
West Coast Catchments Committee
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee held in Council Chambers, Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East on 23 March 2018 at 10.00am.

	Membership:	
Waikato District Council	Cr Lisa Thomson	
Otorohanga District Council	Cr Deborah Pilkington	Cr Annette Williams
Waitomo District Council	Cr Sue Smith	
Department of Conservation	Natasha Hayward	
Local Community Representatives	Andrea Hanna	Tom Mandeno
	Mike Moss	Bill Thompson
	Mark Smyth (Deputy Chair)	Kristel van Houte
Te Tokanganui-a-noho	Weo Maag (Chair)	Wayne Jensen (alt)
Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	Ray Wi	Konui Taylor (alt)
Waikato-Tainui	Maxine Moana-Tuwahangi	
Co-Chairman Integrated Catchment Management Committee (South)	Cr Stu Kneebone	
Department of Conservation	Natasha Hayward	
Waikato Regional Councillors	Cr Alan Livingston	Cr Tipa Mahuta (alt)
Waikato Regional Council Staff present:	Matthew Davis (Manager Lower Waikato/Waipā/West Coast Catchments)	
	Jolene Francis (West Zone Manager)	
	Gavin Dawson (Democracy Advisor)	

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Alan Livingston and Cr Tipa Mahuta (on Council business), Natasha Hayward, Ray Wi, and Maxine Moana-Tuwangai.

Accepted

SECTION A: (UNDER DELEGATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

Cr D Pilkington moved/ Cr S Smith seconded.

WCCC18/01 THAT the agenda of the meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee of 23 March 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/01)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Agenda Item 4, Doc 11414590)

Insert apologies from Mike Moss as an apology

The following discussion points were raised:

It was noted that staff attended a workshop with Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in Wellington recently. Future funding rounds for the Hill Country Erosion programme and the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) were discussed, with MPI advising they had put a recommendation to cabinet that any additional funding that may become available would preferably go to the Hill Country Erosion Fund. The AGS would continue as per the current round however, MPI would be likely to conduct a complete review of the scheme after this point. The level of any change or developments will not be known until the appropriations process is completed by Central Government.

Cr D Pilkington moved/ Cr S Smith seconded.

WCCC18/02 RESOLVED

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the West Coast Catchments Committee meeting of 23 November 2017 be received and confirmed as a true and correct record; and**
- 2. THAT the extract from the Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 7 December 2017 be received.**

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/02)

Issues and Actions Report

(Agenda Item 5, Doc 11518607)

This item reported back to the Committee on actions and issues discussed at previous West Coast Catchments Committee meetings. The item was taken as read.

Cr S Kneebone moved/ Cr S Smith seconded.

WCCC18/03 THAT the report “Issues and Actions Report” (Doc 11518607 dated 9 March 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/03)

Chairperson’s Report March 2018

(Agenda Item 6, Doc 11916066)

Presented by West Coast Catchments Committee Chair (Weo Maag), this item provided a verbal update on matters of particular relevance to the West Coast Zone.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The combined meeting of the Waikato Regional Council and Waitomo District Council at Mokau was a great success. It was noted that the ongoing issues at the boat ramp were still be being looked into and a solution will hopefully be close.
- The relevance of the Waikato Plan to the development of West Coast Zone were explained. The Chair encouraged all members of the committee to look at the document and see how the zone could benefit from the plan. It was agreed the Democracy Advisor will email the plan out to committee members.

Cr S Kneebone moved/ Cr S Smith seconded.

WCCC18/04 THAT the report “Chairperson’s Report November 2017” (Doc 11916066 March 2018) dated and verbal update from the Chair be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/04)

West Coast Zone Status Report

(Agenda Item 7, Doc 11912248)

Zone Manager West Coast (Jolene Francis) provided an update on West Coast Zone financials, activities and work programmes since the last Committee meeting. A presentation was provided

The following discussion points were raised

- The spraying project on the Waitetuna River was highlighted, along with the need to allow the banks and other sediment to settle after clearing has occurred.
- The need for improved land management and use practices was noted. The matter was raised in the context of illegal draining of wetlands and other damaging practices that is

having a negative impact on the environment. The matter of how these issues are tracked and enforced followed through the use of satellite imagery was explained and how this method has led to positive outcomes to date even though there are some financial and other resourcing constraints that impact on the outcomes.

- The matter of land owners damaging riparian planting zones and other reserves through their own actions or that of stock they own was discussed. It was noted that everyone needs to be more proactive in ensuring that these are protected and offenders are being dealt with in the most appropriate and timely way.
- The need to work with all stakeholders in the community was highlighted. The positive results of the collaborative approach at the Waingaro Catchment and the Marokopa area were used as examples of where collaboration, consultation, and compromise between all stakeholders have worked well in achieving positive outcomes in challenging circumstances.
- The need for clear and measured approaches to dealing with land management and use issues is needed and all stakeholders must recognise and accept the responsibilities that they have as a land owner.
- Biosecurity matters related to Velvet Leaf and Yellow Bristle Grass were discussed. Communication plans and response to the threats. It was acknowledged that resourcing arrangements and constraints have had an impact on the effectiveness of the response. The current collaboration between central and local government is addressing any gaps where they occur.

A Hanna moved/M Moss seconded.

WCCC18/05 THAT the report “West Coast Zone Status Report” (Doc 11912248 dated 1 March 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/05)

Waikato Regional Council 2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update

(Agenda Item 8, Doc 11944257)

The Zone Manager (Jolene Francis) presented this report that provided the Committee with an update on development of the Waikato Regional Council 2018-28 Long Term Plan.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The overview of the proposals being put forward was raised, including initial proposals (as discussed at earlier committee meetings) and what Council has agreed to include.
- An overview of the draft change in zone revenue over the life of this Long Term Plan (2018 to 2028) was raised, including a breakdown of the targeted and general rate component.
- A focus on the year 1 (2018/2019) change in Zone revenue, including a breakdown of the different element that are changing was discussed.
- It provided an overview of the various reserves relating to the Zone and the reasons for predicted changes in reserve levels.
- The public consultation process for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan was explained.
- It was agreed that staff would assist in the facilitation and development of a submission on matters related to the Long Term Plan with the Chair of the Committee, specifically to support the rate increase proposed for the catchment/river work within the West Coast Catchment and in regards to proposed region wide biosecurity work.

- It was noted that the proportion of work going into large projects in priority areas needs to be weighed against smaller amounts of funding going into non-priority areas as it is important to maintain landowner engagement throughout the catchment.
- The importance of making submissions and getting increased public engagement was emphasised.

T Mandeno moved/M Smyth seconded

- WCCC18/06 THAT the report “Waikato Regional Council 2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update” (Doc 11944257 dated 9 March 2018) be received.**
The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/06)

Catchment Committee Appointment Process

(Agenda Item 9, Doc 11828001)

The Business Support Team Leader (Adele Bird) presented this report and took it as read. The report provided the Committee with an update on the appointment of community appointees to catchment committees and land drainage advisory sub committees.

The following discussion points were raised:

- The new appointment process would reflect that point and make effort to get the most effective and qualified members in the future.
- It was reiterated that membership of the nomination panel is the chair (or deputy chair) of council, the co-chairs of ICMC and the director of ICM.

M Moss moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

- WCCC18/07 THAT the report “Catchment Committee Effectiveness Review” (Doc 11828001 dated 8 March 2018) be received.**
The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/07)

Fresh water Strategy

(Agenda Item 10, Doc 11929071)

The Principal Economist (Blair Keenan) spoke to this report and it was taken as read.

The following discussion points were raised:

- There is a need to co-ordinate plans, programmes, and other evidence based intervention in order that the strategy is successful.
- Meaningful collaboration and quality relationships with catchment and sub-catchment areas was raised as an important factor that will drive the success of the strategy.
- The need for community involvement on the front line was noted. It was noted that this can be achieved by training local communities in the various tasks or roles that are needed.
- The need for improved planning and increased riparian planting was raised as a gap that exists and needs to be addressed.

W Maag moved/ Cr S Smith seconded.

WCCC18/08 THAT the report "Draft Climate Change Guidelines – Integrated Catchment Management" (Doc 11929071 dated 9 March 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC18/08)

Meeting closed at 12.30