

NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 28th May 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got away at 0930hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming the public and staff to today's meeting with a 'good morning'. Joe also welcomed Cr Tracy Dalton (FNDC) who was standing in for Cr Di Maxwell.

Apologies. There were apologies for Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry) & Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Cr Bill Rossiter advises that Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) will also be late.

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

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

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 – 26 March 2013 (Page1) (0933hrs)

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

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

At 0934hrs it was Item No.2. Maori Representation – Environmental Management Committee (Page 10)

Moved: Chris Jenkins, (Department of Conservation), Seconded: Cr Bill Rossiter.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised he and Chairman Craig Brown had met with members of Te Uri-o-Hau.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt commented that she would like to hear they had met with other groups.

There was no further discussion with this item.

Waiora Northland Water – policy development

Time now at 0936hrs Item No.3. Waiora Northland Water progress (Page 12)

Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave some details but advised there had not been new changes since the last meeting.

Alan Clarkson (Farming Community) asked about the minutes from the last meeting, that he had been able to attend, in regards to details about fencing. *Gee Alan you have just opened up the gate.*

Tony Phipps gave some details.

Cr Bill Rossiter advised there was concern about 7 wire fencing in flood prone areas.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if they could have some definitive decision to their discussions.

Tony Phipps again gave some details to the issue.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if they should get Fonterra there to discuss it; if we have to talk to Fonterra as a committee, so be it.

Richard Booth (Farming Community) gave some details about fencing requirements.

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) claims he personally doesn't have a problem with electric fences that may have a 1% failure. He claims he can live with a 1% fail as long as they get it right 99% of the time. *Tell me Crichton is the recent failure with the new bridge the 1%; if so when do we get the 99% of the project, as it hasn't opened yet?*

Cr Joe Carr advises that the word was 'permanent'; and that legally is a 7 wire fence.

Cr Joe Carr, in reference to the Local Government New Zealand Submission on page 14, claims it is a very good submission. There was only one point in it that he disagreed with.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley in question to Tony Phipps asked if he could confirm, what stage were they at, with the Fonterra meetings.

Cr Joe Carr introduced Helen Moody from Dairy New Zealand to the meeting. Helen explained they had had a brief workshop about the various plans being implemented.

Malcolm Nicholson, Chris Jenkins, Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Cr Bill Rossiter & Cr Joe Carr entered into the question section of Helens introduction.

Cr Joe Carr advises he was of the belief that Fonterra was enhancing its image by all this.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley suggested that they have another meeting.

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

Item No.4. River Values Assessments – update (includes presentations) (Page 40) at 0957hrs.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Tracy Dalton (FNDC).

Craig Brown joins the meeting at this point.

Darryl Jones, Economist for the NRC introduced Ken Hughey from Lincoln University who gave a power point presentation 'The River Value Assessment System: Insights from trial applications to Northern Region'. *Wow a most interesting presentation given with massive amounts of enthusiasm by Ken.*

Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups) joined the meeting at 1028hrs during this presentation.

Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation asked a question of Ken which was duly answered.

At 1035hrs Darryl Jones gave a power point presentation on 'The economic value of direct water use in Northland'.

Cr Bill Rossiter asked a question about collecting of water by farmers.

Craig Brown asked if they knew the quantities of water that we take whether consented or not.

There were some interesting questions about where these questions were going. And were there to be charges for all water takes either with or without consents?

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that Central Government is considering looking at a market for water. *That is a subtle way of saying they are looking at ways to charge everyone for use of all water. We had heard rumours that some councils were looking at charging for collection of rainwater for use in rural areas. They all think we are walking EFTPOS machines.*

Time now at 1117hrs Item No.5. Mangere Catchment Group - membership (Page 42)

Cr Joe Carr gave some details and spoke about the group.

Tony Phipps gave some added details.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

There was no further discussion with this item.

Time now 1121hrs Item No.6. Doubtless Bay Working Group – membership (Page 44)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

There was no discussion with this item.

Time now at 1122hrs Item No.7. Whangarei Harbour Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Advisory Group – Draft Terms of Reference (Page 47)

Tony Phipps gave some details on this item.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Cr Joe Carr advised that point 3 in the Recommendation was seeking an appointment for this group.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley recommended that Cr Bill Rossiter be selected to be Northland Regional Councils representative on the Whangarei Harbour Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Advisory Group.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), Seconded: Chris Jenkins.

There was no further discussion with this item.

Waioira Northland Water – operational

Time now at 1125hrs Item No.8. Environment Fund Demand Pressures (Page 55)

Cr Joe Carr gave some brief details.

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

Dr Greg Blunden advised that he had some concerns that needed addressing.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley believed that the more pressure on the fund, the better.

There was more involved discussion about these plans.

Craig Brown, in his normal relaxed manner, offers his advice to the meeting about getting the timing and amounts of funding right. *One thing about Craig is he shares his wisdom willingly and does not attempt to take control of the meetings he is ex officio in. A quality that I am sure is respected by those chairing the appropriate meetings. There never appears to be any resistance to his comments, as he does in my opinion, have a lot of experience to be called upon.*

On to Item No.9. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Page 57) (1135hrs)

This item was moved by Cr Joe Carr ? and seconded: Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

There was no discussion with this item.

Operational

It was time at 1136hrs Item No.10. State of the Environment Report for Northland 2007-2011 (includes presentation (Page 65)

Tony Phipps gave some details on this item.

John Ballinger, Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager gave a power point presentation on the 'State of the Environment Report for Northland 2007-2011'.

Kathryn Ross, General Manager Planning and Policy introduced Natalie Glover who had taken up the position of Technical Water Specialist - Policy at Northland Regional Council.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

There was no further discussion with this item.

It was now 1200hrs and it was Item No.11. Environmental Monitoring for the period 19 November 2012 – 31 January 2013 (Page 69)

Cr Joe Carr asked if Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager had anything to add to this.

Moved: Alan Clarkson, Seconded: Cr Tracy Dalton (FNDC).

There was no discussion with this item and Colin had nothing extra to add to the report.

With the time still at 1200hrs Item No.12. River Management update (Page 80)

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

Cr Joe Carr asked if Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager had anything to add to this.

There was no discussion with this item and Bruce had nothing extra to add to the report.

Item No.13. Update on Biosecurity responses: Kiwifruit Psa-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback (Page 93) (1201hrs)

Cr Joe Carr asked if there were any questions for Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager or did Don have anything to add to this report.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley declared he had a conflict of interest with this item. *Whoops was that something to do with the vessel at Port Nikau?*

Chris Jenkins asked some questions to Don McKenzie about African feather grass.

Dr Greg Blunden asked where the bulk of the 'fan worm' funding was coming from.

This was duly answered by Tony Phipps gave details claiming some programs had slowed, but none cut out.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley quipped 'Roadside weeds'.

Moved: Dr Greg Blunden, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

It was time at 1205hrs Item No.14. Climate and Water Resources – update (Page 95)

Moved:?, Seconded:?.

This item was duly passed with the report being received.

The meeting closed at 1210hrs.and Cr Joe Carr thanked people for their attendance and invited them to stay for lunch.

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