
West Coast Catchments Committee
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee held in Waikato Regional Council Chambers on 6 June 2017 at 10:00am

Chair	Rob Jolly
Deputy Chair	Weo Maag
	Present:
Waikato Regional Council	Cr Fred Lichtwark
Waikato District Council	Cr Lisa Thomson
Otorohanga District Council	Cr Deborah Pilkington
Waitomo District Council	Cr Sue Smith
Department of Conservation	Natasha Hayward
Local Community Representatives	Andrea Hanna Rob Jolly Mark Smyth Mike Moss
Te Tokanganui-a-noho	Weo Maag
Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	Ray Wi
Waikato-Tainui	Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai
Co-Chairman Integrated Catchment Management Committee	Cr Stu Kneebone
Chairman of Council, or Deputy Chairman of Council	Cr Tipa Mahuta
Waikato Regional Council Staff	Clare Crickett – Director Integrated Catchment Management Jolene Francis – Zone Manager West Coast Greg Ryan – Principal Advisor Integrated Catchment Management Grant Blackie – Zone Manager Integrated Catchment Management Brett Bailey – Team Leader Biosecurity (Pest Animals) Alex Williams – Democracy Advisor

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Tom Mandeno (Community Representative), Kristel van Houte (Community Representative) for non-attendance.

Cr Tipa Mahuta (Waikato Regional Council) and Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai (Waikato Tainui Representative) for lateness.

Accepted

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

On the advice of the Chair, the Committee agreed to hear item 10 – Myrtle Rust Update first and move item 6 – Appointment of Chair to become the last item.

M Moss moved/R Jolly seconded.

WCCC17/12

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee of 6 June 2017, with the agreed amendments, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/12)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

Myrtle Rust Update

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #10) Doc #10549035

Presented by Biosecurity Team Leader (Brett Bailey) the report provided an update to the Committee on the discovery of the fungal disease Myrtle Rust in New Zealand, and the subsequent biosecurity response being led by the Ministry for Primary Industries supported by Iwi, Department of Conservation, Regional Council and other stakeholders. The update was accompanied by a 'Myrtle Rust Stakeholder Update' and a detailed presentation, these will be provided to the Committee with the minutes following the meeting.

Cr Tipa Mahuta arrived at 10:10am

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

- A number of infestations had been found in nurseries. Nursery to nursery transport of the infested plants was an issue. Nurseries had been advised by MPI to follow published guidelines, and not sell any Myrtaceous species.
- Myrtle Rust is wind borne so stopping the spread was difficult. DNA testing was being done between regions to see if Myrtle Rust infestations were related.
- If Myrtle Rust was suspected, people were asked to contact MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline immediately. Once it had been identified, the property would be on lock down with no plants, machinery or vehicles entering or leaving until a response

plan had been implemented including anti-fungal spray being applied to the property.

A member raised concern about the level of control currently being undertaken by MPI in regards to the Myrtle Rust infestation. There was a suggestion that all 'inter-nursery', and inter-zone transport of plants be ceased until the infestation was under control. The Committee agreed this would be hard to control especially as the infestation could be spread via wind.

Discussion ensued about how the Committee could inform the public about the issue, and stop plant transportation between the zones. Cr Fred Lichtwark moved a motion that the West Coast Catchments Committee recommend to Council, via Integrated Catchment Management Committee to advise the public and make a request to the public by way of a Media release not to bring Myrtle Species of plants into the West Coast zone until the outbreak is controlled.

The Committee proceeded to discuss this and were advised that there was potential for confusion if the Council and MPI's advice were conflicted. There were factsheets that were available that outlined the approach that MPI was taking. The Committee was advised that there was still knowledge to be gained about this infestation as it was the first time New Zealand had dealt with this issue. The majority of the Committee agreed that there was a duty to advise the public.

Cr F Lichtwark moved/Cr L Thomson seconded

WCCC17/13

RESOLVED

THAT the report named 'Myrtle Rust Update' (Doc #10549035, dated 25 May 2017) be received for information; and

RECOMMENDED

THAT the West Coast Catchments Committee recommends to Council, via ICM to advise the public; and make a request to the public by way of a media release not to bring any Myrtle species of plants into the West Coast Zone until the outbreak is controlled.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/13)

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #4) Doc #10046995 and 10444474

The Committee was provided with the minutes of the previous West Coast Catchments Committee meeting of 8 March 2017, and an extract from the Integrated Catchment Management Committee meeting of 13 April 2017.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr D Pilkington moved/W Maag seconded.

WCCC17/14

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the West Coast Catchments Committee meeting of 8 March 2017 be received and approved as a true and correct record.**
- 2. THAT the extract from the Integrated Catchment Management Committee of 13 April 2017 be received.**

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/14)

Chairman's Report May 2017

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item 5) Doc #10401946

Committee Chair (Rob Jolly) provided the Committee with a verbal report summarising the recent workshop and updates on issues of significance or matters of relevance to the West Coast Zone.

Rob thanked the Committee for their continued support in his Chairing duties. He thanked and acknowledged the work that the zone staff do on the ground. Rob noted that there had been times, in meetings, where staff were not available when specific questions were asked, often leaving available staff unable to answer questions. Rob suggested that to avoid this, any specific concerns/questions should be sent to the Chair prior to the meeting to add to the agenda and this would ensure that correct staff were available to answer questions as they arose.

Rob noted that the 24 April 2017 Hill Country Erosion Funding (HCEF) workshop was effective for the decision making progress given the time frame for getting advice to Council. He raised concern about a Councillor's behaviour at the workshop and noted that the Committee was established to inform and assist Council, with Councillors providing a leadership role in this forum.

Further, Rob raised concerns about the Councillor's conduct when it came to media releases attacking the Committee's work. He suggested that the Waikato Regional Council Chair was made aware and spoke to Councillors about what is appropriate conduct in regards to media releases.

Finally – Rob noted that attending the Integrated Catchment Management meetings as Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee had made him aware of how lucky the West Coast Zone was. They had not had to deal with stop banks or flood pumps and could concentrate on Catchment restoration work including fencing, riparian planting and education.

The Committee thanked Rob for his leadership, work and effort for the Committee.

Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai arrived at 10:30am

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

- Concerns were raised by a Committee member that action taken by the Councillor in regards to media releases might have breached the Councillor Code of Conduct. It was suggested that – along with notifying the Regional Council Chair – Councillors should note in media releases when it was their personal opinion.
- A member noted that Councillors needed to be supportive of staff and works in all areas of the Region, as opposed to just their own.
- Concerns were raised by a Councillor that the Committee was over-represented by those in the farming industry in the zone and this meant that conflicts arose when voting on motions that affected farming in the area. Others on the Committee noted however that the West Coast Zone was predominantly a rural zone.
- The Committee was reminded that the Zone Committees were advisory and decisions made in this forum go to full Council for decision making. Council could chose to endorse all or part of a decision. Zone Committee's advice was valued to Council decision making as it included the views of people in the zone, with

knowledge of the area. Councillors appreciated, and trusted that the work would continue.

Cr Sue Smith moved/Mike Moss seconded.

WCCC17/15 **THAT** the verbal report named 'Chairman's Report May 2017' (Doc #10401946 dated 10 May 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/15)

West Coast Zone - Update

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #7) Doc #10387901

West Coast Zone Manager (Jolene Francis) provided the Committee with a presentation that updated the Committee on West Coast Zone activities and work programmes since the last Committee meeting. This included:

- Summary of recently completed and ongoing projects within the zone
- Observations and work undertaken relating to recent high river flows.
- Freshwater Improvement Fund applications for the zone.
- Updated programme expenditure against existing budgets.

During questions, answers and related discussion the following points were noted,

- The Committee requested a further breakdown in regards to priority funding: projected annual expenditure separated from total expenditure.
- In regards to the Marokopa River riverbank stabilisation works – the Committee queried what the make-up of geotextile was and if it included plastic. The Committee was advised that it was a fine weave with coconut matter that allowed planted 'shrub willows' to grow through stabilising the bank. There was fabric that would become part of the soil eventually.
- The Committee was advised of two applications to the Freshwater Management Fund which, if successful, would add funding support to the Toreparu wetland restoration, and further investment in the Hill Country Erosion Project. Some Committee members were unsure as to the benefits of increasing the incentive funding further, and would require more discussion if the application was successful.

M Moana-Tuwhangai moved/Cr L Thomson seconded.

WCCC17/16 **THAT** the report 'West Coast Zone – Update' (Doc #10387901, dated 5 May 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/16)

Due to availability of staff, the Committee agreed to bring on item 9 "Waikato Regional Council Long Term Plan and Level of Service review update April 2017".

Waikato Regional Council Long Term Plan and Level of Service review update April 2017

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #9) Doc #10362739

Presented by Principal Advisor (Greg Ryan) the report provided the Committee with an overview of the process to develop the Waikato Regional Council 2018-2028 Long Term Plan (LTP). Further, the report sought feedback from the Committee on the known issues impacting on activities which require a response from this LTP, and altered the Committee to other issues that may require attention in the future.

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

- Business cases would be provided to Council for discussion in August. Zone budgets would be available for consideration by November.
- The Committee agreed that it was important for work to be prioritised and understood that priorities could change.
- A member raised concerns about the apparent disconnect between District and Regional councils regarding roading issues following a weather event. There appears to be a delay with District Councils fixing of roading issues, when river management interventions in the Catchment were required. Staff advised that meetings with Waitomo and Waikato District Council, and Waikato Regional Council staff were taking place to establish an effective and responsive relationship.
- In terms of the West Coast Zone, emerging pests and threats would be considered in the Regional Pest Management Plan that was up for review this year.
- The Committee queried whether the Long Term Plan budgeted enough resources to meet the demands of beach care groups. Staff advised that currently these demands were beyond the resources available, and Councillors would need to make a call on the level of support to service this community demand.

Chair (Rob Jolly) thanked Greg for his time on this item.

W Maag moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

WCCC17/17 **THAT** the report 'Waikato Regional Council Long Term Plan and Level of Service review update May 2017' (Doc #10362739, dated 3 May 2017) be received for information.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/17)

SECTION B: (FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL)

HCEF Funding: Workshop Recommendation

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #8) Doc #10402033

This report provided the West Coast Catchments Committee with an overview of the workshop held 24 April 2017 to discuss funding options for the Hill Country Erosion Fund project.

The report was taken as read. During questions, answers and related discussion the Committee the following points were noted:

- Waitomo District Council had been advised of the rate increase, and were supportive.
- A member questioned whether the Committee was aware of the repercussions of the funding requirements for the HCEF project. Concern was raised that correct protocol and procedure was not followed. The member noted that a resolution was made by the West Coast Catchments Committee in 2011. This was not actioned until 2013 when the zone met the criteria for the funding, then an application was processed. In response, the member was advised that it was unlikely for these multi-year funding applications to be reconsidered by Committee's annually unless an issue cropped up that needed to be dealt with. The Committee was kept up to date following the initial resolution and in December 2017 a zone newsletter was released that outlined the HCEF.
- The Committee acknowledged that the funding process for the hill country programme, including utilisation of the reserve, could have been managed better and this would be a learning going forward.

- In terms of the perceived conflict of interest outlined by a Committee member in regards to the vote taken at the HCEF workshop, the Committee was advised that full Council had noted the workshop recommendation and was comfortable making its decision accordingly.

Cr F Lichtwark moved/W Maag seconded.

WCCC17/18 **THAT** the report 'HCEF Funding: Workshop Recommendation' (Doc #10402033, dated 10 May 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/18)

Members suggested that while the HCEF recommendation was discussed at an informal workshop level, the decision could be ratified by a formal recommendation to Council noting the Committee's support.

M Moana-Tuwhangai moved/Cr S Kneebone seconded

WCCC17/19 **RECOMMENDED**

THAT the West Coast Catchment Committee endorse the recommendation that arose from the 24 April 2017 committee workshop to support the 52% targeted rate increase for the 2017/2018 Annual Plan

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/19)

Cr F Lichtwark and M Moss opposed
M Smythe abstained

Appointment of Chair, West Coast Catchments Committee

File: 03 02 38 (Agenda Item #6) Doc #10425025

Presented by Director for Integrated Catchment Management (Clare Crickett) the report sought a recommendation for the appointment of Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee.

Chair (Rob Jolly) called for nominations for Chair.

- Mike Moss nominated Weo Maag, this nomination was seconded by Cr Fred Lichtwark.
- Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai nominated Mark Smythe. Mark Smythe declined the nomination.

No further nominations were received and Weo Maag was declared Chair pending Integrated Catchment Management Committee's adoption.

M Moss moved/Cr F Lichtwark seconded.

WCCC17/20

1. **THAT** the report 'Appointment of Chair, West Coast Catchments Committee' (Doc #10425025, dated 15 May 2017) be received, and
2. **RECOMMEND** that Weo Maag be appointed as Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/20)

As Weo Maag was Deputy Chair of the Committee, his nomination as Chair left a vacancy for Deputy Chair.

Chair (Rob Jolly) called for nomination for Deputy Chair of the Committee.

- Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai nominated Mark Smythe, Cr Lisa Thomson seconded the motion.

No further nominations were received and Mark Smythe was declared Deputy Chair of the Committee pending Integrated Catchment Management's adoption.

M Moana-Tuwhangi moved/Cr Lisa Thomson seconded

WCCC17/21

3. **RECOMMEND** that Mark Smythe be appointed as Deputy Chair of the West Coast Catchments Committee

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/21)

Items requested for the next meeting agenda

- HCEF application update, and distribution discussion
- Harbour Catchment Management Plans and their equitability with the West Coast.

Meeting closed at 12:44pm

Doc #10571377