

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 16 April 2014 commencing at 1.45 pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cr David Shepherd
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Kelliher and Neill.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Matt Hickey**
- Rebecca Morris**
- Dean Olsen**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 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.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0747 **Review of information on the Tomahawk Lagoons.** DEHS, 24/3/14

The report to the Committee, and the full technical report circulated with the agenda, provided information on the Tomahawk lagoons with the intention of supporting discussion with the community about issues resulting from historical land use practices.

A question was raised as to whether concern about algal bloom in the lagoons was justified given the spasmodic appearance and disappearance of blooms in other water bodies such as Lake Hayes. Dr Olsen explained that Tomahawk Lagoons issues were different from those in Lake Hayes because of the lagoons' coastal location and the depth of the water. Staff had investigated the blue-green algal blooms in the lagoons and put forward two potentially viable options for their elimination: use of capping agent Phoslock[®], and dredging. Phoslock[®] had been used successfully internationally, but not in shallow coastal lakes.

Cr Robertson commented that a full understanding of Otago coastal systems was required before decisions could be made on where to target resources. Dr Palmer advised in response to a question that the report had been prepared following an approach from the community about the state of the lagoons.

In response to a question Dr Olsen explained that phosphate was bound into the sediment, and controlling nitrate runoff was not a viable option. He also noted that in the early 1960s about one-fifth of the lagoon was dredged, mainly for the benefit of the trout population. A comment was made that historically there had not been heavy use of superphosphate, and it did not seem to take much to exacerbate the algal blooms.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Brown seconded

That:

- 1. The report be received.*
- 2. The information presented in the report form the basis for a meeting with the Ocean Grove community.*

Motion carried

Item 2
2014/0767

Assessment of hazard significance of landslides in Dunedin City.
DEHS, 1/4/14

The report discussed the updated GNS Science report on landslides in Dunedin City, and recommended that the dataset be provided to Dunedin City Council and uploaded to the Otago Natural Hazards Database. The GNS 2014 report “The hazard significance of landslides in and around Dunedin City” was circulated separately with the agenda.

In response to a comment in the report that only 13% of Dunedin City was subject to landslide, Dr Palmer pointed out that the report did not study the whole of the city.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That:

- 1. The report be noted;*
- 2. The improved landslide dataset for Dunedin City be provided to the Dunedin City Council and updated to the Otago Natural Hazards Database.*

Motion carried

Item 3
2014/0749

South Otago Basin Aquifers. DEHS, 24/3/14

The report summarised an information review carried out for groundwater resource management of the Pomahaka, Kuriwao, and Clydevale/Wairuna aquifers which make up the South Otago Basin, updating information from studies published in 1999-2002. The full technical report was circulated separately with the agenda.

Ms Morris noted that the Pomahaka and Kuriwao Aquifers were initially included in the C-Series maps of Aquifers, Groundwater Zones and Groundwater Protection Zones in the Regional Plan Water based on the presumption they were gravel alluvium aquifers connected to surface water. Additional borelogs since the 1996 and 2002 reports had found that the majority of the basins were hard rock and were not connected to surface water, making the current groundwater management for these basins overly restrictive. The report therefore suggested that consideration be given to removing the Pomahaka and Kuriwao Aquifers from the C-series maps of the RPW. This meant that if people on the Pomahaka and Kuriwao wanted to install a bore and take the permitted amount of water, they would not need to apply for a consent.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That:

1. *This report and the report "Groundwater resource management review of the South Otago Basins" be received.*
2. *The information in the reports is referred to the Policy Committee for consideration.*

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 4

2014/0754 **Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River.** DEHS, 4/4/14

The report advised that a management flow report had been prepared presenting hydrological information and assessing the ecological flow requirements for the Tokomairiro River. The full technical report was circulated separately with the agenda, and it was suggested that the results from the report be used as part of community consultation on the potential future setting of a minimum flow for the Tokomairiro River.

The report was commended, and it was noted that with areas getting drier due to climate change, a minimum flow needed to be set soon for the Tokomairiro River.

Dr Olsen noted that currently the only flow site on the river, at the SH8 bridge, did not reflect the bulk of the catchment, and there were technical difficulties with putting a flow site lower down the river. He also noted that because of physical differences between the West Branch, East Branch and mainstem of the Tokomairiro River, the flows required to maintain aquatic values in each were considered separately.

The location of additional minimum flow site(s) were discussed, and Dr Palmer commented that the information from the study would assist in determining site location.

Cr Brown moved
Cr Neill seconded

That this report and the technical report 'Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tokomairiro River' be received and noted.

Motion carried

Item 5

2014/0711

Director's Report on Progress. DEHS, 3/4/14

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.

In response to a question about monitoring bores in the South Dunedin area, Dr Palmer advised that results from the bores would be provided to a future meeting once the data had been analysed. The information would be from the three existing bores, plus part year data from the new bore.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 2.36 pm.

Chairperson

