

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 11.20 am

Present:

- Cr Bryan Scott (Chairperson)**
- Cr Doug Brown (Deputy Chairperson)**
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM**
- Cr Michael Deaker**
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff**
- Cr Gary Kelliher**
- Cr Sam Neill**
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**
- Cr David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

Apologies:

- Cr Graeme Bell**
- Cr Trevor Kempton**

The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Scott and Shepherd.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0676 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 2/3/14

The report described progress with Council's flood protection, land drainage and river management programmes, and the management of natural hazards and civil defence and emergency management, and provided an overview of significant activities undertaken by the Resource Science Unit.

The following issues were discussed further:

- Kakanui River erosion protection work – Dr Palmer advised that when the leadership and internal resourcing of the local group recently formed had been determined, a meeting would be arranged, and the group's scope and terms of reference would be discussed.
- Upper Taieri River – Mr Donaldson advised that Environmental Monitoring & Operations and Science staff had worked together on the continuing high bacteria levels in the upper Taieri River, and had taken a broader look at swales and creeks. There was good support from the farming community.
- Launch of LAWA (Land and Water Aotearoa) website – Mr Bodeker advised in response to a question that ORC would assist in publicising the website by a press release, and would feature it on the ORC website. It was noted that the content of the LAWA website would be managed at regional council level and the Communications Manager would ensure the ORC's section was topical and of high quality. The site would provide good information on water quality in Otago.
- Bacteria in the Manuherikia River - Dr Palmer advised that the location of the bacteria meant it could not be attributed to local dairy activity.
- MfE report on NES for air quality – Dr Palmer advised that this was a one off report based on the end of the 2013 compliance period.
- Monitoring bores in South Dunedin – Dr Palmer was to report back on:
 - location of the bores, and whether they were long term sites,
 - the SOE report referred to,
 - whether these were additional bores to those used to investigate seawater incursion as reported in November 2011.
- Number of visits to the alpine fault information on the ORC website (see report 2014/0683 to Communications Committee) – there was concern that the information might create anxiety. Dr Palmer stated that he was not aware that any specific work the Council was doing would give rise to this increase in visits, which could result from school or university work.
- Works on St David Street to Union Street reach of the Water of Leith – Dr Palmer noted timing issues which were largely attributable to the late requirement by the University that the existing footbridge not be removed until a replacement bridge was in place. This was not

allowed for in the budget and was regarded as a contingency item. The cost included regulatory approvals from ORC and DCC, expert professional engineering advice, and the large span of the temporary bridge. Dr Palmer advised that staff had not foreseen the need for a temporary footbridge given that there was alternative access nearby, and the works were of short duration. Dr Palmer advised that the work was within budget, as there had been some variations to the work which had reduced the cost. Based on current forecasts of future costs, Dr Palmer did not expect that the contingency fund would be fully expended.

- Moisture content of firewood – the suggestion was made that wood merchants be required to certify the moisture content of their wood. Dry firewood would have a significant impact on air quality.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Neill seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

Chairperson

