

## NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 26th June 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got away at 0930hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming all and advised that two more were coming.

**Apologies.** There were no apologies.

### **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.**

Cr Carr reminds them that any '**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**' were to be advised item by item as they progressed through the agenda and they would be dealt with accordingly and then decided what, if any action is to be taken case by case.

Item No.1. Confirmation of Minutes – 24 April 2012. (Page 1) (0930hrs)

No discussion was entered into with this item.

0931hrs Item No.2. Representation – Living Waters Bay of Islands. (Page 7)

This item was suspended until later in the meeting when the presenters were due to arrive.

Time now at 0932hrs Item No.3. Presentation – Waitangi River catchment – Landcare Trust. (Page 8)

Mr Jon Hampson, LandcareTrust, gave a presentation on this project. A couple of very interesting statements were in the conclusion of the presentation.

'Farmers on top.....scientists and experts on tap' 'We all know what someone else can do.....the Landcare approach is about what we can do'

This interesting presentation will hopefully be available on the NRC website in the future.

Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager gave some detail how the NRC was 100% behind this project.

Item No.4. Water Quality Workshop 30 April 2012 update. (Page 9) at 0952hrs.

Cr Joe Carr acknowledged how well the staff had picked this up.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave a run down on the report.

Richard Booth (Farming Community) had a question about wetlands in regards to how was council doing a verification process.

Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager gave some details in response to this.

Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) explained 'that earlier with this project there had been emphasis on relationships with land owners and not about hitting them with surprises. They must be treated most carefully'.

Richard Booth emphasized that they (NRC) needs to check with the landowners for verification of wetlands.

Tony Phipps advised that was why they had written to all landowners.

Richard Booth replied that it is important that the landowners understand what types of wetlands there are.

Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups) felt that this should have already been done. He understood wetlands had been ranked and they shouldn't be going back over it again.

Item No.5. Improving Northland's water and implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. (Page 12) (1008hrs)

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave some details advising that this was based on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and covered recently in the NRC draft long Term Plan (LTP) 2012-2022.

This report (pages 12 to 17 including attachments) is worth a read.

Time now at 1023hrs Item No.6. Business case for initiatives that aim to support pastoral farmers in protecting and improving water quality. (Page 18)

Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager outlined the objectives of the business case.

Wayne Teal, Land Management Advisor gave a presentation on a Proposed Poplar and Willow Nursery in Flyger Road.

This interesting presentation is available on the NRC website as an attachment on the bottom of this meeting's agenda. Link to agenda at the top of this report.

Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) suggested that there be some discussion re the use of council resources for this project (*namely the land; its purchase, lease or use of*)

Cr Bill Rossiter commented that there was a section of staff that was under-utilised, in reference to 'Resourcing' on page 19. *Bill, hope it is not councilors being under-utilised? If so, please name them.*

Dr Greg Blunden advised that there was no mention of 'staff time' in the budget.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley confirms that he wants to see this go ahead for this planting season and suggests that it could be delegated to the CEO Malcolm Nicholson to

ensure those targets can be attained. Tony also informed that there had been quite a bit done about the use of the land and wetlands; they just need the policy to back it up.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that there was a team in the management group that was looking at the policy on this.

Item No.7. Ballance Farm Environment Awards – 2011/12 update. (Page 21) (1050hrs)

Kathryne Easton, Land Management Officer gave some details on the awards program.

Cr Joe Carr wanted to encourage the council members to attend the awards.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley informed that the awards were encompassed in an enthusiastic atmosphere. He requested if the costs incurred by council could be reported on, enabling councilors to be more informed.

On to Item No.8. New marine pests in Whangarei Harbour and the role of the Ministry for Primary Industries. (Page 25) (1058hrs)

Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager gave a great presentation.

There was a conflict of interest declared. *I think it was for Cr Tony Davies-Colley whom some felt could have been a pest. Good humour goes down well within these walls, but the jobs get done.*

There were a series of questions about 'Fan worm' (Sabella) after Don explained there were male and female worms. *A naïve councilor, who shall remain nameless, asked what happens then.* Don gave a basic explanation on the reproduction of worms in that two worms could end up making a third worm. *Oh Don, so they don't have twins, triplets quads or quins?*

Don emphasized that people must be aware of these pests.

[Link to BioSecurity New Zealand brochure on marine pests](#)

*Have a good look at this and tell all the people you know to ensure they clean the bottom of their vessels before coming to Northland. We don't want their nasty hitch hikers off their boats.*

*There are a couple of articles available on these issues; one from DOC called Pest Management National Plan of Action. This is on the Ministry for Primary Industries website. NIWA also have information 'Marine Biosecurity Porthole'. [Link to this](#)*

This interesting presentation is also available on the NRC website as an attachment on the bottom of this meeting's agenda. Link to agenda at the top of this report.

Gail Townsend, Biosecurity Officer answered some questions that were asked by councilors regarding vessels that were entering Northlands waterways carrying pest on their hulls.

Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) tossed some ideas into the forum about having means of identification of “clean” boats and making them easily identifiable.

*Craig I can see there needs to be some work done on this to protect our most valuable environment. We have one of the best coastlines in the world right on our doorstep and we must do anything we can to protect it.*

*Sorry folks but I had to leave this meeting at 11.30am as I was expecting visitors arriving by 11.45am at home so you will have to wait till the next installment .....*

I missed the following items 9, 10 & 11 plus the earlier Item No.2 Living Waters Bay of Islands which was to be given by Ruth Marsh who a most interesting person to listen to.

It was now 1hrs and it was Item No.9. Environmental Monitoring for the period 28 April - 31 May 2012. (Page 29)

Item No.10. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Page 42) (1hrs)

It was time at 1hrs Item No.11 River Schemes and Priority Rivers - update report. (Page 50)

The meeting closed at 1215hrs. *from what I was told*