, must be considered in context of the immediate environment around it and interconnecting environmental or topographical details that influenced it.
- The large amount of data on environmental matters from the public, private, and non-profit was discussed. It was noted that all of the data and resources are important and interconnect with each other. Improved outcomes for the environment can be achieved by using all of the available resources and data to develop and implement appropriate measures.
- Due to time constraints, it was decided that this item should be turned in a workshop to allow the Committee to gain a deeper understanding of the complex data sets and other information. The time, date, and location will be advised in due course.

W Maag moved/R Wi seconded.

WCC18/16

RESOLVED

THAT the report 'West Coast Harbour Catchment Planning – Project Update' (Doc #12421292 dated 30 April 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wcc18/16)

Meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Doc# 12493381