



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 2021 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Mayor J C Leggett (Chairperson), Councillors G A Hope (Deputy), J A Arbuckle, J D N Croad, B A Faulls, T P Sowman and Mr E R Beech (Rural representative)

Present via Zoom

Clr D D Oddie (Deputy)

Also Present

Councillors J L Andrews, C J Brooks, N P Taylor, M A Peters and B G Dawson (from 10.01 am)

In Attendance

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

The Mayor/Clr Arbuckle:

That the apology for non-attendance from Clrs F D Maher and B G Dawson for lateness be noted.

Carried

Env-0421-340 Declaration of Interests -

No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

Env-0421-341 Resource Hearing Commissioner Decision -

Clrs Arbuckle/Croad:

That the Resource Hearing Commissioner Decisions as contained within the reports dated 17 December 2020 (U190814), 23 February 2021 (U200816) and 2 March 2021 (U191018) be received and the recommendations adopted.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Scott Wilson, Hydrogeologist Lincoln Agritech Limited was present for the following item and Peter Davidson, Council's Groundwater Scientist, was present for the following two items.

Env-0421-342 Gravel Bed Rivers National Project Update

E345-007-001

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an update on the progress and interim findings of the national Gravels Bed Rivers Project, particularly those relating to the Wairau River. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2185197).

It was noted that the Gravel Bed Rivers (GBR) project is a five year national study focused on the water exchange between alluvial aquifers which supply a significant amount of the municipal drinking water and crop

irrigation water in New Zealand, and braided rivers which is their principal source of recharge. At the completion of the study a report containing recommendations and conclusions will be produced.

Members were advised that the GBR project is using a suite of new geophysical tools and real time subsurface observations techniques to provide fresh insights into the hydraulics. The initial findings from the field observations and modelling show a complex hydraulic connection exists, but steady progress is being made. Flow exchange is controlled by the river deposited gravels which are being modified by changes in natural catchment sediment load, climate, localised human activities and hydrology.

It was noted that it is important that the messages to the community highlight that all users of the water need to view it as a precious resource and therefore treat it as such.

It was noted that the PMP has controls built into it to protect and control water usage. It was suggested that an agenda item on water usage be provided to a future committee meeting.

Clr Hope/Mr Beech:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Hannah Nguyen, Council's Data Quality Analyst, was present for the following item.

Env-0421-343 Wells & Geology Database E345-007-001

Members were advised that after four years of development and quality checking of records, the upgraded Wells & Geology (W & G) database is now live and actively being used by Marlborough District Council and the local drilling company.

Hannah Nguyen, Council's Data Quality Analyst and Peter Davidson, Council's Groundwater Scientist gave members a demonstration of the database.

It was noted that a feature of W & G is that it provides an electronic portal for water well drilling companies to send well records to Marlborough District Council online. This saves significant staff time and provides all data not just a summary and eliminates transfer errors.

Information from the database has many applications including the assessment of liquefaction risk in 2020, a lithologic review for the recharge mechanism model and 3D modelling of subsurface hydrogeology. Well locations and drillers logs or records are mapped and made available to the public via Smartmaps on the Marlborough District Council website.

Clrs Croad/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Clr Dawson joined the meeting at 10.01 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Jono Underwood, Council's Biosecurity Manager, Angela Fitchell (Trust Secretary) and Christine Aston (Trustee) were present for the following item. Rupert Wilson, Chairperson DISECT and Rangitoto Birdsong Governance Committee was present via Zoom for the following item.

Env-0421-344 D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication Charitable Trust – Rangitoto Birdsong Project E315-018-002

The purpose of the report was for the Committee to consider the re-confirmation of Council funding, and variation to the existing funding agreement with the D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication Charitable Trust (DISECT) who are delivering the Rangitoto Birdsong Project.

The Chair of DISECT/Rangitoto Birdsong Project Governance Committee, Rupert Wilson, covered what had been achieved by the group to-date. It was noted that DISECT had approached the funding bodies with a proposition to 're-activate' the project.

Members were advised that to address the financial risk of committing funding upfront while DISECT work through the initial phases of re-activation, Predator Free NZ Limited has offered for solely their funding to support DISECT in the initial re-activation phase. This will take the project to a point where either the project risks can be assessed as being surmountable or not. The original timeframe for this was 30 June 2021 the group now request an extension to 31 July 2021.

Members were supportive of the extension but noted that they needed to be satisfied that the access issues were addressed. It was noted that should the plan on moving forward either not be provided, or in the opinion of all the funding bodies does not address the project risks, then the termination clause within the agreement is to be triggered.

Members were advised that the current Project Manager has vacated the role and the Trustees are currently recruiting for a replacement.

Cirs Fauls/Hope:

1. **That the information be received.**
2. **That approval be given to vary the existing funding agreement with the D'Urville Island Stoat Eradication Charitable Trust to begin in the 2021/2022 Financial Year on the condition that a suitable plan is established prior to 31 July 2021 outlining how the current issues are going to be addressed to achieve an equivalent project outcome.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Val Wadsworth, Council's Environmental Scientist – Hydrology and Gregor Macara (Climate Scientist - NIWA), were present for the following item.

Env-0421-345 Climatic Change Report

E320-004-20

Members were advised that the report provided information on Climate Change projections and impacts for Marlborough and informed Council of areas where climate change impacts may require further investigation and actions.

It was noted that the report summarises likely changes in temperature, rainfall, drought, and sea level rise in the Marlborough District over the remainder of this century. It discussed the probable impacts of these changes on river flows, droughts, forestry, horticulture, and ecosystem and human health. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2185625).

The report is available on Council's website via the following link <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings>

A workshop is being held this afternoon on the report.

It was noted that Council has established a Climate Change Working Group which is the primary mechanism through which Council coordinates its climate change response.

Cirs Oddie/Croad:

That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Georgia Murrin, Council's Environmental Health Technician, was present for the following item.

Env-0421-346 Markets/Events Inspections E350-004-009-02

It was noted that the report provided an update to the Committee on the inspections undertaken by the Environmental Health Team of markets and events in Marlborough from 1 July 2020 to June 2021. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2185665).

Members were advised that under the Health Act 1956 the Council is directed to complete inspections in the District regularly and to ascertain if any conditions are likely to be injurious or offensive to health. The Environmental Health Officers and Technicians continue to routinely inspect markets and events in Marlborough to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements of both the Food Act 2014 and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Members were advised that to-date the team have inspected 12 markets and of those inspections no significant non-compliances were noted.

It was reported that Food Stall Licences were previously issued for food vendors under old Bylaws but this has now been dis-established due to the cost to business owners and activity already being checked under requirements of the Food Act.

Cirs Faulls/Croad:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Jane Robertson, Council's Animal Control Contract Manager, was present for the following item.

Env-0421-347 Dog Microchipping E305-006-005-01

Members were advised that Animal Control is embarking on a microchipping campaign to capture those dogs which are not currently microchipped and improve compliance with the microchipping requirements in the Dog Control Act 1996.

It was noted that letters will be sent to all dog owners who do not have their dogs' microchipped to notify them of their legal obligations and inform them of the microchipping special that Animal Control will be holding for the month of May. At the end of the campaign the numbers of microchipped dogs will be reviewed and infringements will be issued to owners of any remaining dogs which are not microchipped after the amnesty period is completed. Infringement notices will be waived if microchipping certification or verification can be provided within 28 days of the notice being issued.

Members were advised that Animal Control do not automatically know that a microchip has been registered and will be contacting the local vet clinics to let them know that dog owners may be requesting microchip certification from them as a result of the letters being sent out.

Communication will be via social media and the newspapers to inform dog owners of the microchipping campaign and special discounted price at Animal Control for the month of May.

A follow up report on the results of the microchipping campaign will be provided to a future Committee meeting.

Cirs Arbuckle/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

Env-0421-348 Information Package -

It was suggested that information be regularly included on the Council page regarding noxious plant pests.

It was noted that the Landscape Working Group has met and finalised a work plan. It was suggested that contact be made with Alan Johnson to organise an agenda item seeking approval from the Committee on the workplan.

Updated rainfall information was circulated to members prior to the meeting and paper copies provided at the meeting. (Filed in CM Record No. 2185809)

Clr Croad/The Mayor:

That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 22 April 2021 be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.00 am.

Record No: 2186134