

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 23 November 2016, commencing at 1:49pm

**Membership:**

- Cr Michael Deaker (Chairperson)
- Cr Carmen Hope (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Michael Laws
- Cr Maggie Lawton
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Andrew Noone
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

**Apologies:** No apologies received.

**Leave of absence:** No leave of absence recorded.

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker
- Nick Donnelly
- Gavin Palmer
- Caroline Rowe
- Fraser McRae
- Scott MacLean
- Lauren McDonald (minute taker)
- Lisa Minhinnick

#### **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was confirmed.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest noted.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No public forum.

## **PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Item 1

2016/1140 **Terms of Reference for the Communications Committee** DSE, 8/11/16

The report provided the Terms of Reference (TOR) for consideration and recommendation to Council.

#### Public information and education strategies

A question was raised if Enviroschools should be included in the Terms of Reference.

Mrs Rowe advised that activities of Enviroschools would be reported to Council but that it was not Council's own programme, and that Council act as a co-ordinator to the national Enviroschools programme.

It was agreed to include in the TOR the reporting on the Enviroschools programme activities to be provided to the Communication Committee.

*A motion was not placed for this report.*

## **PART B - FOR NOTING**

### Item 2

2016/1108 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 8/11/16

The report provided an update on community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff for the period 20 August to 4 November 2016

The report included a list of upcoming events involving the Stakeholder Engagement directorate, as at 8 November 2016.

Cr Deaker congratulated Mrs Rowe and her staff for the quality and detail of the report.

A request was made for future reports on water quality to include the breadth of activities being undertaken, the progress being made on targets and attendance numbers at workshops, forums, presentations held etc.

A question was asked in relation to the public meetings and workshops held, if there was a mechanism in place to monitor the impact of this work and what affect it has on people behaviour.

Mrs Rowe confirmed that a communications plan is completed on a project by project basis and that in regard to rural water quality a high level monitoring communication plan would be brought to the Council workshop on 7 December. This would form part of discussions on the activities to be undertaken in the Annual Plan.

Mrs Rowe also advised that a high level of awareness has been achieved through the survey and this was now being adapted to focus on understanding and actions taken, this will be completed on an annual basis,

Minimum Flow – Manuherikia integrated catchment management

A question was raised if the consultation meetings were on-going as this was seen as an important programme for Council.

Mrs Rowe advised a communications plan is in place in support of the Policy team and that the next set of consultation meetings were scheduled for February 2017.

Mr McRae confirmed that the policy team were currently working through the findings from previous consultations, connecting this with the science which has been reported through to Council, to identify the options, review them and then take this to the next round of consultation meetings.

A question was asked on what was the next stage of communications for natural hazards in South Dunedin.

Mrs Rowe advised that there were several phases of communications planned, including community resilience activities. These discussions had commenced with the stakeholder groups, i.e. support agencies, including the Civil Defence staff.

Dr Palmer advised that the DCC were taking some external advice on community engagement and that he would be attending a planning session on Friday 25 November, to discuss the next collaborative steps.

A question was raised on what initiatives were underway in support of the science and public interest in the Otago lakes.

Mrs Rowe advised that there were two meetings planned in collaboration with QLDC, one on 14 December for the public and on 28 November with the hotel industry. ORC and QLDC to speak about lake quality monitoring, on what is known to date and QLDC to speak about management issues and how to deal with the problems.

Mrs Rowe confirmed there was also planning underway for a family focussed interactive day in Wanaka and possibly Wakatipu in early 2017, led by Catchments Otago for an interactive “Lab in a Box” mobile laboratory session to explore the science around the lakes.

A question was raised if there were any similar public events, awareness campaigns being planned for the Central Otago district area as well.

Mrs Rowe advised there were no additional activities planned for Lake Dunstan but promotional work was in place for the recreational and water quality monitoring taking place over the summer months. She confirmed that the issue of lake snow would be addressed at the meetings on 28 November and 14 December 2016. She clarified that the planned events for Wanaka and Wakatipu were initiated by Catchments Otago, with ORC working in partnership to deliver these events. If the events were proven successful, these would be looked at to extend out to other lakes in the future. She confirmed that she could raise the issue of holding an event for Lake Dunstan with Catchments Otago.

Mr Bodeker confirmed the importance of partnership work with the TLAs and other agencies to communicate the message in regard to recreational water quality.

A request was made for the date, time and location of meetings to be added to the Councillors’ calendars.

Discussion was held in regard to councillor attendance of meetings and events and the requirements for receipt of information on activities being held in the region, including events not being led by ORC.

Moved Cr Noone  
Seconded Cr Kempton

*That a schedule of activities be provided to councillors indicating where there is an open invitation to attend, including the details of venue and time. Activities not on the schedule of activities are to be consulted on with the Chief Executive, on a case by case basis.*

Further discussion was held and an amendment to the motion made.

Moved Cr Neill  
Seconded Cr Robertson

*A schedule of activities be provided and indicate where councillors have an open invitation to attend and include the details of venue and time.*

**Motion carried.**

Moved Cr Bell  
Seconded Cr Hope

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

## **PART C NOTICE OF MOTION**

Item 3 Moved Cr Laws, seconded Cr Lawton

*“Recommendations to the Communications Committee that:*

*1. That ALL Otago Regional Council-controlled or generated meetings, within the wards of elected member be advised to those members, as both a courtesy and to improve ORC’s communications strategy;*

*2. That, prior to announcement, all elected members be informed of any decisions or pronouncements by the chairman, deputy chairman or chief executive – especially those elected members within the ward to which the announcements/decisions directly apply.”*

It was agreed that the first point of the Notice of Motion had been addressed in the previous motion from Crs Neill and Robertson, and resolved.

Discussion was held on part two of the Notice of Motion and an amendment to the wording of the motion was made to include the word “public” in regard to the definition of the types of meetings in recommendation 1.

A comment was made that the motion was effectively the existing policy in place.

Moved Cr Laws  
Seconded Cr Lawton

*That:*

- 1. That all Otago Regional Council-controlled or generated public meetings, within the wards of elected member be advised to those members, as both a courtesy and to improve ORC's communications strategy;*
- 2. That, prior to announcement, all elected members be informed of any decisions or pronouncements by the chairman, deputy chairman or chief executive – especially those elected members within the ward to which the announcements/decisions directly apply.*

**Motion Carried**

The meeting was declared closed at 2:51pm.

*Michael Deaker*

*8.2.17*

Chairperson