

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 13 March 2014 commencing at 10.48 am

Present: Cr Sam Neill (Chairperson)
Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Michael Deaker
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr David Shepherd
Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies: Cr Graeme Bell
Cr Trevor Kempton
The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs
Kelliher and Eckhoff.

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 Croot and Woodhead.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0685 **Update on Building Act dam safety scheme.** DEHS, 3/3/14

The report noted that the scheme was due to commence on 1 July 2014, but that delays might be caused by further changes to the scheme by the government. The report also detailed collaborative work by regional authorities. Dr Palmer commented that the Council's Annual Plan estimates were predicated on a 1 July start. There were problems with variability in regional councils' preparedness for the commencement, and with the integrity of the scheme, referring to auditing of the work of "recognised engineers".

Councillors commended staff for their work to date on the regional council response to the dam safety scheme.

In response to a query Dr Palmer explained that a "recognised engineer" had to meet requirements in relation to the Building Act and supporting regulations, be a chartered engineer with skills in dam safety, and be assessed by IPENZ. A Category B "recognised engineer" would be a chartered engineer with general civil engineering experience.

Cr Woodhead moved

Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0661 **Biosecurity and RMA Report.** DEMO, 25/2/14

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 1 January to 14 February 2014.

Mr Donaldson advised in response to a question that the percentage of water metered takes was still quite low, and there were various reasons for this, including a lack of people available to carry out the verification process. In total there were 1600 takes to be metered; so far 200 had been cancelled by the consent holder because they were not used, or lapsed due to inactivity, and it was expected that more would be cancelled.

In response to a question about the standard of water measuring structures being installed, Mr Donaldson explained that ORC verified the information being supplied by consent holders, not the structures. Council was satisfied with the structures being installed by suppliers and verifiers.

It was noted that Oceana Gold had determined the mine would cease operating in 2017, not 2020, and there was concern that because of this earlier termination date the dam maintenance might not be so thorough. Mr Donaldson advised that one staff member was specialising on Oceana Gold issues, with other staff assistance as required. He also noted that there was a rigid bond on place to manage mitigation.

A question was raised about advice to boat owners of the need to be vigilant with respect to marine pests, and whether random inspections of boats were carried out. Mr Donaldson advised that Environmental Monitoring and Operations staff were not qualified to dive and inspect vessels, but NIWA carried out annual inspections of structures in the harbour basin and reported back to ORC. Some boat owners carried out work on their boats when they received the advice, but ORC had not instructed any boats to be cleaned. Larger ships were managed by their own regulations, but smaller ships were a bigger risk.

In relation to plant pests, Mr Donaldson advised that lagarosiphon was entering Lake Wanaka from Bullock Creek, and this source was to be removed. The work was supported by Guardians of Lake Wanaka and the Community Board.

The rabbit control programme was discussed. Mr Donaldson explained that the rabbit programme being planned with the contracting arm was working well, and it was possible that other operators could also be involved and use the Council's equipment. It would be difficult to source sufficient carrots for the poisoning programme, and consideration was been given to the reinstatement of oat poisoning, which would give opportunities for two poisoning seasons during the year. He commented that an oat poisoning operation in the Queensberry area had resulted in a 95+% kill.

The summary of incident complaints was noted:

- Air quality - 89 complaints received, the majority relating to domestic chimneys.
- Odour – Mr Donaldson noted that some complaints related to the landfill. He also commented that CODC was changing to a fortnightly rubbish collection, which could impact on air quality. Council would work with CODC and the community to advise on best practice.

Cr Scott moved

Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 3
2014/0674 **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update.** DPPRM, 24/2/14

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 18 January to 21 February 2014.

Mr McRae was to check the reference to RM13.433 Clutha District Council limited notified application, and the reason for the delay in the hearing of application RM13.215 Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4
2014/0673 **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities.**
DPPRM, 24/2/14

The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken by the Otago Regional Council for the period 14 January to 24 February 2014.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 5
2014/0696 **Appointment of hearing commissioners.** DPPRM, 28/2/14

The report listed hearing commissioner appointments for the period to 28 February 2014.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.17 am.



Chairperson