

NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 30th July 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

The meeting today got away at 0933hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming the public and staff to today's meeting with a 'good morning'.

Apologies. There were no apologies.

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.

Joe advised there was procedural issue with a late item to be received.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Alan Clarkson (Farming Community)

Joe also advised there was a change in order of an item as some attending for that item were on time constraints. *Item 12 was to be held after Item No 3.*

Item No.1. Confirmation of Minutes – 28 May 2013 (Page 1) (0934hrs)

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

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

Time still at 0934hrs Item No.2. Maori representation - update (Page 10)

Cr Bronwyn Hunt queried what the time frame for this was.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson explained that there may be a temporary appointment until after the October Elections.

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

Waiora Northland Water

Time now at 0937hrs Item No.3. Waiora Northland Water progress – July 2013 (Page 11)

Operations Director, Tony Phipps gave some details and an update. He advised that council had become a 'friend' of sustainable Dairying Water Accord. (Page 12)

Tony continued through this report section by section.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt questioned will they be checking on aquifers in the survey; as per Use and Values of Water (Page 12)

Tony Phipps gave details of Priority Catchments (Page 14)

Alan Clarkson asked if the facts sheets on sedimentation were ready.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had a question on water quality improvement plans.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt asked what was the total number of farms.

Tony Phipps explained there were 900 + dairy farms and over 3,000 dry stock farms.

Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation had a question on sediment in river beds.

Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) asked what the measurements of benefits were. What is it that makes a difference? He claimed they need the facts on what causes sediment.

I believe there are many factors that affect stream quality; erosion, stock, deliberately directed water, runoff, harvesting of trees on slopes near streams, change in landscape and industrial wastes to name a few.

Tony Phipps advised that they could do a summary of sediment issues for the next meeting.

Chris Jenkins suggested that they needed to take on Craig Browns ideas about key indicators.

Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry) wanted to know what the outcomes of the dairy sector changes in river quality were.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised that they needed to move into each catchment area and let their community tell us what they require.

Chris Jenkins advised that those groups need good audit advice about what is achievable.

Very valid point Chris; it is pointless attempting to achieve something that may never be attained.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Cr Graeme Ramsey.

It was time at 1002hrs and now onto Item No.12. Biosecurity responses update (includes presentation) (Page 91)

Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager introduced Mr Alan Worsfold, local New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated representative and Kiwifruit Vine Health regional co-coordinator, Mr. Don Kemp, Jerkier kiwifruit orchardists and Mr Robbie Bell, chairman of the Northland committee of Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) to the meeting.

Alan Workfolk gave some details of PSA since it took hold in 2010 and the effects it had on the kiwi fruit industry in Northland. He thanked the NRC, Don McKenzie and his team as they all had been extremely helpful during this problem.

Cr Bill Rossiter asked if there was a problem of wild kiwi fruit in Northland.

Alan Worsfold advised it was not the same as in the Bay of Plenty. He further explained the levels of protection growers were taking.

Don Kemp gave details of the Kerikeri outbreak and how it had been contained. He added that no other council in New Zealand had shown the same degree of involvement than the NRC had done up here. *Congratulations to the team at NRC, they have risen to the occasion and assisted in the arrest of PSA in Kiwi fruit. Take a pat on the back; you deserve it.*

Alan Worsfold in response to Tony Phipps question on how much had been spent; he replied that they had spent \$47million out of a budgeted \$50million allocated to this issue.

Those from the kiwi fruit industry were thanked for their information given.

At 1026 hrs it was time for Don McKenzie to continue with this item.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had concerns on the Mediterranean fan worm issue (Page 92) He felt Auckland City had not taken up on the issue of fan worm. He had copped some flack since the last meeting and believed many vessels leaving Auckland had problems of Mediterranean fan worm. He thought more communication was needed between NRC, Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and Auckland.

Don McKenzie advised they had many incidents from vessels from Auckland. He advised they have a cluster group which is vigilant but some are sneaking through.

Cr Joe Carr asked if they, NRC have the power to stop vessels entering our border and should we be sending them back.

Don McKenzie believed there were better ways to address this.

Craig Brown was going to write to Auckland City re this issue.

Chris Jenkins informed the meeting on an update about Kauri dieback.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups).

Item No.4. Mangere Catchment Group – update; further nominations for membership (Page 17) at 1038hrs.

Tony Phipps gave advice on the nominations

There was no further discussion on this item.

Moved: Chris Jenkins, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Time now at 1039hrs Item No.5. Doubtless Bay Catchment working group – update; further nominations for membership (Page 19)

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC).

There was no discussion on this item.

Time still at 1039hrs Item No.6. Dairy Industry Water Accord and Waterway Fencing Requirements (Page 21)

Interesting report worth reading.

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Chris Jenkins.

Cr Bill Rossiter advised of Fonterra's 'definition' of fencing on page 22.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley suggested they should do a 'press release' on this, so farmers understand it.

Alan Clarkson had a query on the monitoring of water tables by 2020.

Tony Phipps gave details of this.

Richard Booth (Farming Community) claimed they needed clarity on water regulations, water takes and resource consents.

Time now at 1052hrs Item No.7. Northland Effluent Improvement Project - update (Page 44)

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC).

Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water & Wastes was asked if she had any notes to add to the report. She thought not, *but it appeared she was not about to get off lightly.*

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had a query about the 'effluent pond calculator'.

Tess Dacre claimed she would be delighted if that problem would go away.

Craig Brown asked where 'the calculator', originated from.

Tess Dacre advised that Dairy New Zealand did not develop the calculator, but they are promoting it.

Craig Brown commented that "they, (Dairy NZ) milk cows and we (NRC) treat effluent; I wouldn't want to tell them how to milk cows". *From that comment, does that mean DNZ should keep out of the brown matter?*

Tess Dacre gave details of the situation and how irrigation of pasture in winter has an effect on the situation with 'the calculator' for pond sizes.

Cr Graeme Ramsey asked if the NRC was the only Regional Council taking exception to the calculator.

Tess Dacre replied that we are the only Regional Council telling Dairy NZ not to use it. It has been discussed at national work groups and NRC is ahead of the game and by using the calculator is going backwards. *Good on you Tess; good to hear people say it as it is.*

Time now 1103hrs Item No.8. Wetlands update (Page 47)

James Griffin, Policy Analyst gave details of the meeting that had been held.

Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups) gave some details of how wetlands can be managed.

Cr Joe Carr commented that they want to get the wider community to understand it.

There was some general discussion by Cr Bill Rossiter and Cr Tony Davies-Colley on the 1000 square metre debate on wetland sizing.

Chris Jenkins made some comments in relation to No 2 Improving regional plan wetland provisions. (Page 48)

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a question on Top Wetlands, (Page 51) how effective had we been collectively.

Lisa Forrester, Biodiversity Specialist gave some details and explained some of the other wetlands. She confirmed that most feedback had been about mapping and inaccuracies.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt commented that she understood the gum lands will be a separate report and there was a vested interest in this.

Dr Greg Blunden confirmed there is more pressure on gum lands.

Moved: Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Seconded: Cr Bill Rossiter.

Operational

Time now at 1127hrs Item No.9. Environment Fund Update (Page 55)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Cr Graeme Ramsey had a question on the accuracy of the statement of preference.

Craig Brown believed that one person at the meeting when it was discussed was heavily out-numbered; and he was that one.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley gave clarification of the result as reported on page 57.

Cr Di Maxwell asked if there was a little 'slush fund' and who was missing out.

Craig Brown commented "that he had not been able to find it and if you do let him know".

Tony Phipps gave some details.

Cr Joe Carr moved a change in the recommendation and this was seconded by Cr Graeme Ramsey.

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) claimed he couldn't understand the NRC's financial situation; it hasn't been put to the Annual Plan process for funding by the new council. It is the process that concerns him. *Sadly Crichton is used to, over the fence, increasing debt and no money put aside to spend on projects without increases in the debt. Over here they (NRC) actually have money in reserve funds to allocate to needy projects; and that comes from prudent financial management.*

Craig Brown shared with the meeting a little story about when he was in cadets; (*got to be an old story*) His mother one day was over-heard to say as the cadets marched by "there goes my boy Craig; he's the only one in step". *Don't you just love it?*

On to Item No.10. Environmental Monitoring for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013 (Page 61) (1153hrs)

This item was moved by Cr Bill Rossiter and seconded: Cr Bronwyn Hunt.

There was no discussion on this item.

It was now 1154hrs and it was Item No.11. River Management Update (Page 69)

Moved: Cr Bronwyn Hunt, Seconded: Alan Clarkson.

Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager gave a presentation on the Kaeo Flood Deflection Scheme Update and how this project had advanced and at what stage it was now.

Cr Joe Carr wanted an addition to the recommendation to read Recommendation No 5. This committee endorses the procedure of Stage 1 and hold off on Stage 2 at this stage.

This was passed unanimously.

Item No.12. Biosecurity responses update (includes presentation) (Page 91)

This item, as arranged at the beginning of the meeting had been discussed after Item No 3.

Cr Carr was about to close the meeting at 1200hrs but there was another item about possum control but we had to leave to attend a funeral.

Not sure what time it finished but it was after 1200hrs.

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