

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 22 April 2015 commencing at 9.20 am

Present:

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

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jane Leahy**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Martin King**
- Janet Favel**

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Kempton.

Matters arising from minutes

With reference to Item 4 in the minutes, a question was raised about a policy for payment for Councillors acting as commissioners for plan change hearings. Mr Scott explained that the Remuneration Authority determined an amount for this use and how it was to be applied. For hearings under four hours, plan change hearing panel chairs were paid at the rate of \$150/day and panel members \$100/day; for hearings over four

hours the rate was \$200 or \$150/day respectively. It was noted that the regional plan review meeting payments had not been enacted for the 2014/15 year. Mr Scott understood that the payment related to regional plan hearings, not plan change, minimum flow, hearings.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2015/0826 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 20/3/15**

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site environmental monitoring and incidents for the period 6 February to 20 March 2015.

The following issues were discussed further:

- Nassella tussock – Mr King advised that this related to growth at a known site which was previously under control. Control had been recently carried out, and the site would continue to be monitored.
- Water metering – Mr King advised that there were about 1,135 takes over 20l/s, including irrigation companies which had multiple takes. There were various reasons for the lack of installation of meters, including 7% who were not using their takes. He expected that there would be 100% installation in about two years. Mr King commented that the legislation did not account for the complexity of metering open channel takes. He advised that some abatement notices had been issued. Comment was made that there were varying levels of quality in measuring structures, and it was suggested that Council remind farmers to keep up maintenance of structures.
- Rabbits – Mr King advised that other strains of the RHD virus were being investigated in Australia.
- Contaminated sites – Mr King explained that Council held a contaminated sites register. He explained that to ‘clean’ a site the soil could be tested and assessed against soil criteria based on the site’s proposed use. To remediate land, application for consent had to be made. The contaminated soil could be collected, encapsulated, and managed, or a full (and costly) remediation programme put in place to destroy the contamination so the soil could be reused. Application could be made for assistance from the Remediation Management Fund. Disposal of agrichemicals and paint was discussed and it was considered that MfE should initiate another agrichemical waste collection.

Cr Kelliher moved

Cr Eckhoff seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 2
2015/0859

Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 8/4/15

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 27 February to 3 April 2015.

The appointment of a one person panel to hear QLDC application RM13.215 was queried. Mr McRae explained that because changes to the proposal had resulted in all opposition to the application being withdrawn, it was considered that a one person panel would be sufficient. Two councillor commissioners were initially appointed to the panel, but one was no longer a councillor, and it was felt it was appropriate to continue with the remaining commissioner. Concern with the continuation of a one person panel was expressed.

Cr Bell moved
Cr Croot seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 3
2015/0844

RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DPPRM, 10/4/15

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 19 February to 31 March 2015.

In response to a question about the definition of a river/water course, Mr McRae advised that this was a matter of fact and was interpreted on the day. Mr Bodeker noted that MfE was considering what if any action they might take on this matter, and he would follow up with them. It was suggested that this should be a national approach.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

Item 4

2015/0867

Appointment of Plan Change Hearing Commissioners.

DPPRM, 9/4/15

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 9 April 2015.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Deaker seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 9.49 am



Chairperson