

NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 26th March 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got away at 1000hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming the public and staff to today's meeting with a 'good morning I would like to open our meeting'.

Joe explained the location of toilets etc. He also advised the exits in the event of an emergency.

Joe welcomed [Vanessa Anich](#) along as a Kaipara District Council observer to the meeting.

Procedural

Apologies. There were apologies for Richard Booth (Farming Community), Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation, Cr Graeme Ramsey and Cr Bill Rossiter whose brother had passed away.

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups)

Joe Carr advised that a resignation had been received for Ms Nicole Anderson (Cultural Interests Representative)

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 –19 February 2013 (Page 1) (0935hrs)

Cr Joe Carr advised there was a change to how Item No 3 (Page 4) was to read.

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Alan Clarkson. (Farming Community)

There was no further discussion with this item and there were no other matters arising from the minutes.

Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) joined the meeting at 0937hrs.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt asked in respect of Nicole Anderson's resignation what the process in appointment of a new representative was.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised of the process.

NRC Chairman, Craig Brown also suggested some guidelines.

It was now 0941hrs Item No.2. Item left on the table from previous committee meeting 19 February 2013: Wetlands Update (Page 9)

James Griffin, Policy Analyst gave a presentation. *Check out page 12 'two other grey areas in identifying wetlands are:-'*

Cr Tony Davies-Colley made a series of comments; suggesting that the database should be of indigenous wetlands and not constructed wetlands.

Joe Carr gave details of what he envisaged in the register.

Alan Clarkson asked if this was voluntary or compulsory registration.

Tony Phipps - Operations Director claimed it was voluntary.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley insisted that indigenous should be logged only, not constructed.

Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) asked if this was just a protection issue.

Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups) advised that there were mechanisms to register wetlands on the database. It was designed to protect future owners from destroying wetlands.

We have a problem Houston at 0958hrs, Crichton Christie's cell phone is interrupting the meeting on a number of occasions.

NRC Chairman, Craig Brown to his feet and places an empty glass on the table advising that penalties of a dollar for each time phones interrupt the meeting.

Problem appears to be sorted now Houston, Thank you.

Cr Joe Carr claims that they are not going to think it out this meeting.

Crichton Christie's cell phone again interrupts.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley, not happy, claims this has been going on for months and needs to be sorted.

Craig Brown agrees and cares about the staffs that are unsure if and where this is going; 'endgame' needs to come along shortly.

It was decided for the 2nd part of the recommendation that Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Cr Joe Carr and Dr Greg Blunden get together with the staff and sort it out

Moved: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden.

Waioira Northland Water – policy development

Time now at 1004hrs Item No.3. Waioira Northland Water progress (Page 15)

Tony Phipps - Operations Director gave some details on this items progress.

There was no further discussion with this item

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Item No.4.Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond: Government's proposals for reform of freshwater management (Page 17) at 1007hrs.

Tony Phipps - Operations Director gave a brief and a power point presentation.

I have read most of this and another document they we received when attending the Freshwater reform and Improving our Resource management held by Ministry for Primary Industries meetings at Kingsgate Hotel earlier in March. I had difficulty, along with others as the document mentioned 'fresh' water but no mention about 'clean or healthy' water. I believe there is a difference as you can have fresh polluted water.

This also doesn't fit with local government reform to have unitary authority, in my opinion, as I believe it would be extremely difficult to have genuine monitoring and policing with one organization and firmly believe you must have two tiers of local governance for distinction of these roles.

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) claims he sees conflicting viewpoints and issues in this report.

He is nervous they intend to have one rule for all as our streams in our district are different from other districts. *Yes you are right Crichton, their streams are different, as their streams are in their districts and our streams are in our district.*

Tony Phipps informs that water management has always been difficult to balance. They (government) want national direction but also want local areas to make their own decisions. The trick is to balance it all up.

Dr Greg Blunden asked a series of questions for some clarification.

Cr Joe Carr went through the points that they wished NRC to portray to government in their submission.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden.

Craig Brown commented that we have to think outside the square now about water, what used to happen will possibly be changing.

Time now at 1035hrs Item No.5. Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector (Page19)

Cr Tony Davies-Colley raised a couple of issues about being a 'Friend of the Water Accord' *As I understand this only applies to Dairy Farmers; why shouldn't all farmers be responsible and keep all types of stock out of waterways, or does some excrement taste a little better and not damage water quality and the health of it?*

Alan Clarkson asks why we shouldn't be a friend, wouldn't it be better to be a partnership. (See page 20 for levels of commitment)

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that it was all about 'image'. It was to make it look better to those offshore buying our milk and milk products; it had to look great.

Craig Brown wanted to give a simple solution; 'permanent fence' is the issue, make it as simple as you can. *It's not like face book; where you can just un-friend them if things go bad.*

Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry Representative) suggested that they could add 'or as per Regional Council management Plan'.

Done and dusted.

Moved: Geoff Gover, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Time now 1101hrs Item No.6. Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group – subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee - Draft Terms of Reference (Page 23)

Cr Joe Carr wanted the recommendation to read 'Cr Tony Davies-Colley' in recommendation 2a.

Tony Phipps gave details of how this was established and what it had been modeled on.

Cr Joe Carr claimed that they needed to commend the water catchment staff; he had huge respect for the work that had been done there.

Recommendation moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) with the addition of another ex officio on the committee.

Time now at 1115hrs Item No.7. Doubtless Bay Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference (Page 33)

Cr Joe Carr wanted the recommendation to read 'Cr Di Maxwell' in recommendation 2a.

Tony Phipps gave some details claiming this item was less formal than the previous item.

Cr Joe Carr advised that some clauses in the Terms of Reference needed to be changed.

Moved: Alan Clarkson, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC)

Time now at 1123hrs Item No.8. Waitangi River Catchment – NZ Landcare Trust (Page 38)

Joe welcomed Jon Hampson from NZ Landcare Trust to the meeting. Jon gave a most colorful presentation about the work this trust had undertaken. There were superb additional adlib comments made by Jon to the power point presentation. *Jon a fine example of what makes a presentation interesting; pictures speak a thousand words.*

Tony Phipps made a suggestion of a 'catchment group' for that area in the future. Cr Joe Carr wanted to add that to the recommendation but they settled on NRC continuing to support this project allowing NRC staff to assist when required.

Moved:?, Seconded:?.

Waiora Northland Water – operational

On to Item No.9 Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Update (Page 52) (1147hrs) Bob Cathcart, Land Management Specialist had a presentation to this. An informative presentation as to the progress of the project. As time was an issue at present no questions were fielded.

Moved: Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

It was now 1156hrs and it was Item No.10. Wai Restoration – Enviroschools project (Page 65)

Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer/ Regional Enviroschools Co-ordinator and Earthcare owner Marty Taylor gave a progress report on this item. An interesting collection of photographs taken during the last program.

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Geoff Gover.

Operational

It was time at 10206hrs Item No.11.Environmental Monitoring for the period 1-28 February 2013 (Page 67)

There was no further discussion with this item

Moved: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Item No.12. River Management Update (Page 79) (1207hrs)

There was a change in the recommendation No 1 to read 12th March not 4th February.

There was no further discussion with this item.

Moved: Geoff Gover, Seconded: Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt quickly threw in a question about a bridge, which was just as quickly replied to.

It was now 1208hrs and it was Item No.13. Update on Biosecurity Responses: Kauri dieback, Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm (Page 87)

Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager advised that there was greater sense of need regarding Mediterranean fanworm. Vessels were still leaving Auckland and heading north and infecting our waters in Northland.

Cr Joe Carr claimed that it needed to be promoted that "in Auckland it is a mess, but don't take the mess to Northland".

Don McKenzie advised that they were about to engage with people in Auckland by visiting marinas and attending the Boat Show in an official capacity to educate the concerns of this pest.

Craig Brown asked how far south the worm can be found.

Don McKenzie advised that it had been reported from as far south as Lyttleton.

Moved: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

It was time at 1212hrs Item No.14. Climate and Water Resources – update (Page 91)
Cr Joe Carr commented that it was a pretty dry place.
There was no further discussion with this item.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), Seconded: Geoff Gover.

The meeting closed at 1213hrs.and Cr Joe Carr thanked people for their attendance and invited them to stay for lunch later but opened the meeting up for general discussion meantime.

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Northland Regional Council website by clicking on this [link](#).