

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held  
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 28 January 2015 commencing at 9.09 am**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

**Cr Gerrard Eckhoff**  
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Scott and Croot.

**In attendance:**

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

### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Robertson.

### **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/1952 **Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in Twelve Mile Creek.**  
DEHS, 3/12/14

The report discussed the results of modelling carried out to determine the effect of river flow on fish habitat in Twelve Mile Creek. The full report *Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in Twelve Mile Creek* was circulated separately with the agenda.

Comment was made that the report did not consider water quality nor the effects on the river of the nearby built environment. Dr Palmer replied that the report met an Annual Plan target, and advised that he and Mr McRae had discussed a more integrated approach for rivers including river form and water quality. In response to a question Mr Hickey advised that some one-off water sampling had been done which indicated good water quality, but regular monthly samples had not been taken.

Mr McRae explained in response to a question that the series of reports to inform minimum flow regimes for the change from mining privileges would be completed in 2017, and Council would then move into a broader water quality/quantity management regime. Dr Palmer advised that a summary report would be presented to a future meeting.

Cr Shepherd moved  
Cr Croot seconded

*That this report and the technical report 'Management flows for aquatic ecosystems in Twelve Mile Creek' be received and noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2

2014/2006 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 13/1/15

Activities discussed in the report included: the current low flow situation, the Lakes Overseer validation project, MfE's national *Airshed Progress Report 2012*, work on the Leith Flood Protection Scheme, and Albert Town riverbank instability.

*Low Flows*

Dr Palmer noted that all irrigation on the Taieri was turned off for one day, and from this staff were able to determine the actual amount of water in the river, and water travel times. It was noted that the river was below its minimum flow at Waipiata Bridge. Mr Bodeker advised that the water shortage direction was a phased reduction. Dr Palmer

commented that river flows were reducing, and the flows measured on 21 January, as shown in Table 1 in his report, were now at half that level.

Cr Brown commended the proactive work and engagement with the North Otago community in relation to water levels. He explained that there had been a lot of change in landuse resulting in more demands on water, many people were now under stress, and there would be feed shortages. Cr Kelliher commented that with more efficient irrigation there was less recharge into waterways. If there was no substantial rain soon, there would be farms going into winter with little feed, and the number of places where stock could be sent for feed was diminishing. He pointed out that the community wanted efficiency in irrigation but the impact on farmers was massive. It was noted that the Rural Support Trust would continue to provide advice to farmers on support systems available.

Cr Woodhead noted that the minimum flows had been agreed through a public process, and the need for them was well accepted. He commended staff who had returned to work early because of the low flow situation, and was pleased to see that ORC was being proactive and backing the minimum flow regimes.

There was discussion about whether a public or a Councillor-only workshop should be held to discuss the low flow situation. It was pointed out that there was a high degree of stress in these situations, including emotional and commercial, and some degree of privacy was important. Comment was made that if the current situation continued and more takes needed to be cut off, there would be impacts on catchment relations.

#### *Lakes Overseer validation project*

In response to a question about suction cup lysimeters, Mr Hickey explained that the ceramic cups were used to measure Nitrogen loss, and the teflon to measure Phosphorus loss. These lysimeters were smaller than channel lysimeters such as at Omakau.

#### *National air quality*

Technical development in heating appliances was noted, and it was suggested that this be included in discussion at a future air quality workshop.

#### *Leith Flood Protection Scheme*

It was noted that practical completion of the St David Street to Union Street reach was expected on Friday 30 January, with just a few minor defects to be addressed. The Dundas Street to St David Street enabling works were expected to be completed in the next few weeks, ahead of schedule.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 9.55 am

**Chairperson**

