

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 10.06 am**

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 David Shepherd**
- Cr Stephen Woodhead**

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Jane Leahy**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Deborah Mills (for Item 2)**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Scott and Bell.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2015/0863 **Lower Waitaki River Management Strategy.** DEHS, 9/4/15

The report presented for endorsement the management approach for the Lower Waitaki River Control Scheme. The full options report dated March 2015 was circulated separately with the agenda.

Dr Palmer drew attention to the three principles for a management approach that had been adopted by both councils in 2013, and advised that the options report had been presented to the local liaison group and ratepayers recently. He noted the need to address an anomaly in the LTP relating to the provision for work in the primary buffer zones. Dr Palmer noted the eight implementation issues listed in the report. Scheme outcomes, and regular channel capacity monitoring and reporting, needed to be discussed. The true cost of mitigation work was not known because landholders carried out work themselves, and this cost needed to be identified.

Cr Brown commented that the Lower Waitaki River Scheme Liaison Committee had lacked leadership, resulting in overspending and some *ad hoc* works. He was pleased to see the report and supported the recommendations. Cr Brown noted the difficulties which had arisen from working with the two councils' different funding policies, and advised that Environment Canterbury was reviewing its policy to align more closely with ORC's.

Dr Palmer confirmed in response to a question that the process used to develop a strategy for the Waitaki River would be used as a template for establishing management strategies for other rivers.

In response to a question Dr Palmer confirmed that the effects of the dams had been quantified. The dams provided betterment in some instances by attenuating flood peaks, but could also exacerbate erosion by extending the duration of flows. This was recognised in Meridian's 40% contribution to the scheme. Dr Palmer noted Implementation point 7, which required working with DoC to ensure land they administered was used in a way that was consistent with scheme objectives.

Mr Bodeker advised that he had engaged with Environment Canterbury Chief Executive and directors, and if this paper was approved, he would engage with them again. He further commented that approval of the report would make discussions on management of the Lower Waitaki River easier.

Cr Deaker considered the model was clumsy and a localised structure should be developed along the lines of the community involvement in water short catchments. Cr Brown commented that that had been intended but the lack of strong leadership in the Liaison Group and the

two councils' different funding policies had undermined discussions. Principles needed to be established and the community involved. Mr Bodeker noted that costs were paid by the two regional councils, and desired works were always in excess of the available budget. The proposed model would allow the landowners to have some input. Landowners realised they were farming up to the water's edge and might have to take responsibility and losses.

Cr Brown moved
Cr Shepherd seconded

That:

- 1. This report be received;*
- 2. The management approach set out in Lower Waitaki River Control Scheme Review Options Report (March 2015) be endorsed;*
- 3. Staff work with Environment Canterbury and other stakeholders to implement the proposed management approach.*

Motion carried

Cr Deaker proposed an additional recommendation requesting that the Chief Executive work with Environment Canterbury to develop a new management model for the lower Waitaki River. Cr Croot supported the additional recommendation. She also noted that clarity about the role of Environment Canterbury Commissioners and staff was needed.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Croot seconded

- 4. That the Chief Executive be requested to work with Environment Canterbury to develop a new management model for the Lower Waitaki River.*

The mover and seconder of the original motion accepted the new recommendation.

Motion carried

PART B - ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 2
2015/0810

Spatial Variability of air quality in Alexandra and Cromwell.
DEHS, 1/4/15

The report discussed spatial air quality studies completed in Alexandra and Cromwell during winter 2014, and noted that results from sampling indicated that Council's monitoring sites were located in appropriate locations.

Comment was made that the report indicated that the worst air quality was in areas of older housing, probably with older forms of heating, and it was suggested that funding be targeted on these areas.

It was suggested that studies be carried out, in both older and newer areas of the towns, to determine what was causing the poor air quality, including when woodburners were replaced, how people were using their burners, how many hours a day the burners were used, and what was being burnt. It was pointed out that information on burners installed could be obtained from district councils' consent application information.

Ms Mills commented that heating surveys were very important in determining how to target incentives and initiatives. While the air strategy would be high level, it was also important to know what was going on on the ground.

In response to a question Ms Mills explained that the monitor in Arrowtown had been relocated to the worst part of town in terms of air quality, and the move had resulted in an increase in the number of exceedances.

Mr Bodeker noted that a survey or further investigation were not budgeted for. Cr Woodhead commented that the ORC already had a lot of data and the matter could be discussed in a committee or workshop. It was suggested that Central Otago District Council and community boards be involved in future discussions.

Cr Shepherd moved
Cr Neill seconded

1. *That the results from this report be used to inform the monitoring component of any new air quality management strategy.*
2. *That this report be noted.*

Motion carried

Item 3
2015/0780

Director's Report on Progress. DEHS, 8/4/15

The report discussed the Leith Flood Protection Scheme, Shotover Delta Target Profile, and Low Flow Event.

In response to a question Dr Palmer advised that staff had been in close dialogue with the University about their planned landscape improvement to ensure there was no clash with the Council's flood protection work.

Cr Croot moved
Cr Woodhead seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 11.13 am.

Chairperson

