



**Report 06.440**

14 August 2006

File: E/6/12/2

**Report of the Meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee held in the Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 34 Chapel Street, Masterton, on Friday, 11 August 2006, at 9.30am.**

**Matters for Council decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.**  
*Other matters for information of Council only are in italic type.*

**Present:**

Councillors Long (Chairperson), Buchanan, Kirton, Turver.  
Messrs Dalziell, Read and Southey.

**Officers Present:**

G Dick, N Corry, D Cameron, S Forbes, I Gunn, W O'Donnell, L Race, C Robertson,  
T Taylor.

**Public Business**

**Procedural Items**

**RSW 133      Apologies**

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Cr Turver)*

*That the Committee*

*Accept the apologies for absence from Cr Baber and Mr McQueen.*

**RSW 134      Public Participation**

**Andy Duncan, Engineer in Environmental Engineering**

Mr Duncan said that for the last five years he had been focusing on energy management and climate change and was currently in the process of setting up a company, EQO, on energy efficiency. He indicated that there were significant energy efficiency opportunities across the Council's operations. Other potential benefits to the Council included reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

Mr Duncan wished to make a presentation to the full Council at a later date.

The Committee agreed that Mr Duncan discuss his sustainable energy concepts with the Divisional Manager, Environment Management, and that a report be prepared by officers for consideration.

**Mr and Mrs Eglinton, "Denfield", Kahikatea Road, Masterton**

**Mr and Mrs White, Morris Road, Te Ore Ore, Masterton**

Mrs Eglinton said that, along with Mr and Mrs White, they were looking to subdivide their land, and were facing difficulties following the Council's redrawing of the flood hazard maps. The new maps had flooding covering 75% of the Eglinton property where clearly the photographs taken during the recent July event showed it had not.

Water flows were now a problem from the Stronvar Road hill and flooding was exacerbated by too many culverts and restrictions. Mrs Eglinton referred to the plan completed by George Evans approximately 15 years ago which had not been acted on.

Mr and Mrs White were also opposed to the new flood hazard maps, and said that the floodwaters under their house and to their property was caused by the illegally raised race way on an adjacent property which had been constructed without a resource consent. A letter dated 7 August had been received from Mr and Mrs White's solicitors.

Cr Buchanan indicated that this was a prime example of a national problem with peri-urban development around NZ and the redirection of flood waters.

Cr Long said that officers would follow up on the issues raised by the Eglinton's and White's and responses would be forwarded in due course.

## **RSW 135 Confirmation of Minutes**

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Mr Dalziell)*

*That the Committee:*

*Confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee (Report 06.333) held on 20 June 2006; the Public Excluded part of the minutes to remain in Public Excluded (Report PE 06.334).*

## **Presentation by Go Wairarapa on Wairarapa's Irrigation Proposal**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Geoff Copps of Go Wairarapa to the meeting. Mr Copps gave a presentation on the current status of the irrigation project.

Mr Copps commented that the key driver to get the scheme underway was a demand for water by the private sector. He believed there was sufficient regional benefit to justify continued public sector participation, and stressed the importance of technical support from Greater Wellington.

Concerns were expressed at Meridian Energy's involvement and the proposal to use the Ruamahanga River as a means of transporting water for downstream users.

The Committee discussed the need for the water to be piped and considered that putting the water into the Ruamahanga River was not a viable option. There were concerns with the ownership of the water once released from storage into the Ruamahanga River.

The Committee gave its support in principle for the scheme but indicated that it would likely require a capital injection by government to get underway.

## **Matters Reported for Information**

### **RSW 136 The 4 – 7 July 2006 Storms in the Wellington Region**

**Report 06.381**

**File: WP/04/01/03**

Laura Watts, Hydrologist, Environment Management Division, was present for the discussion on this item.

Mr Read commented that floodwarnings for the Huangarua River had been received too late for some farmers with stock losses occurring. Additional monitoring stations were required in the eastern hills.

Mr Dalziell commented that access to Greater Wellington's website was now easily available to landowners providing an hourly monitoring update on river flows and this was proving extremely valuable during times of flood events.

Cr Turver thanked officers for the excellent floodwarning updates received throughout the flood events.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Turver/Mr Southey)*

*That the Committee:*

- (1) Receives the report.*
- (2) Notes the contents of the report.*

Morning tea: 10.45am

Resumed at: 10.55am

#### **RSW 137 July 2006 Flood Events**

##### **Report 06.379**

**File: WO/02/50/04**

Members commented on the positive feedback received from many landowners who had been appreciative of the vital contact by staff during what had been a "trying" month.

*Resolved*

*(Cr Buchanan/Mr Read)*

*That the Committee*

- (1) Receive the report.*
- (2) Notes the content of the report, and that a detailed flood damage report is proposed for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 19 September 2006.*
- (3) Acknowledges the outstanding work by Greater Wellington staff throughout the extensive flooding periods.*

Cr Kirton left the meeting at 11.06am

##### **Noted**

Mr Dalziell expressed his disappointment that coverage in the flood damage reports had related to rivers and rainfall data yet only minimal

reporting related to hill country erosion where damage would affect landowners for many years.

Mr Dalziell made a presentation that included photographs of erosion damage experienced in the eastern hill country to give some concept of what landowners had suffered during the recent flood events.

Mr Dalziell had previously sought increased funding for land management through the LTCCP process.

Cr Buchanan spoke on Greater Wellington's likely future investment in soil conservation and the Council's strong desire to move into integrated catchment management.

Members noted that a report on the hill country erosion damage would be prepared for consideration at the September Committee meeting.

## **RSW 138      Divisional Managers' Report**

### **Report 06.367**

**File: WS/08/05/01**

Copies of the Consultation Document for Greater Wellington's Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 Review were tabled.

Members commented on the current form of the Catchment Management quarterly review reports provided to the Committee. An additional BioWorks financial summary sheet for the 2005/06 year was tabled.

Current and future long term issues relating to the BioWorks Unit and its sustainability were raised and discussed in depth.

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Cr Turver)*

*That the Committee*

*(1)      Receives the report.*

*(2)      Notes the content of the report.*

Morning tea: 10.55am

Resumed at: 11.10am

**RSW 139 Resource Consents (Non Notified)**

**Report 06.368**

**File: WP/03/06/01**

*Resolved*

*(Mr Southey/Mr Dalziell)*

*That the Committee*

- (1) Receive the report.*
- (2) Note the contents of the report.*

**RSW 140 Questions**

- (1) The time allocation of 3 minutes per speaker and 15 minutes in total for the public participation section of Committee meetings was queried. Members were reminded of Standing Order procedures.
- (2) Mr Dalziell enquired as to when a review of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee structure was proposed.

Cr Buchanan indicated that the Council would consider aligning the political structure with the divisional structure as part of a normal review in 2007 prior to the next local body election. In the meantime some cross-overs would occur when reporting to the Committee.

**RSW 141 General Business**

- (1) Mr Read raised the issue of the significant increase in the transport rate in the South Wairarapa District. He considered it timely for Greater Wellington to look at the differential applying to specific rural areas.

Cr Buchanan explained that some parts of the region have had increases in the transport rate, with the South Wairarapa District having significant increases due to land revaluations. A thorough review had been undertaken.

- (2) Mr Read said that the July flood events had highlighted the need for the removal of the build up of silt, vegetation and debris under the Ponatahi Bridge of the Huangarua River to allow full channel flow.

He was concerned that these necessary riverbed works required resource consent to undertake what was considered to be simply

basic maintenance of the South Wairarapa District's infrastructure.

Officers responded that in this instance the work required fell outside of the permitted activity rules of the Freshwater Plan and due process was required to be followed.

12.50pm      The meeting closed.

Cr F R Long  
CHAIRMAN

Date: