



**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
held in the Scenic Hotel, Marlborough Room, 65 Alfred Street, Blenheim and via Zoom  
on THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 commencing at 9.00 am.**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Councillors J L Andrews, C J Brooks, F D Maher and M A Peters

**Also Present via Zoom**

Clr N P Taylor

**In Attendance**

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager), Mike Porter (Democratic Services Manager/Teams Management) and Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary)

**Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**Env-0922-62 Declaration of Interests**

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No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Oliver Wade, Council's Principal Scientist - Coastal Role was present for the following two items.

**Env-0922-63 Technical Options for Marine Coastal Habitat  
Restoration Across Te Taihu E325-018-001**

Mr Wade noted that the purpose of the report was to provide information on a recently received report on restoration options across Te Taihu authored by Dr Sean Handley of NIWA. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178379).

The report was produced in collaboration with the Marlborough District Council (MDC), Nelson City Council (NCC) and Tasman District Council (TDC) on a medium Envirolink Grant to engage Sean Handley of NIWA to produce the report.

The report discussed three aspects of restoration - the reasons that coastal marine restoration may be needed in Te Taihu; a summary of existing marine restoration techniques that are relevant to Te Taihu and the potential methods or species to consider for Te Taihu restoration activities and highlighting projects that are 'shovel-ready'.

Ecological restoration is defined as "the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed".

The report reviewed methods for restoration of coastal wetlands and saltmarshes and briefly reviewed the reasons that restoration may be needed in Te Taihu. It summarised the existing marine restoration techniques that are relevant to Te Taihu and recommended methods or species to consider implementing for Te Taihu restoration activities.

Mr Wade noted there have been early successes in Te Taihū which is cause for optimism. Any marine restoration, habitat creation or habitat enhancement provides demonstrable economic, societal and ecological benefits that once initiated can build further support. There will be an element of “learning-by-doing”.

In response to a query on whether there is the potential to have any projects fully formulated to bring to the next Annual Plan or LTP, Mr Wade advised that it is intended that a project will be presented to the next Annual Plan but the most immediate option is for Council to continue its support for phase two of the Te Hoiere project.

**Cllrs Oddie/Hope:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Dr Nick Shears, University of Auckland was present via Zoom for the following item.

## **Env-0922-64      Update on Kina Removal Project and Seaweed Restoration Project      E325-002-004-01**

The report provided an update to members on the research programme on kina barrens in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178480).

The presentation described the methods and initial findings of a project to remove kina and measure seaweed species in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound.

It was noted that kelp forests are biodiversity hotspots providing habitat and food for a host of different organisms whilst also sequestering carbon and improving water quality. Kelps and other seaweeds have been gradually disappearing from the Marlborough Sounds and wider coastal marine area for the last 50 years. The causes of kelp loss is likely to be a combination of sedimentation, a proliferation of kina due to loss of predation and sea temperature rise caused by climate change. By removing kina from certain areas it is hoped that kelp and other seaweeds will recolonise these areas.

**Cllrs Hope/Croad:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Sarah Brand, Council's Strategic Planner, was present via Zoom for the following item.

## **Env-0922-65      Blenheim Air Emission Inventory 2022 E300-004-002-01**

Sarah Brand presented the Blenheim Air Emission Inventory – 2022. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178377).

The report provided an updated assessment of estimated sources of emissions to air and evaluated changes in PM<sub>10</sub> emissions to air in Blenheim over time. Assessments have been carried out at five yearly intervals, with the last assessment done in 2017.

It was noted that around 409 kilograms of PM<sub>10</sub> is discharged to air in Blenheim on an average winter's day for 2022. This compares with an estimated 658 kilograms per day for 2017 indicating a reduction in emissions of around 38% since 2017. This is significantly more than the 5% estimated for the period from 2012 to 2017 and likely represents the implementation of air plan measures targeting PM<sub>10</sub> from domestic heating and outdoor burning.

The data since 2019 suggests exceedance numbers may have decreased as in 2019 there was 1 exceedance; 2020 had 3 exceedances and in 2021 there was 1 exceedance which is typical of wintertime elevated PM<sub>10</sub>

Members were advised that domestic home heating is the main source of daily winter CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>. Motor vehicles are the main source of daily winter NO<sub>x</sub> and industry is the main source of SO<sub>x</sub>. It was reported that the other exceedances in 2021 had shown elevated coarse fraction PM indicating a different source which is believed to have been fine dust from nearby subdivision earthworks.

Ms Brand noted that the messages are getting out there and the inventory does show there has been a reduction. Staff will be doing more work with Compliance in this area especially if the government moves to PM<sub>2.5</sub>. For this winter we have had 1 PM<sub>10</sub> exceedance and 27 PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances, we are only allowed 3 PM<sub>2.5</sub>

**Cllrs Hope/Sowman:**

**That the “Blenheim Air Emission Inventory 2022” report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Steffi Henkel, Council’s Environmental Scientist, Water Quality, was present for the following two items.

## **Env-0922-66      Surface Water Quality – Report Card 2022**

**E375-001-001-03**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on changes in regional river water quality. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178373).

Ms Henkel reported that water quality is monitored at 35 river and stream sites across the Marlborough region. To assess the state of river water quality, the monitoring results over a period of three years are used for the calculation of a Water Quality Indices for each of the monitoring sites. For the 2019-2021 period, most waterways had water quality in the good or fair category. For the majority of monitoring sites, changes in the Water Quality Index were very minor compared to the indices reported in the previous year.

At five sites, the Water Quality Index increased slightly, while seven sites had a slight decrease in the index. Decreases were mostly related to increases in dissolved nitrogen concentrations as a result of greater leaching losses due to rainfall.

Members were advised that a full report on the state and trends of river water quality is published every three years. The next full report is planned to be published in 2023.

**Cllr Hope/Mr Beech:**

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0922-67      Surface Water Quality in the Flaxbourne Catchment**

**E375-010-001-01**

Ms Henkel presented the Water Quality in the Flaxbourne River Catchment report. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178373)

Ms Henkel noted that the Flaxbourne catchment receives comparatively little rainfall and subsequently, river flows are low, and parts of the river and its tributary streams lose all surface flow during dry summers. The dry climate and subsequent low flows cause the waterways in the Flaxbourne to be significantly more sensitive to contaminant inputs compared to other catchments within the region.

Members were advised that in order to better understand surface water quality in the catchment, the Flaxbourne River was sampled at several locations along its length. Some of the main tributary streams were also sampled. All samples were taken during baseflow conditions. Apart from higher concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen at some of the tributary stream sites, the monitoring showed that water quality was comparable at all river and stream sites, including the most upstream location on the Flaxbourne River.

Signs of livestock access were noticed at all sampling sites, livestock was not present during sampling of the additional sites. Sampling was cut short by a particularly dry weather period in 2021 causing the Flaxbourne River to lose surface flow for several months. This means that the additional water quality monitoring might be underrepresenting the magnitude of the water quality problem. State of the Environment monitoring has shown that stock access is contributing considerably to high E. coli concentrations as well as spikes in nutrient concentrations and turbidity during baseflow.

It was reported the study did show that there are very few specific hot spots of poor water quality in the catchment. Rather, degraded water quality is a widespread problem. Overall, livestock access and lack of shading riparian vegetation are two of the main causes for degraded water quality in the streams and river of the Flaxbourne catchment, particularly in the lower reaches.

Lake Elterwater was also monitored as part of the catchment study. The study showed that the health of the lake is severely impacted with several parameters below the national bottom line of the NPS-FM. These include Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphors, E. coli and Chlorophyll-a.

A Catchment Care programme has already been initiated for the Flaxbourne River. Two catchment groups, one for the wider catchment and another specifically for Lake Elterwater, are meeting on a regular basis to discuss ways to improve water quality. Restoration action has already commenced, including the removal of willows and planting of native vegetation around Lake Elterwater.

**Cllrs Hope/Fauls:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Mr Matt Oliver, Council's Environmental Scientist – Land Resources was present for the following two items and Dr Kirstin Deuss, Soil Scientist, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research was present for the following item.

## **Env-0922-68      Soil Mapping Project Update      E355-004-008-06**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress on Council's and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research's soil mapping project. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178371 and 22178369).

The mapping effort is funded partly by Council's contribution from pre-existing budgets and by a 2/3rds subsidy from Ministry of Primary Industries. This funding will enable work to proceed at a much faster rate with completion of the target areas within 3-4 years, this compares to 15 years using only Council resources.

It was reported that the project is behind schedule due to COVID and capacity constraints within Council and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR). A work plan is in place and the programme is expected to be on schedule by end of FY 22-23.

Mr Oliver noted there is a current proposal with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research for digital soil mapping for the Marlborough Sounds. This will be a significant piece of work and will correlate together a large number of previous studies that have not been used fully.

**Cllrs Hope/Fauls:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting 10.40 am during the following item.

## **Env-0922-69      Soil Quality Monitoring Review      E355-001-001-21**

Mr Oliver presented the Soil Quality Monitoring Programme Review for Marlborough district report. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178368)

Members were advised that the conclusions of the review are that the MDC soil quality monitoring programme is soundly based, following nationally agreed methods. However, the number of current sites are low compared with other regional monitoring programmes.

The report recommended that MDC continue to monitor soil quality in the Marlborough district, resampling between 20-30 sites annually to maintain sufficient data for assessing long term soil quality trends in the region.

That increasing the number of sites for land use types (excluding indigenous vegetation) would improve the precision of detection for assessing longer term changes in soil quality. Also increasing the number of sites for indigenous vegetation to eight sites would provide 'reference' sites for the main soil orders across all land use types.

Mr Oliver noted that report proposed that the additional sites be prioritised towards the underrepresented soil orders for each land use as this would improve the representation of the main soil orders within each land use type.

It was noted that increasing the number of sites would provide more adequate data for assessing long term trends and provide a monitoring programme more comparable with other regions.

**Cllrs Hope/Arbuckle:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Tonia Stewart, Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was present for the following item.

## **Env-0922-70      Dairy Shed Effluent and Stream Crossing Survey 2021/2022      E330-001-004, E330-001-005**

Ms Stewart presented the Dairy Shed Effluent and Stream Crossing Survey 2021/22 and Snapshot of the 2021/22 monitoring programme. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178367).

It was reported that there are a total of 44 dairy farms in Marlborough this season, this is down from 46 in the 2020-21 monitoring period. Monitoring was carried out in November and December 2021 with 44 farms visited. One farm had ceased dairying in May 2021 therefore has not been reported on. 35 farms operate under the PMEP permitted activity rules and 11 operate under resource consent. Two of the 11 farms operating under resource consent were also reported on under the PMEP permitted activity rules.

Stream crossing elimination is continuing to progress. There are now just two farms with five stream crossings remaining. Both farms have bridge building underway which was evidenced on site but these are not finalised so the figures remain the same for now. It is expected that after these bridges are installed only one stream crossing will remain.

Monitoring results were 7 farms non-compliant on the initial inspection, this was mainly due to ponding; 4 of these were compliant on re-inspection as ponding had receded; 3 remained non-compliant.

Members were advised that compared to last year there was a higher number of compliant farms but also a higher number of non-compliant farms. This was due to 100% inspection rate (44 farms) compared to only (25 farms) last year.

**Cllrs Hope/Sowman:**  
**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 11.08 am and resumed at 11.21 am.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Jamie Clark, Council's Contract Manager (Animal Control), was present for the following item.

## **Env-0922-71      Dog Control Policy and Practices Annual Report 2021/2022      E305-003-003-01**

Mr Jamie Clark presented the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 22178366).

Members were advised that tenders were sort to provide services to Council and Maataa Waka was successful and will provide Animal Control Services in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Impounding Act 1955 till 31 March 2026.

It was reported that as of 30 June 2022 there were **10758** active dogs made up of 2823 working dogs which included Police and disability assisted dogs and 7935 non working dogs. 8,668 are microchipped.

A total of 2,532 complaints were received in the 2020/21 year. The majority of complaints received related to roaming, found or lost dogs or dog nuisance barking.

A total of 157 dogs were impounded with all but seven returned to their owners or rehomed. A number of impounded dogs were rehomed due to being microchipped.

Dog safety education sessions are available to primary school and pre-school aged children. These sessions are provided to schools free of charge. The sessions promote safety around dogs and responsible dog ownership and care. There were 31 such presentations provided during the year.

Due to covid restrictions observed by schools the Clued Up Kids programme did not occur instead an activity book was created for the children of the participating schools to work through in their classroom environment.

Clr Arbuckle noted that Jamie Clark has recently been appointed to the role of Contract Manager (Animal Control).

**Cirs Arbuckle/Sowman:**  
**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0922-72      Animal Control Sub-Committee      D050-001-A04**

The minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 July 2022 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

**Cirs Arbuckle/Faulis:**  
**That the minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 July 2022 be ratified.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0922-73      2021/2022 Regulatory Budget Carryovers R450-002-G01, F275-001-02**

A request for Regulatory 2021/2022 Budget Carryovers to be incorporated into the 2022/2023 budget was put forward for consideration by the Committee. A list of the carryovers were attached to the agenda item for members' information.

It was noted that a number of works scheduled for completion in 2021/22 did not proceed or were not completed for a variety of reasons. There is no rating impact arising from the carryover action.

Mr Versteegh acknowledged those Councillors who were retiring at the end of this election term.

**Clr Croad/Mr Beech:**

**That the 2022/2023 budget be amended to incorporate the Regulatory Department 2021/2022 carryovers.**

**Carried**

ATTENDANCE: Ms Sue Bulfield-Johnston, Council's Administrator and Hearings Facilitator, Advocacy and Practice Integration, was present for the following two items.

## **Env-0922-74      Appointment of Hearings Commissioners**

**R450-004-02**

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present Dr Ngaire Phillips for inclusion on the list of Hearings Commissioners. Summary CV for the proposed commissioner was attached to the item for members' information.

It was noted that Council is not bound to employ the services of a Commissioner once they are appointed.

**Clrs Faulls/Oddie:**

- 1.      That the report be received.**
- 2.      That Dr Ngaire Phillips be appointed to act as a Hearings Commissioner as and when required and that they be advised accordingly.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0922-75      Resource Consent Hearings Update**

**R450-004-22**

The report to the Committee provided a rolling summary of hearings scheduled and completed for applications for resource consent.

It was noted that 12 hearings have been completed in the year commencing 1 July 2021. Decisions have been issued for all but one of the applications, the remaining decision is pending. A table listing the hearings was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Four hearings have been scheduled through to October and three further hearing requests have been received.

**Clrs Hope/Oddie:**

**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

## **Env-0922-76      Information Package**

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**Clrs Hope/Arbuckle:**

**That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 1 September 2022 be received and noted.**

**Carried**

Before closing the meeting Clr Hope took the opportunity to thank Councillors for attending the meeting and for their efforts over the last three years.

The meeting closed at 11.49 pm.

Record No: 22181489