

NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 28th August 2012

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got away at 0930hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming all.

Apologies. There were apologies for Ms Nicole Anderson (Cultural Interests) and Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Richard Booth (Farming Community).

Joe explained the location of toilets etc. He also advised the exits in the event of an emergency; but if it is a tsunami sit up here and watch the town flood.

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.

Cr Carr advised that an extra item on forestry had been circulated to committee members and thanked Geoff Gover for his work done on it.

Item No.1. Confirmation of Minutes – 26 June 2012 (Page 1) (0936hrs)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Graeme Ramsey.

No discussion was entered into with this item and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

0937hrs Item No.2. Draft Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Northland (Page 8)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Joe Carr.

There was a presentation by Policy Specialist, Jonathan Gibbard on the process of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). It was all about balancing the environment and the economy. There were 120 issues that had to be addressed during the process. The Policy had to be front loaded and have sound science with a 'wow' factor. The RPS committee had consisted of NRC Representatives Cr Ian Walker, Chairman Craig Brown, Cr Tony Davies-Colley and Cr John Bain (NRC) with District Council representation by Cr Ann Court (FNDC), Cr Julie Geange (KDC) and Cr John Williamson (WDC).

He insisted that the RPS does not contain any rules. *It appears the District Councils are going to implement ruling which is of concern of many landowners that have been having Landowners Coalition meetings. [See link to meetings.](#)*

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) had what appeared to be a personal attack at Cr Rossiter because of differing opinions over GE adding that there were concerns about colours of house that could be changed but GE cleanup was forever.

Cr Bill Rossiter responded with "I object to those comments and if you want to get personal, come outside". (*Wonder what's outside, can't they show us here?*) He continued "If I agreed with you (to Cr Christie) we would both be wrong".

Chairman Craig Brown advised the meeting this is a process for the council to go through and we have gone through the process. I must protect the process we have gone through and those with differing opinions on this will have to wait till the official submission process.

Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) advised that she wanted to receive the comments Ms Nicole Anderson had forwarded to the meeting. There was conflicting discussion on this.

Craig Brown suggested that this information should be passed onto the RPS Committee. This was duly passed.

Time now at 1013hrs Item No.3. Northland Water: NPS for Freshwater Management update (Page 16)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave some details.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley advised that there were two issues; one was making a better environment and the other the costs of doing so.

Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry) believed that this committee was the 'Technical Advisory Group'.

Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC) agreed totally with Greg's comments.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley advised that this group needs to be to speed a bit more. It's not a political group; it's a technical group. They needed to be aware of potential ways of solving the problem.

Cr Joe Carr commented that the entire group should be at the workshop they were proposing to have.

Craig Brown suggested 'that they flog it to death with the experts here in the committee and then if needed ask in other experts'. *Sounds like a lot of sense to me, with the expertise there is apparently in this committee there must be many answers available to this issue from this group.*

Item No.4. Wetlands (Page 34) at 1053hrs.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Joe Carr.

Cr Joe Carr believed they needed to cap this item off.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley made comments about 'man made' wetlands and issues affecting them in gaining consent.

Regional Policy Senior Programme Manager, Kathryn Ross gave some clarification of the plan process; advising that the process takes time.

Craig Brown gave some advice to avoid over complicating the issue.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson suggested that they leave it to the staff to come back with advice on this matter.

Item No.5. Kaipara Harbour initiatives update (Page 42) (1106hrs)

This was moved and seconded with no further discussion on it.

Time still at 1106hrs Item No.6. Update of the Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group (Page 48)

Cr Bill Rossiter advised he thought the plan looked very good.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley believed it should be easier to enforce rules but it's hard where there are anomalies. There must be incentives without putting farmers at risk of prosecution because of these anomalies.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell.

Item No.7. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Page 51) (1113hrs)

David Penny, FNDC (General Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management) gave a presentation on a waste water process called 'Organica Process'. This presentation was a 'Waterclean Organica Technology overview and was interesting about the way sewage can be treated more effectively and in a cost effective manner. *Would love to put the link to this presentation but can't find anything at present.*

Moved: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Seconded: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC).

On to Item No.8. Environmental Monitoring for the period 1-31 July 2012 (Page 57) (1139hrs)

This was moved by Cr Joe Carr and seconded: with no further discussion on it.

It was now 1140hrs and it was Item No.9. Environment Fund update (Page 65)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Bill Rossiter.

Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager gave a brief presentation. Cr Graeme Ramsey queried why recommendation No 4 had been declined as it was only funding of \$2,638-00.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed that if approved it would set a precedent.

Cr Joe Carr wanted it amended to approve the funding.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed that they had set up guidelines for environmental funding and now we are going outside those guidelines.

They reverted to the original recommendations and they were duly approved.

Item No.10. Proposed council poplar and willow nursery update (Page 69) (1153hrs)

Cr Joe Carr asked if Geoff Gover could organize some areas from Hancocks for this.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley claimed it appears Polytech is running away with this project; it's moved twice on the location already.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that they (NRC) are still in discussions with Polytech.

There is the potential to do both projects and he wasn't aware of the offer from the forestry.

That makes it hard when the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is up to?

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked the CEO, wasn't that a priority, is this part of your KPI's? (Key performance indicators)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell.

Craig Brown added that this was going to be a commercial setup, now it's Polytech. Let's get on and do it.

It was time at 1157hrs Item No.11. River Schemes update (Page 79)

It was Moved and Seconded, with no discussion entered into with this item.

Item No.12. Marine pests update (Page 101) (1158hrs)

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC).

No discussion was entered into with this item

It was now 1159hrs and it was Item No.13. Whangarei Heads Community Pest Control Area update (Page 103)

Moved: Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden.

I had to leave as this presentation was starting for another engagement, so sadly missed its content. By all accounts from comments I have heard there has been great process on pest control and there has been a large number of kiwi restored in the area by some dedicated community involvement and great guidance. Read the item on the agenda and you will see how a special award has been received for the great work being done by these people. Keep up the good work.

The meeting closed at 12??Hrs.and I know Joe would have thanked people for their attendance.

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