



**Minutes of a Meeting of the
ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim
on THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023 commencing at 9.00 am**

Present

Cirs G A Hope (Chairperson), B A Fauls (Deputy), J A Arbuckle, R J Innes, B J Minehan, T P Sowman, Mayor N P Taylor and Mr S Harvey (Rural Representative)

Also Present

Councillors S R W Adams, S J Arbuckle, J D N Croad and J C Rosene

In Attendance

Mr H R Versteegh (Environmental Science and Policy Group Manager), Ms G Ferguson (Consents and Compliance Group Manager), and Ms N Chauval (Committee Secretary)

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Postscript: Clr A R Burgess tendered her apology for absence during the meeting (10.28 am) via electronic means.

E&P-0223-228 Declaration of Interests -

Clr J A Arbuckle declared an interest in Item 9 - Variation 5 to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan – Area C.

ATTENDANCE: Oliver Wade, Council's Principal Coastal Scientist – Nautical and Coastal team for the following two items and Jake Oliver, Harbourmaster was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-229 The Nautical and Coastal Team **H100-001-01**

Mr Versteegh advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the Nautical and Coastal team's areas of work, responsibility, challenges, opportunities and statutory functions. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2328959).

Mr Versteegh noted that the Nautical and Coastal team includes both the Harbours (Nautical) function and the Coastal Science and Monitoring (Coastal) function of Council and is based at the MDC office in Picton/Waitohi. The aim of the coastal team is to encourage activity in the Coastal Marine Area that recognises and enhances the intrinsic values of the marine environment.

Jake Oliver and Oliver Wade provided information to members on their respective areas of responsibility. It was noted MDC are the Harbour Authority for the region with its powers and requirements coming from the Maritime Transport Act. Also referred to is the Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code which provides national best practice guidance to port operators and councils to manage the safety of marine activities in their ports and harbours. It is a voluntary agreement between the majority of Ports and Harbours within New Zealand. Also utilised is the Harbourmaster's Direction which enhances the regulatory framework in place in Marlborough to ensure maritime safety. Council also has a Navigation Bylaw which is currently under review and is proposed to be presented to Council later in the year. In the meantime the Harbour Master Direction is being used as a bridge between the bylaw, it is anticipated that the Directions will be brought into the reviewed Bylaw.

Members were advised that Harbours looks after a approximately 4200km with two rivers in its jurisdiction. It was noted that the length of the river that Harbour's is responsible for is outlined in the current bylaw and this will be revised when the Navigation Bylaw is reviewed.

Mr Oliver noted the Marlborough Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan and advised that Marlborough has an oil recovery barge which is one of three in the country. The barge and can be deployed to anywhere in the country if required.

In response to a query regarding open ocean marine farming and who would have authority over that in the Cook Strait. Mr Oliver noted that there would be discussion with the Coastal Team as they have responsibilities for coastal marine area to 12 nautical miles. Harbours are also responsible for the lighting of marine farms, so it is likely to fall into their work through lighting and aids to navigation. There would be conversations with Maritime New Zealand also as it is in open water along with Wellington's Harbour Master.

Mr Wade noted that as part of their work they do undertake monitoring and being part of the coastal team enables them to utilise the equipment the Harbours team which makes getting out on the water more cost effective. The areas that the team monitors/investigates is water quality, estuaries, seafloor biodiversity, shipwake and undertaking the mapping project.

Members were advised that the water quality is stable for now but biodiversity is declining and the effects of climate change are being felt. Mr Wade noted that at the moment the temperature in the Cook Strait is approximately 3 - 4 degrees higher than normal and it has been like that for some time.

Cirs Arbuckle/Innes:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Dr Tara Anderson, Marine Bioservices Ltd was present via Teams for the following item.

E&P-0223-230 Review of Pelorus Sounds Multibeam Seafloor Mapping (HS66): The next steps to identify and map important sites of marine biodiversity

E325-017-002-01

Mr Wade noted that the purpose of the report was to provide information on a recently received report reviewing the multibeam seafloor mapping information for Te Hoiere/ Pelorus Sound.

By way of background members were advised that in 2019 MDC embarked on collection of MBES data for over 300km² of the Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere (HS66). This HS66 survey was a collaboration with LINZ. During the survey process MDC decided to maximise on the collaboration with LINZ to survey as large an area as possible rather than completing all the processing and analysis of the data collected.

MDC staff engaged Dr. Tara Anderson, a multibeam mapping expert, to provide advice on the best utilisation of the data collected. The report which was separately attached to the agenda outlined options for data processing for MDC to meet the objective of identifying key areas of marine biodiversity within the survey area.

A presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2328956) which presented the findings of the report and proposed a pathway forward for the analysis of the data. Dr Tara Anderson presented a number of maps which included layered information on the mapping.

It was noted that as the government moves into the new legislation in respect of the National Planning Frameworks Council is expecting there will be a greater emphasis on and support for coastal management by Central Government.

Cirs Arbuckle /Innes:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Dr Tara Anderson withdrew from the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

ATTENDANCE: Rachel Russell, Council's Te Hoiere Programme Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-231 Te Hoiere Restoration Project Update

E355-021-01-001

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to present the 2021-22 Te Hoiere Restoration Project Annual Report and provide an update on upcoming objectives. The annual report was attached the agenda for members' information. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2328953).

The Te Hoiere Restoration Project is a multi-partner project which aims to address land use derived issues alongside wider conservation goals. The project is governed by the Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust which is made up of five trustees. The funding for objectives derived from the Integrated Catchment Enhancement Plan (ICEP) are funded through three funds, MfE Freshwater Improvement Fund; DOC Mahi mō te Taiao/Jobs for Nature Fund and MfE At Risk Catchment Fund

Ms Russell advised that lead organisations/people have taken on responsibility for specified objectives and work is ongoing to achieve the objectives.

Contained within the agenda was detail on what work had been completed to date and upcoming objectives.

In response to a query regarding the project continuing beyond 2025-26 in respect of the availability of funding. Members were advised that the Trust is focused on long term funding for the project and having multi partners involved will go towards providing support in the long term. No funding has been allocated in the LTP beyond 2025-26.

**Cllrs Faulls/Minehan:
That the information be received.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Rosene withdrew from the meeting at 10.21 am during the following item.

ATTENDANCE: Matt Oliver, Council's Environmental Scientist, Land Resources, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-232 Soil Mapping Update

E355-004-008-06

Mr Oliver advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on progress with soil mapping in the Marlborough Sounds Valleys. To highlight this report a powerpoint presentation was shown (presentation filed in CM Record No. 2328951).

Members were advised that the Council has been engaged with Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research for the past three years in a project to improve soil mapping in Marlborough and in December 2022, new soil maps covering the Marlborough Sounds Valleys were uploaded to S-Map-the national soil map platform. This upload brings the project up to schedule after previous delays.

The new mapping is completed to a nominal scale of 1:50,000 scale but mapped to approx. 1:20,000 which makes the maps zoomable. Users will also have access to more detailed linework and improved soil attribute data.

Mr Oliver noted that active mapping is continuing with field work in other parts of Marlborough (Wairau Valley, Blind River). Updated mapping is expected for these areas in August 2024.

It was noted that a desktop review of mapping in the Wairau Plain and Awatere Valley by MWLR is planned for 2023. This review is checking to see that current maps are adequately supported with field data and to identify any improvements that should be made to the maps. Some field work may be required if legacy attribute data cannot be located. A work plan is expected mid-2023.

Cirs Faulls/Sowman:
That the information be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: The meeting adjourned at 10.40 am and resumed at 11.00 am.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor withdrew from the meeting at 11.00 am.

ATTENDANCE: Zeke Hoskins, Council's Environmental Science Technician, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-233 Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao Grant
E390-003-23-01

Mr Hoskins noted that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the Working for Nature/ Mahi mō te Taiao 2022-2023 grant round.

Members were advised that the funding allocated for the 2022-2023 funding round has increased from \$90,000 to \$110,000.

38 applicants applied for the grant, 22 under the Habitat Marlborough and 16 Protecting Marlborough. Requests totalled \$342,239.88, far surpassing the \$110,000 budget. 21 of the 38 applicants received funding for their projects and have since agreed to the conditions of the grant. With requested funding far exceeding the grant budget, only five projects received full funding. The remaining 16 successful applicants received partial funding.

In response to a query on whether there would be consideration given to increasing the budget in the LTP given the requested amount outstrips the budget. It was reported that a budget paper is being considered but may be one of the areas that a cost saving is identified.

Members noted their support for the programme and appreciated the hard decisions that the Committee needed to make and it is great that the committee can support the projects that are good for the environment.

Cirs Minehan/Sowman:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That the decisions made by the Grant Sub-Committee be approved by the Council.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Alan Johnson, Council's Environmental Science and Monitoring Manager, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-234 Jobs for Nature and Externally Funded
Environmental Programmes **E360-002-002-03**

Mr Johnson advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the Central Government funding that Council has received in the environment sector over the last five years.

Mr Johnson reported that the projects being delivered or managed directly by Council stands at six core programmes with Government support in the order of \$33 million. A summary of the six key projects along with an indication of their progress to date was detailed in the agenda item. It was noted that the projects are designed to achieve or contribute to a range of freshwater and biodiversity outcomes.

Members were advised that the recently awarded funding from Mfe and MPI enables Council to build capability to manage our freshwater management obligations. The funding will help offset rate funding initially and build on our level of service by developing a framework to set catchment context, engage and enable the provision

Cllrs Fauls/Sowman:

That Council approve the preparation and consultation on a variation to Schedule 3, Appendix 13 of the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan.

Carried

NB: Cllr Arbuckle declared an interest in the above Variation 5 to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan – Area C item and did not take part in discussions nor vote on the issue.

ATTENDANCE: The Mayor rejoined the meeting at 11.20 am.

ATTENDANCE: Jamie Sigmund, Council's Strategic Planner Implementation & Review, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-236 National Policy Statement – Highly Productive Land (NPS HPL) N100-001-07-01

Mr Sigmund reported that the purpose of the report was to inform the committee on the new National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, including the planning implications, and future work required for Council.

It was noted that on the 17 October 2022 the new National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land 2022 ('NPS-HPL') came into force. The final version of the NPS-HPL is generally consistent with the changes that were sought in the Council submission on the draft NPS-HPL in 2019.

The NPS-HPL has one objective and nine policies seeking to protect HPL from urbanisation, rural lifestyle development, subdivision, and inappropriate use and development. Interim mapping has been put in place to support the community in understanding where this new framework may apply.

Members were advised that the Council has three years to identify Marlborough's Highly Productive Land ('HPL') in the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) volume three maps. The Council then has a further two years after the mapping to undertake significant changes to the PMEP Volume 1 & 2 provisions to implement the NPS-HPL, including the addition of new rules and policies that seek to protect the land identified as highly productive land.

It was noted that the need for budgetary provision to support this project is still being considered.

Members were advised that 17 October 2025 is the deadline for new HPL maps (overlay) to be included in the PMEP and two years after the date on which HPL maps are included in the PMEP – deadline for text changes to be included in the PMEP.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Innes:

- 1. That the information be received.**
- 2. That a project to support the implementation of the NPS-HPL be developed to meet Council's obligations under the NPS.**

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Pere Hawes, Council's Manager Environmental Policy, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-237 Appeals on the PMEP M100-09-01

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to advise members of progress with resolving appeals made to the Environment Court on the PMEP.

The following amendment was noted in the agenda - *4. Mediation on Topic 2: Water Allocation and Use and Topic 13: Water Quality is scheduled for February to April 2023.*

ATTENDANCE: Sue Bulfield-Johnston, Council's Hearings Facilitator & Duty Planner, was present for the following item.

E&P-0223-239 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 16 hearings have been completed in the year commencing 1 July 2021. Decisions have been issued for all but three of the applications. A table listing the hearings was attached to the agenda item for members' information.

Three hearings have been scheduled through to March 2023.

New Councillors on the Hearings Panel have been registered for the two day Making Good Decisions foundation course scheduled for 29 March 2023. This accreditation is valid for three years.

Cllrs Arbuckle/Fauls:
That the report be received.

Carried

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Innes withdrew from the meeting at 11.32am

E&P-0223-240 Information Package -

Cawthron Marlborough Environment Awards event is on Thursday 20 April 2023 at the Marlborough Event Centre. Members to email Alan Johnson, Council's Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager, to indicate their interest in attending the event.

Cllrs Hope/Minehan:
That the Regulatory Department Information Package dated 2 February 2023 be received and noted.

Carried

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.43 am.

Record No: 2332831