

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Committee held  
in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin  
on Wednesday 7 September 2016, commencing at 11:10am**

**Membership:**

- 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**

**Apologies:**

- Cr Brown** (*for lateness*)
- Cr Kempton**
- Apologies accepted.*

**Leave of Absence:**           **None**

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Nick Donnelly**
- Fraser McRae**
- Scott MacLean**
- Caroline Rowe**
- Lauren McDonald**
- Pete Ravenscroft**
- Dean Olsen**
- Adam Uytendaal**

### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Cr Kelliher declared a Conflict of Interest in regard to Item 2 of the agenda due to his position as Chairman of the Manuherikia Irrigation Co-operative Society.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

No public forum held.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016, 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

2016/1020

### **Wanaka Basin – Cardrona Gravel Aquifer Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). DEHS 23/8/16**

The report advised on the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) which is a management approach to increase the availability of water in aquifers using surface water to actively replenish groundwater systems. In 2015, ORC commissioned Golder Associates to undertake a pre-feasibility assessment on artificial replenishment of groundwater in the Wanaka Basin-Cardrona Gravel Aquifer with water taken from the Cardrona River during late-winter and spring. The purpose of the work was to assist the community and stakeholders to understand the range of options available for water management in the lower Cardrona Valley.

The full report "*Pre-Feasibility Assessment, Managed Aquifer Recharge Wanaka Cardrona*" was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Scott summarised the report.

Dr Palmer advised that staff had identified that the Cardrona River characteristics might make managed aquifer recharge feasible, so the recharge report was completed as a piece information to inject into the minimum flow process.

Dr Olsen advised the genesis of the work is to resolve the potential conflict in the lower Cardrona River between water for instream values and out of stream use. The report was focussed on pre-feasibility.

*Cr Brown joined the meeting at 11:19am*

A question was raised as to how the report would inform and lead the community forward with the minimum flow process.

Dr Palmer advised that the report was intended to provide the community with the possibilities which might exist for them to work together to progress a feasibility study, if they wished to do so. He confirmed there are no fatal flaws at present. The report is to highlight, not promote the existence of an option for further consideration.

A question was raised around time frame for minimum flow.

Mr McRae advised that the minimum flow is around the interaction between what water remains in the river to support identified values and what can be taken for use. In the case of the Cardrona River, using out of season high flows to surcharge the aquifer has a similar water storage effect to building a dam. Consequently, aquifer recharge would make more water available for irrigation by creating an alternative water source to the river, and so making compliance with a set minimum flow more easily complied with.

Mr Bodeker commented that the tabled report was a piece of technical work and was an option for the community to pick up. He advised that any further work by ORC would need to be included in the Annual Plan planning, if required.

Mr Bodeker confirmed that the minimum flow work would continue independent from the communication of this technical piece of information/work.

Moved Cr Woodhead  
Seconded Cr Robertson

*That;*

1. *This report is noted.*
2. *The report "Pre-Feasibility Assessment, Managed Aquifer Recharge Wanaka Cardrona" is provided to the water users within the Cardrona Valley and other stakeholders.*

## **PART B ITEMS FOR NOTING**

*Cr Kelliher left the room at 11:39am*

Item 2  
2016/1023

**Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek Management Flow.** DEHS,  
23/8/16

The covering report summarised the hydrological information and assessment of the ecological flow requirements for the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek. The results from the full technical report will inform the minimum flow setting process for the Manuherikia River.

The full technical report '*Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek*' was circulated separately with the agenda.

Cr Scott summarised the report and clarified that the table on page 70 referred to aquatic flow recommendations based on naturalised flow.

Dr Palmer acknowledged the efforts of Dr Olsen, Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Lu Xiaofeng in producing the report ready for the community, including managing the inputs and the external peer review by NIWA.

A question was raised if the Manuherikia Strategy Group had received the report.

Dr Palmer advised that the report was not expressly provided to that group, and the report had been made public with the agenda. He confirmed the report is an ORC report and was independent from stakeholder input.

Moved Cr Woodhead  
Seconded Cr Croot

*That this report and the technical report 'Management flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Manuherikia River and Dunstan Creek' are received and noted.*

The motion was put by division:

For: Crs Brown, Croot, Deaker, Neill, Robertson, Scott, Shepherd  
and Woodhead

Against: Crs Bell and Eckhoff

**Motion carried.**

Item 3  
2016/0980

**Lake Snow Update.** DEHS, 3/8/16

The report provided details on the definition, background, causes and issues associated with Lake Snow (lake snot) in Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu.

*Cr Kelliher returned to the room 12:03pm.*

Cr Scott summarised the report.

Dr Palmer advised that the report intended to provide expert opinion to Council to enable better understanding of the issues and also the steps ORC is taking, including DNA testing, that ORC intends commissioning in the coming months.

A question was raised if lake snow fluctuated during the seasons and if it was visually unseen, e.g. not something that congeals on the surface of the water.

Dr Uytendaal confirmed lake snow does fluctuate seasonally and that QLDC have been logging complaints from the community in Wanaka. There had been a general increase in lake snow complaints on the community water supply, which usually peaked over the months of February and March. He advised that lake snow in Lake Wakatipu had still been prevalent as of September but that it did tend to die off over the winter months.

A question was raised in regard to aquatic pests such as didymo lagarosiphon and lake snow, if the pest problem was getting worse and what could be done from a technical perspective.

Dr Uytendaal advised that the report indicated a number of gaps in understanding why this has occurred and that there is a need for a research programme moving forward, and that in time to identify what is causing the problem and then apply managed interventions.

Mr Bodeker commented that in regard to the forming of management groups and their management plans for these iconic lakes, that the role of Council, if any, is being assessed. He confirmed that these groups have come to this Council in previous years around Annual Plan time to encourage Council in regard to funding for monitoring and other activities on these lakes. He advised that the communication needs to be around the technical information collected.

Cr Scott confirmed that ORC are proposing to approach Biosecurity NZ to establish if lake snow is a non native, invasive species, or not. He confirmed that MPI have been informed and that ORC is taking the lead on DNA testing on this.

Moved Cr Robertson  
Seconded Cr Deaker

*That this report be received and noted.*

**Motion Carried**

Item 4

2016/0981 **Director's Report on Progress.** DEHS, 19/8/16

Topics covered in the report: Leith Flood Protection Scheme; South Dunedin groundwater monitoring and flood hazard system investigation; Green Island sea level monitoring site; Shotover Delta training line and target profile; Clutha bioenergetics and instream habitat modelling.

Dr Palmer confirmed that the Green Island ground level monitoring GNSS has now been installed and is operational.

Moved Cr Croot  
Seconded Cr Shepherd

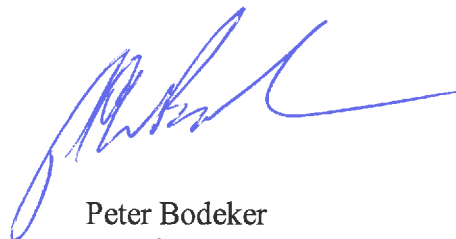
*That this report is noted.*

**Motion Carried**

*Cr Scott as Chair advised he wished to take the opportunity to thank Dr Palmer and his science and engineering staff for all work they do, it is important and appreciated.*

The meeting closed at 12:23pm

**Chairperson**



Peter Bodeker  
**Chief Executive**