
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 November 2017 at 10.00am.

	Present:
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
Te Tokanganui-a-noho	Weo Maag (Chair)
Maniapoto Maori Trust Board	Ray Wi
Waikato-Tainui	Maxine Moana-Tuwhangai
Co-Chairman Integrated Catchment Management Committee	Cr Stu Kneebone

Waikato Regional Council Staff present:	Matthew Davis (Manager Lower Waikato/Waipā/West Coast Catchments)
	Jolene Francis (West Zone Manager)
	Callum Bourke (Senior Catchment Management Officer)
	Adrian Jepson (Senior Catchment Management Officer)
	Lyndon Stokes (River Management Officer)
	Greg Ryan (Manager Business and Technical Services)
	Rick Liefing (Team Leader Regional Hazards)
	Brett Bailey (Team Leader Biosecurity - Pest Animals)
	Jenny Robertson (Acting Democracy Advisor)

Welcome

At commencement of the meeting a mihi whakatau was provided by guest Tutu Ormsby.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Waikato Regional Council – Cr Alan Livingston, Cr Tipa Mahuta, Cr Fred Lichtwark
Local Community Representatives – Mark Smyth, Tom Mandeno, Kristel van Houte

Accepted

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

Confirmation of Agenda

(Agenda Item 2)

M Moana-Tuwhangi moved/N Hayward seconded.

WCCC17/33

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the West Coast Catchments Committee of 23 November 2017, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/33)

Disclosures of Interest

(Agenda Item 3)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Agenda Item 4) Doc # 10955451 and 11404059

It was noted that on Page 6 Ray Wi should have only one "i" in his surname.

On Page 6 it had been suggested that a Disclosures of Interest document be prepared and available at each meeting for members to update. It was noted that the document would be made available at future meetings.

With regard to the Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1, it was noted that Council hoped to ratify Commissioner appointments in December and to commence hearings by the middle of the coming year.

Cr Smith moved/N Hayward seconded.

WCCC17/34

RESOLVED

1. **THAT the Minutes of the West Coast Catchments Committee meeting of 22 August 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 12 October 2017 be received.**

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/34)

Issues and Actions Report

(Agenda Item 5) Doc # 11335729

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.

N Hayward moved/M Moana-Tuwhangai seconded.

WCCC17/35

THAT the report "Issues and Actions Report" (Doc # 11335729 dated 3 November 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/35)

Chairperson's Report November 2017

(Agenda Item 6) Doc # 11322764

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.

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

- The Chair sought members' input on the type of information that they wished to receive from their Chair. It was agreed that a summary of Integrated Catchment Management Committee (ICMC) meetings would be of particular interest.
- The Chair had given apologies for the last two ICMC meetings due to an overlap with Waikato River Authority meetings. He hoped that in future the meeting dates would not clash. M Moana-Tuwhangai advised that as Chair of the Central Waikato Catchment Committee she attended ICMC meetings and would be able to report back to this Committee in the absence of its own Chair. Cr Kneebone noted that he also attended ICMC meetings and could highlight relevant issues on behalf of this Committee.
- ICMC had received a report on dam safety management. New rules set by the Government would impact on Council-owned flood detention dams in the Lower Waikato and Waihou-Piako Zones in particular as well as privately owned dams on farmland.
- The quorum for this Committee's meetings, as recorded in the agenda, is only two members which reflects the Local Government Act 2002.
- The Chair had received questions from within the community with regard to the Aotea Harbour project and in particular how many kilometres of fencing had been completed, at what total cost and at what cost to the ratepayer. He suggested that a 'scorecard' be kept for all projects in the zone, keeping an overall running total of fencing, planting and costs, as well as identifying if the plants were sourced locally.

- The four Mayors and Regional Council Chair had indicated support for a Maniapoto request to be put to the Crown seeking resources for their future role in co-governance and co-management.
- Staff member Craig Briggs had won a New Zealand GIS competition with his poster on prioritising possum control work across the region. Committee members would be provided with a copy of the poster.

N Hayward moved/M Moana-Tuwhangai seconded.

WCCC17/36

THAT the report “Chairperson’s Report November 2017” (Doc # 11322764 dated 1 November 2017) **and verbal update from the Chair be received.**

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/36)

West Coast Zone Status Report

(Agenda Item 7) Doc # 11373660

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 (Doc # 11409168).

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

- The proposal for a project ‘scorecard’ since inception of the zone, perhaps by way of an email to members, would provide tangible information and could be included in the newsletter. The ‘scorecard’ should note other funds received, such as Hill Country Erosion and working collaboratively with the Department of Conservation.
- Everybody throughout the zone paid rates and everybody should benefit from projects. Priority areas had been identified in terms of the limited budget. Those priority areas could be reviewed when a review of the Zone Plan was undertaken.
- The Ministry for the Environment had not been included in the list of funding partners as they had declined the zone’s application.
- The information regarding Oparau Station catchment works expenditure 2011-17 would be forwarded to Committee members by email.
- Landowners had an obligation to renew fencing in due course, be it 40 to 50 years’ time, and could apply to the Council for assistance.
- The Council worked collaboratively with other organisations and had a good relationship with the Department of Conservation.
- Following the change of government, there was some uncertainty regarding the future of the Hill Country Erosion project and Afforestation Grants. It was hoped to have clarity early next year.
- Some landowners were completing works ahead of time, resulting in an impact on the zone’s financial position.
- The catchment new works and Hill Country Erosion budgets are fully allocated for the financial year. There is significant interest and engagement in the community and that is a tribute to the staff. Project opportunities were highlighted in the zone’s newsletter, and two field days were held each year in the hill country region and promoted in the “Waitomo News”. A quick update was also provided during Beef and Lamb workshops in the southern part of the zone.
- Whilst staff reported on the Council budget, it would be good to identify other funding that was contributing to work in the zone, such as from Nga Whenua Rahui.
- The information contained in the presentation would be distributed after the meeting.

W Maag moved/Cr Pilkington seconded.

WCCC17/37 THAT the report “West Coast Zone Status Report” (Doc # 11373660 dated 10 November 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/37)

Waikato Regional Council 2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update

(Agenda Item 8) Doc # 1330587

Presented by Manager Business and Technical Services (Greg Ryan), this report provided the Committee with an update on development of the Waikato Regional Council 2018-28 Long Term Plan. Copies of a report entitled “Infrastructure Strategy 2018–67 – Flood protection and land drainage assets” (Doc # 10828633) were distributed. A presentation was provided (Doc # 11442509).

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

- The zone has no flood protection and land drainage assets, and there had been no demand from the community to build stopbanks. In the past (in other zones), a number of hard structures had been implemented to try to control rivers; however the focus was now on giving rivers more room to move and also looking at land use change near rivers.
- Consideration was being given to establishing a region-wide harbour catchment planning role, with the West Coast Zone being the first priority for the resource.
- The focus with Kauri Dieback would be on managing it in the Coromandel Zone, which would indirectly help other zones.
- The rating impact of the Long Term Plan would not be known until February or March 2018 for reporting to the Committee.
- Council has been receiving part funding from the Department of Conservation for one of the catchment management officer roles in the zone, with that funding to finish next year. The cost to fully fund the role by Waikato Regional Council has been factored into the Long Term Plan proposals.

N Hayward moved/Cr Thomson seconded.

WCCC17/38 THAT the report “Waikato Regional Council 2018-2028 Long Term Plan Update” (Doc # 11330587 dated 3 November 2017) be received.

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/38)

Catchment Committee Effectiveness Review

(Agenda Item 9) Doc # 11214603

Presented by Manager Business and Technical Services (Greg Ryan), this report provided the Committee with an update on the “catchment committee effectiveness review”, including draft recommendations and an outline of the process for confirming those recommendations. Copies of a report entitled “Effectiveness Review of Catchment Committees and Drainage Advisory Subcommittees – draft report” dated 22 September 2017 (Doc # 11044917) were distributed. A presentation was provided (Doc # 11442509).

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

- The report was being considered by all Catchment Committees.
- Current appointments of local community representatives had been extended to the end of this calendar year and would require further extension until the middle of next year. Once the proposals had been approved, the appointment process would be progressed.
- Council valued the input and feedback from the Catchment Committees, particularly with regard to decisions being right for the community.
- The Catchment Committee quorum of two members could be reviewed.
- Induction and training of members would help with effectiveness.
- Catchment Committee members were appointed because of their different interests, skills and networks. The Committee was not expected to make decisions, which was the role of the Councillors as governors.
- It was suggested that all members should receive a copy of the Standing Orders.

Cr Pilkington moved/M Moana-Tuwhangai seconded.

WCCC17/39

THAT the report “Catchment Committee Effectiveness Review” (Doc # 11214603 dated 9 November 2017) **be received.**

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/39)

Draft Climate Change Guidelines – Integrated Catchment Management

(Agenda Item 10) Doc # 11375630 and 10822085

Presented by Team Leader Regional Hazards (Rick Liefing), this report provided the Committee with an overview of the recently developed Climate Change Guidelines prepared for the Integrated Catchment Management directorate. A presentation was provided (Doc # 11478171).

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

- Moturiki Datum was derived in 1953 using Moturiki Island off the Bay of Plenty coast as a point of relativity, with heights measured above or below that reference point.
- The coastal inundation tool on the Waikato Regional Council website was demonstrated, showing the impact of various sea level rises in Raglan.
- The Climate Change Guidelines was intended to be a ‘living’ and usable document.
- Committee members should provide any feedback on the document to the Zone Manager West Coast (Jolene Francis) or Team Leader Regional Hazards (Rick Liefing).

W Maag moved/R Wi seconded.

WCCC17/40

THAT the report “Draft Climate Change Guidelines – Integrated Catchment Management” (Doc # 11375630 dated 10 November 2017) **be received.**

The motion was put and carried (wccc17/40)

Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan Annual Report 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2017/18

(Agenda Item 11) Doc # 11333833, 10773352 and 10777808

Presented by Team Leader Biosecurity - Pest Animals (Brett Bailey), this report provided the Committee with the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Annual Report for 2016/17 and Operational Plan for 2017/18. A presentation was provided (Doc # 11465246).

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

- A management agreement for Pirongia and Karioi would be brought to the Committee in the new year. The agreement would help Waikato Regional Council and other parties, such as the Department of Conservation, to secure and commit to funding and to tell their story to the community.
- In 2015 the Ministry for Primary Industries set national policy directions and rules outlining what regional pest management plans should look like to reduce differences between Regional Councils. The changes had been a main driver for the new plan.
- Council has promoted the machine hygiene guides with contractors to highlight the need to keep machinery clean in order to reduce the movement of weed seeds on their agricultural equipment.
- In Canterbury a number of contractors had a drum of water and washdown gear on the back of their vehicles to allow on-site cleaning.
- Farmers should be made aware of the issues and the onus should be on them to not allow uncleaned equipment on their property.

W Maag moved/Cr Kneebone seconded.

WCCC17/41

RESOLVED

- 1. THAT the report "Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan Annual Report 2016/17 and Operational Plan 2017/18" (Doc # 11333833, dated 28 September 2017) be received for information; and**
- 2. THAT the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan Annual Report 2016/2017 (refer Doc # 10773352) be received; and**
- 3. THAT the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2017/2018 Operational Plan (refer Doc # 10777808) be received.**

The motion was put and carried (WCCC17/41)

Meeting closed at 12.38 pm.

Doc # 11414590