



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers and via Zoom, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2022 commencing at 9.00 am.**

Present

Mayor J C Leggett (Chairperson), Councillors G A Hope (Deputy), J A Arbuckle, B A Fauls, Mr E R Beech (Rural representative)

Present via Zoom

Councillors D D Oddie (Deputy) and J D N Croad

Also Present

Councillors C J Brooks, B G Dawson and N P Taylor

In Attendance

Ms G Ferguson (Consents and Compliance Group Manager), Nicole Chauval (Committee Secretary) and Mike Porter (Democratic Services Manager, Zoom Management)

In Attendance via Zoom

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, whether present in the Council Chambers or via Audio Visual link (Zoom) as per Standing Orders and the *COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020*. The Chair also advised the meeting was being recorded and that a link to the recording would be loaded to Council's website as soon as practicable following the meeting in accordance with the *COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Legislation Act 2020*.

Apologies

Cllrs Arbuckle/Mr Beech

That the apology for absence from Cllr T P Sowman be received and sustained and the apology for non-attendance from Cllr J L Andrews and M A Peters be noted.

Carried

Env-0422-314 Declaration of Interests

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No interests with items on the agenda were declared.

ATTENDANCE: Mr Luke Grogan, Council's Nautical and Coastal Team Manager, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-315 Tory Channel/Kura te Au Currents and Tides

H100-001-01

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to demonstrate the advances made toward understanding the complexity of current flows in the Tory Channel Current/Kura te Au and Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and provision of the data in real time to ships to support safe navigation. *To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2280867).*

The report 'Real time prediction of tidal and non-tidal flows to improve the navigational safety at the entrance to the Tory Channel' was attached to the agenda for members' information. It was noted that the paper and its findings were presented at the Australasian Coasts and Ports Conference earlier this year.

Members were advised that the software development was only possible on account of the detailed bathymetric data collected during the HS51 multibeam survey of Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui undertaken in 2016/17.

It was reported that the software, in addition to providing necessary and real time insights into Tory Channel/Kura te Au Currents, can also enable a detailed modelling of currents and tides at any selected location within the entirety of Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui. This means it will have application that extends beyond navigation safety matters.

Mr Grogan advised that following successful implementation a robust validation phase is being progressed with advice and guidance from Land Information New Zealand and co-operation from both ferry operators. This collaborative approach will ensure that sufficient confidence in the data develops across key stakeholder groups and encourage the data to be utilised as intended to actively inform safe navigation.

It was reported that the information will be made freely available to the public via Council's website.

At the conclusion of the item Mr Grogan introduced Captain Jake Oliver the new Harbour Master to members.

Cllrs Oddie/Croad:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Taylor withdrew from the meeting at 9.51 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Heli Wade, Council's Te Hoiere Project Manager and Sioban Harnett, Environmental Services Contract Manager, were present for the following item.

Env-0422-316 Te Hoiere Project Update

E355-021-01-001

The purpose of the report was to provide an update on recent developments on Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust and the proposed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) for Council to act as fund holder and project directorate on behalf of the Trust and an overview and progress update on the Jobs for Nature and Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan project implementation. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2291446).

Members were advised that the future of Te Hoiere Restoration Project is secured, with the creation of Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust on 15 March 2022. Marlborough District Council Chief Executive Mark Wheeler and Mayor, John Leggett, signed on behalf of the Council and Ngāti Kuia general manager Dave Johnston and chair Waihaere Mason for the iwi.

An MOU has been drafted clarifying MDC's role as fund holder and providing project services on behalf of the Trust and the subsequent Te Hoiere Project.

Functional restoration groundwork has now commenced on both Crown funded catchment restoration projects. Initial progress has been modest, though momentum is now currently building as landowners slowly commit to stream fencing and restoration planting later in this calendar year.

It was reported that agreements with landowners have been developed, signed and commenced. There were some delays experienced due to delays seeking final agreement and Covid restrictions (both direct and indirect).

Members were advised that the Council will be the fundholder on behalf of the Te Hoiere Trust of central funds granted to Te Hoiere Project and/or the Te Hoiere Trust. The parties have agreed that the Council will provide personnel and support resources and funding for the continued implementation of the Te Hoiere Catchment

Plan and the undertaking by the Te Hoiere Trust of its roles and actions as set out in the Plan. The funding for delivery and support structures is sourced from central government funding.

Contractors for rural fencing, pest plant control and native planting have been interviewed and umbrella contracts signed for imminent work.

Cllrs Faulls/Hope:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: James Mills-Kelly, Council's Land Resources Advisor, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-317 Hill Country Erosion Fund Programme

E355-019-004

The purpose of the report was to provide members with an update on the Hill Country Erosion Fund Programme (HCEF). To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2291447).

Mr Mills-Kelly reported that the Hill Country Erosion Programme aims to prevent the loss of topsoil and reduce sediment entering waterways in Marlborough's hill country. The Programme provides assistance and funding support to landowners looking to treat eroding or erosion-prone land.

It was noted that over 5000 natives have been planted across 49 hectares of retired marginal hill country in the last planting season. 2450 poplar poles were supplied to landowners to stabilise over 260 hectares of erosion-prone grazing land. The majority of the work was undertaken in South Marlborough's dry east coast hill country. In addition, 1000 tagasaste trees and 300 dryland oaks were supplied as trials to particularly challenging dry faces with a northerly aspect where poles and/or natives had previously failed.

Members were advised that this coming winter season the programme aims to supply landowners with 20,000 native plants for reverting marginal pastureland to retired native vegetation. On top of this, the fund will supply 6000 poplar poles for hillside stabilisation planting on pasture land, as well as 2500 dryland oak species for space planting in particularly dry conditions. It was noted that funding assistance is also available for retirement fencing and establishment of coppicing woodlot forestry species, which can provide alternatives to pine forestry, reducing harvest-related erosion risks.

It was noted that the current funding round of the HCEF ends in June 2023, applications for the next round open in May.

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

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Rob Simons, Council's Senior Biosecurity Officer, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-318 Jobs for Nature: Kotahitanga mō te Taiao

Alliance 'Restoring and Protecting Flora' Project Update

E315-021-002-02

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an outline of the Jobs for Nature (JfN) Restoring and Protecting Flora Project, the project's origins, and its operating structure in the wider context of JfN initiatives across Te Tau Ihu. Included in the report was an operational update about the project and its progress in Marlborough which is guided by the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT). To highlight the report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2291449).

It was noted that as part of the Government's \$1.219-billion-dollar covid recovery package in mid-2020, the JfN initiative was launched in a bid to stimulate the economy of country's regions through nature-based employment. JfN funding is distributed across multiple government agencies, including the Department of Conservation (DOC).

The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) was a key platform for prioritising potential JfN projects and associated funding channel through DOC. The KMTT Alliance is a partnership of Te Tau Ihu Councils, iwi, DOC and The Nature Conservancy. The Restoring and Protecting Flora Project was endorsed by the KMTT Alliance as one of three projects in Te Tau Ihu to receive benefit through JfN.

It was reported that as at 31 March 2022 the project has delivered weed control across 83 hectares. The work delivered to date has been implemented by non-invasive techniques using hand-held tools and is estimated to benefit a total of 413 hectares by reducing the spread risk of the weed species targeted across these sites. Over 2,000 plants have been destroyed including willows, wilding pines, barberry and old man's beard.

The project in its current format is expected to conclude on 24 April 2024 when the current funding and operational contracts will expire. It was noted that TNC may be exploring other funding opportunities to enable work to continue beyond 2024. Until then project partners will continue to work closely to meet the project's objectives, and to enhance relationships so that the project's conservation gains can be maintained into the future.

Cllrs Croad/Hope:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Peter Davidson, Council's Groundwater Scientist, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-319 World Water Day 2022

E345-007-001

Members were advised that the United Nations theme for 2022 was: Groundwater – Making the Invisible Visible and to mark the occasion. The Marlborough District Council staff produced two videos featuring local issues and items to raise the profile of groundwater in Marlborough district, and nationally.

The two videos produced by Marlborough District Council to celebrate World Water Day 2022 were shown to members.

It was noted that the videos proved popular locally especially, but also nationally and demonstrated the popularity of visual tools for conveying environmental or science messages.

Cllr Hope/The Mayor:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Brendon Robertson, Council's Building Control Group Manager, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-320 Revision of Building Control Fees 2022-2023

R450-002-B01

Members were advised that the Special Consultative Procedure for the proposed "Revision of Building Control Fees Financial Year 2022/2023" was undertaken as agreed at the 10 February 2022 Environment Committee meeting.

No submissions were received and it is requested that Council adopt the Revision of Building Control Fees Financial Year 2022/2023" effective on or after the 1 July 2022.

It was raised whether consideration could be given to reviewing the banding as well as fees for the next revision. Mr Robertson will consider this when the next revision is undertaken.

Cllrs Hope/Arbuckle:

1. That the report “Revision of Building Control Fees Financial Year 2022/2023” be received.
2. That the proposed “Revision of Building Control Fees Financial Year 2022/2023 be adopted with an implementation date of 1 July 2022.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Karen Winter, Council's Team Leader Environmental Health, was present for the following item.

Env-0422-321 Food Act 2014 fees

E350-004-009-02

Members were advised that the Special Consultative Procedure has been undertaken for the proposed 2022/2023 Food Act 2014 Fees. Four submissions were received with no submitters wishing to be heard. The sub-committee met to consider the submissions received. A submissions summary and minutes from the Sub-Committee were attached to the agenda item for members' information.

It was noted that the fees have not been increased due to Covid and that the increase proposed is relatively small.

Ms Winter noted that the recommendation from the Sub-Committee was that the proposed fees, as detailed in the Statement of Proposal for the 2022/2023 Food Act Fees, be accepted.

Cllrs Faulls/Arbuckle:

That Council confirm the proposed Food Act 2014 fees be adopted.

Carried

Env-0422-322 Animal Control Sub- Committee

D050-001-A04

The minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 March 2022 were presented for ratification by the Committee.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Faulls:

That the minutes of the Animal Control Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 March 2022 be ratified.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Mead, Council's Advocacy and Practice Integration Manager, was present via Zoom for the following item.

Env-0422-323 Appeals Update

R450-004-22

It was reported that as at 11 April 2022 Council is engaged in eight proceedings either as respondent or s274 party (excluding Abatement Notice appeals and enforcement proceedings).

Members were advised that the EDS v Otago Regional Council case had been adjourned to 11/12 April 2022. This has now been set down for the second week of May 2022. It is at the Supreme Court level so there will be no further appeals. A summary and update were provided, and further information was contained in the agenda item.

In response to a query on when the appeals for costs of objection will be heard. Ms Mead noted that there is considerable back log due to COVID-19 so it is unlikely to be any time soon. It was noted that Council is

standing by the decision made by Commissioner Walsh but has taken on board to be as transparent as possible in regard to costings. Adjustments have been made to Council's paperwork and these adjustments are being considered by Council's Compliance Manager to determine whether they will be fit for purpose.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Oddie:

That the information be received.

Carried

Env-0422-324 Information Package

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The Mayor/Cllr Hope:

That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 28 April 2022 be received and noted.

Carried

The meeting closed at 11.21 am.

Record No: 2291499