

NRC Environmental Management Committee meeting - 5th December 2012

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The meeting today got a tad late at 1004hrs with Chairman Cr Joe Carr welcoming the public and staff to today's meeting with a 'good morning'.

Apologies. There were apologies for Cr Graeme Ramsey and Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC). Late apologies were recorded also for Chairman Craig Brown (ex officio) and CEO Malcolm Nicholson.

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), Seconded: Cr Bill Rossiter.

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.

Item No.1. Confirmation of Minutes – 16 October 2012 (Page 1) (1005hrs)

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

There was a need to add Cr Tony Davies-Colley and Cr Graeme Ramsey to Item No. 6 in the minutes and remove Carr / Rossiter.

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

1006hrs Item No.2. Appointment of committee member. (Page 7)

Cr Joe Carr welcomed Alan Clarkson to the meeting as the newly appointed member; he was asked to join them at the table, join in with comments but was unable to vote until today's minutes had been accepted by full Council. Alan duly sat at the committee table.

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

Northland Water – policy development

Time now at 1009hrs Item No.3. Waiora Northland Water progress (Page 9)

Joe Carr asked Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Operations Director, and Tony Phipps to take them through the report. This he did section by section. *Well worth reading this item.*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt had a question when the Doubtless Bay catchment meeting was and was advised, Wednesday 12th December.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley queried if the Doubtless Bay catchment was being added to the priority catchments.

Tony Phipps advised that it will be recommended to the committee

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if the information can be circulated.

Tony Phipps claimed there was not a lot of new information.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if they were 'having a meeting' for the sake of 'having a meeting', if no more work had been done by the staff.

Tony Phipps informed that it was agreed to have a meeting with the FNDC.

Cr Joe Carr gave some added clarification to the issue.

Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation, advised he liked what he was hearing and had a query of the staff and their confidence of it.

Tony Phipps advised they would be able to make some short term improvements.

Moved: Dr Greg Blunden (Environmental Interest Groups), Seconded: Chris Jenkins, Department of Conservation.

Item No.4. Whangarei Harbour Water Quality Action Plan (Page 12) at 1024hrs.

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

Joe Carr asked Paul Dell, WDC Group Manager District Living to speak to this item. Paul advised that there had been some good work done about sewage by the WDC in the district. *It wouldn't have happened without public pressure though.*

Tony Phipps gave a brief about the details on modeling that NRC had carried out. *Yes, there has been some brilliant investigation done by NRC following public opposing Resource Consent submission process and the modeling I have seen tells some real facts as they are.*

Cr Crichton Christie (WDC) wanted a change to the recommendation No 3 (Page 16) to read 'That once adopted by NRC and WDC, staff implement.....' Crichton also commented on the work that had been done with sewage and how hard it will be to get the last bit cleaned up.....*yardy, yardy, yardy.* He also went on that the harbor is so much better than it was in the 60's. *And so it should be; if you can't get it right find alternative ways to do it if the current plans don't get a clean green environment. The harbor is not a dumping ground.*

Paul Dell left the meeting straight after this item. *Was he there to ensure what Crichton 'Rebel' Christie said, was what he was meant to?*

Time now at 1030hrs Item No.5. Land and Water Forum Update (Page 29)

Geoff Gover had a query on No.6 (Page 30) about water allocation.

Tony Phipps, in short, claimed decisions have to be made.

There was much further discussion on this topic by many, at one time it was claimed to be 'horse trading' with the deals being suggested.

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

Time now 1037hrs Item No.6. Wetland issues and options (Page 37)

Tony Phipps gave some details on this item. *It's an interesting report and worth a read to those interested.*

Cr Bill Rossiter asked if they were well down the track on registering wetlands.

Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry) advised that he had concerns over 'man made wetlands'. Mismanaged or badly managed areas can turn into wetlands, so definition was important.

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Chris Jenkins (DOC).

Northland Water – operational

Time now at 1052hrs Item No.7. Environment Fund Update and Criteria/Policy Review (Page 48)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden.

Cr Bill Rossiter advised that there were only two allocations approved over the figure of \$10,000-00. He suggested that people should look at smaller projects and keep stock out of waterways.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had concerns about some fencing off streams and they need to focus where there are maximum gains. Is targeting wetlands the better option and then farmers will find their responsibilities, to fence streams.

Cr Crichton Christie's cell phone broke into song at 1058hrs.

On to Item No.8 Land Management Water Quality and Soil Conservation update (Page 54) (1103hrs)

Tony Phipps gave some details on the present catchments when speaking to this item. He also addressed farm water quality (Pages 54-55)

This item was moved by Cr Joe Carr and seconded: Geoff Gover.

It was now 1109hrs and it was Item No.9. Northland Effluent Improvement Project – update of activities (Page 56)

Cr Joe Carr gave some details.

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

Cr Tony Davies-Colley gave details of how the work and input done by the NRC and Fonterra was now being recognized by Dairy NZ, who wanted to jump on board.

Craig Brown joined the meeting at 1111hrs.

Tony continued speaking about non-compliance rules and how theirs were different than other industries rules.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson joined the meeting at 1114hrs.

Cr Joe Carr advised that he would like this report to go back to the Northland Effluent Improvement Group.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley believed it was appropriate for staff to bring it back to council; as it's about how this council behaves, as the NRC.

Tony Phipps confirmed that the theme of being consistent to everybody is important.

Chairman Craig Brown explained that, from information received about other councils practices, that thorough checking on the ground identified more issues that aerial inspections had.

Item No.10. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) (Page 59) (1122hrs)

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

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had concerns about those who had been found of non-compliance were now reapplying for resource consents.

Read the report and you will see why he has concerns and who from.

Operational

It was time at 1126hrs Item No.11. Environmental Monitoring for the period 1-18 November 2012 (Page 67)

Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager gave a brief on this item advising he was happy to take any questions.

There were no questions.

It was Moved by Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Seconded Cr Crichton Christie (WDC), with no added discussion entered into with this item.

Item No.12. River Schemes update (Page 79) (1127hrs)

Cr Joe Carr asked Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager if there was anything he wished to highlight. He advised it was all to start in the New Year.

Bruce Howse, Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager advised that they needed to send ultimatum to the land owners. He also gave more details on the Awanui project.

Craig Brown informed that DOC (Department of Conservation) should be given updates on projects that they have interest in, or involved with.

Cr Crichton Christie asked if they (NRC) had taken consideration on the road link between Raumanga and Kotuku Street. This is the Kotuku Street Detention dam.

Cr Bronwyn Hunt asked if they could put a road over the dam or would that be quite challenging.

Craig Brown queried if there had been a formal request from the WDC. (Whangarei District Council)

Cr Crichton Christie claimed he had asked WDC staff; it's obvious it hasn't been done.

CEO Malcolm Nicholson advised 'in its current form, we are unable to do it'.

Cr Crichton Christie confirmed he would be checking it out.

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

It was now 1138hrs and it was Item No.13. Biosecurity Responses: (Page 82)

Moved: Cr Bill Rossiter, Seconded: Chris Jenkins (DOC).

Craig Brown advised that he had asked in a letter that Auckland was to keep a watch on this problem. (Kiwi fruit PSA. Page 82)

Cr Joe Carr advised there had been no response to his letter at this stage.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley asked if there was any way they (NRC) can tell 'boaties' they are not welcome if their vessel doesn't have a clean bottom.

Could I suggest that NRC do the following? Contact

1/ the Auckland Harbour Master be advised of this concern.

harbourmaster@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz Ph 09 362 0397

2/ NRC contact Auckland Coastguard Incorporated auckland@coastguard.org.nz Ph (09) 303 9368. General Manager - Duthie Lidgard Ph 021 996756. and arrange for broadcasts to be made on Coastguards weather and information VHF channels which large numbers of mariners communicate through. Maybe NRC may wish to do some type of 'sponsorship' to coastguard to offset costs of this service. It may well be money well spent to keep marine pests at bay.

It was time at 1141hrs Item No.14. Kauri Dieback - update (Page 85)

Cr Joe Carr asked if there were any questions for Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, on this.

Ms Nicole Anderson (Cultural Interests) claimed that this message was really getting out there through publicity and people in general talking about it.

Cr Joe Carr advised, as per the report (page 86) that NRC contributed 1.3 staff per annum for this issue.

Don McKenzie gave some details about it getting out and their talking to land owners etc.

Chris Jenkins (DOC) also gave some details of the situation. We may never be able to stop it. We are in the 'how we deal with it' phase. We must learn how to manage around it.

Cr Joe Carr asked if there was any control available.

Chris Jenkins (DOC) advised this was being seriously investigated and scientists were working on it.

Moved: Chris Jenkins (DOC), Seconded: Dr Greg Blunden.

Item No.15. Roadside weeds update (Page 88) (1147hrs)

Cr Joe Carr informs, as per the report, that WDC (Whangarei District Council) was the only district council in Northland that is making funding available to this. *Congratulations to the WDC for attempting to address this serious problem.*

Cr Bronwyn Hunt gave some details on the FNDC (Far North District Council) policy on weed control and how they don't go off the road to do anything so the issue is not being addressed to any great extent.

Cr Tony Davies-Colley had concerns of how some councils aren't doing it. NRC needs to get tougher. Councils should be abiding by rules already in place and only doing very basic control of weeds. He wanted to change the wording of the recommendation.

Don McKenzie advised that councils are starting to supply weed control plans.

Moved: Cr Tony Davies-Colley

Cr Crichton Christie interrupted that council can't solve this issue in a short space of time. *Hello, how long have councils had weeds? Is this a new problem? In my opinion they have had weeds for more than 100 years to sort out; and haven't.*

Cr Joe Carr advised of Tony's word to be added to the recommendation

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

Information

It was time at 1155hrs Item No.16. Climate and Water Resources – update (Page 90)

Moved: Cr Joe Carr, Seconded: Chris Jenkins (DOC).

Tony Phipps gave a brief on this item and advised that they would do things as normal; by warning people of the situation.

Presentation

It was now 1157hrs and it was Item No.17. Wai Restoration - Susan Karels (Page 101)

This project is the initiative of Marty Taylor, who is introduced to the meeting, for the presentation. Marty also initiated the 'Project Possum' project. He advised that they wanted to 'Shift the Blame Game'. This program involves Wai Fencing, Wai Nurseries, Wai Planting and Wai Monitoring. It fits in with present education curriculums and is being readily accepted by schools. *A great initiative giving students an introduction to a good industry.*

Moved: Chris Jenkins (DOC), Seconded: Cr Tony Davies-Colley.

The meeting closed at 1214hrs.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](#).