



Report 09.240
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Committee Council
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Report on the Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 28 April 2009

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee meeting that took place on 28 April 2009.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Reports

3.1 South Waitohu Stopbank

The South Waitohu stopbank is one of four structural measures proposed by the Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan to provide flood protection to the Rangiuru and Waitohu communities.

This report highlighted concerns raised by KCDC and the affected communities regarding a potential increase in flooding if stopbank construction occurred in isolation of other flood mitigation measures. Staff requested that the construction be deferred until 2010/11 to allow time for KCDC to undertake stormwater investigations under its Greater Otaki project and for staff to further investigate the Convent Road and Bennett Road flooding issues. These investigations will be considered collectively under a new Lower Waitohu Stream project banner.

The Committee endorsed the deferral and noted that construction budgets will be moved into the 2010/11 year.

3.2 DoC Review of the Status of Canada Geese

This report considered the preliminary findings by the Department of Conservation (DoC) concerning the status of Canada Geese under the Wildlife Act 1953. Currently Canada Geese are managed by Fish & Game NZ as a game bird. However, farmers within the Wellington region are becoming increasingly concerned about the negative impacts the birds are having on pasture, crops and water quality. The Greater Wellington submission to DoC supported their recommendation to place Canada Geese into Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act, thereby allowing affected agencies an opportunity to manage their impacts, subject to certain criteria. However, staff believe the status change should apply across the entire region rather than be restricted to the Wairarapa, as recommended by DoC.

The Committee noted that Federated Farmers supports moving Canada Geese to Schedule 5 of the Act, allowing anyone to control the bird at any time. With a Schedule 5 status it is highly likely that Greater Wellington would be requested to consider Canada Geese as a pest under the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

The Committee supported the staff recommendation.

3.3 Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee

This report presented the minutes of the Hutt River Advisory subcommittee meeting held on 26 March 2009.

The Committee was updated on the Hutt/Boulcott stopbank project and proposals for relocating the Boulcott Golf Club rooms. Further consultation will occur with affected parties before lodging designation & consent applications.

An overview of the Maoribank river investigations was provided. The Committee endorsed expenditure to progress urgent mitigation measures until more permanent works could be prioritised under the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.

3.4 Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee (WHCAC)

This report presented the minutes of the WHCAC meeting held on the 6 April 2009.

WHCAC expressed considerable interest in the new landscape inventory project for the Wairarapa to give effect to Method 49 of the Proposed RPS.

WHCAC considered three funding models for the Akura Conservation Centre should the Stage II development proceed before 2012. WHCAC confirmed their intention to submit on the LTCCP requesting that Stage II be brought forward to 2009, and that a lease option be considered. WHCAC also supported further discussions with Masterton District Council regarding the availability of land at the Homebush Wastewater Treatment site for future nursery expansion.

3.5 Divisional Manager's Report

The Committee was advised that the new Manager, Biosecurity would commence work on the 25 May 2009.

Annual meetings of the 10 Wairarapa river scheme advisory committees were scheduled to occur during April and May. CM Committee members were invited to attend.

Updates were provided on tenders for the Waiwhetu Stream cleanup, and applications for the Afforestation Grant Scheme within the Wellington region. To date, 34% of monies allocated in 2008/09 were for projects within the Wellington region.

3.6 Forestry marketing contracts

In the public excluded section the Committee considered a report relating to the forestry marketing contracts.

4. Unconfirmed Minutes

Unconfirmed minutes of the Committee meeting are in **Attachment 1**.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



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Chair
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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes of the Catchment Management Committee held on 28 April 2009