

Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held in The Boeing Room, Classic Flyers NZ, 9 Jean Batten Drive, Tauranga Airport on Tuesday, 22 November 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: R Bennett

Deputy Chairman: P Sherry

Councillors: T Marr, M Whitaker, J Nees, T Eru, L Thurston, P Thompson

In Attendance: G Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), W Murray (Group Manager Land Management), K Maki (Sustainable Development Manager), D Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager), R Skelton (Manager Land Resources (Western)), A Elbo (Policy Analyst), E Farquhar (Planner), R Feist (Senior Planner), J Noble (Senior Consents Officer), J Whale (Consultant), G Willis (Consultant), B Campbell (Community Relations Manager), S Mahupuku (Consents Officer), J Owen (Planning Administration Officer), S Kameta (Committee Administration Officer)

Apologies: Council Chairman J Cronin and Councillor I Noble

Absent: Councillor N Oppatt

1 Reports

1.1 Review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan

Jo Noble (Senior Consents Officer) and David Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager) presented the report providing an overview of the scope and scale of the upcoming review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan. Following the review process outlined in section 5 of the report, staff will report back to the Committee their findings and recommended changes to the plan.

Committee members asked for clarification on several matters and asked that the excavation of culverts in the coastal marine area be looked at as well as restoration which had not been addressed, and for consideration to be given to matters raised in submissions received on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan.**

- 2 **Notes that a comprehensive overhaul of the operative Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Environment Plan is likely to be required.**
- 3 **Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

**Bennett/Marr
CARRIED**

1.2 **Proposed Scope for the Review of the Policy on Regional Parks**

Refer to Publication, 'Policy on Regional Parks (November 2003)'.

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) and Anders Elbo (Policy Analyst) presented the report seeking the Committee's approval of a proposed scope for a review of the policy on regional parks. Ms Maki provided a brief explanation of the proposed process and its intent to identify gaps between current policy and the desired strategic direction of Council.

Councillors noted their desire to hold a workshop to review and further discuss the issues in more detail and requested a stocktake be undertaken of all open spaces (public estate) within the region prior to the workshop.

Ms Maki noted that a solid base of information was currently being collected to inform decisions on the wetland policy.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, 'Proposed Scope for the Review of the Policy on Regional Parks'.**
- 2 **Approves the proposed scope and process for the review of the Policy on Regional Parks.**
- 3 **Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

**Bennett/Sherry
CARRIED**

1.3 **Papamoa Hills Regional Park Ten Year Plan Budget**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation (Objective ID A1006599).

Warwick Murray (Group Manager Land Management) and Robyn Skelton (Manager Land Resources (Western)) provided a presentation of the Ten Year Plan financial forecast for the Pāpāmoa Hills Regional Park. They also provided information to the Committee for Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park. The overview provided background

for the previous report outlining the maintenance programme and costs associated with both parks.

Clarification was provided to the Committee on several matters including community engagement programmes and models, and managing costs and works effectively and appropriately. Councillors enquired about registering for the carbon credit scheme. Mr Murray advised there had been insufficient planting to justify registering for the scheme but would pursue this as a possibility.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Papamoa Hills Regional Park Ten Year Plan Budget.**

**Bennett/Thurston
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.38 a.m. and reconvened at 10.55 a.m.

1.4 **Healthy Homes Rates Rebate Investigation for the Bay of Plenty Region**

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) presented the report seeking a decision in principle to establish rates remission to assist low-income ratepayers take up the Healthy Homes Targeted Rate for insulation and/or clean heat installations. Ms Maki summarised the previous decisions made by the Committee and advised members that the scheme would service up to 1,000 loans to run in conjunction with the Government funded scheme.

Councillors discussed and debated the impacts and benefits of the proposed rates remission. Whilst a number of members supported the scheme, equal concern was raised in opposition to it. Issues that were raised against it included the need to minimise and prioritise increases to the budget, the current state of the economic climate and impacts on rates should Government policy change going forward following the National elections.

Ms Maki advised Committee members that at this stage a decision would only be in-principle and would still need to be considered through the Ten Year Plan process or through a special consultation process if it fell outside that timeframe. Because of the concerns that had been expressed, Councillors agreed to defer the matter so that it could be considered by the full Council.

MOTION

Moved: Thompson

Seconded: Whitaker

That the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Regional Council for consideration.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Defers the report, '*Healthy Homes Rates Rebate Investigation for the Bay of Plenty Region*' to the next meeting of the Regional Council for consideration.
- 2 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).

Thompson/Whitaker
CARRIED

1.5 Draft Plan Change 2 (Maintenance Zones) to the On-site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan

David Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager) and John Whale (Consultant) presented the report seeking approval to consult on a draft plan change. The draft plan change aligned with previous direction from the Committee on key matters identified during the June workshop. Mr Phizacklea noted that two summers of monitoring were required to assess whether the potential new maintenance zones would be necessary.

The Committee Chair noted that there was a high amount of consultation currently programmed across Council that needed to be carefully managed and coordinated.

Councillors sought clarification on several matters including maintenance zone map revisions, issues with holiday home advanced systems and future plans for reticulation at Te Teko. Eddie Grogan (Group Manager Water Management) advised that it was likely that reticulation at Te Teko would be included as part of the Edgecumbe sewage ponds upgrade and that the district council were scheduling meetings with the community with regard to this matter. Members also queried monitoring reticulated schemes and impacts on rates.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Draft Plan Change 2 (Maintenance Zones) to the On-site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan.
- 2 Approves Draft Plan Change 2 (Maintenance Zones) to the Operative On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan 2006 for consultation with affected parties.
- 3 Notes that following consultation, a proposed plan change will be presented back to the Committee for consideration to publicly notify.
- 4 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).

Whitaker/Thurston
CARRIED

1.6 Minor Plan Change to amend Ecological Flow Methodology

Ruth Feist (Senior Planner) and David Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager) presented the report seeking approval to draft a plan change, to amend the ecological flow component of the Instream Minimum Flow Requirement methodology in Method 177(a) and Method 178 of the Regional Water and Land Plan. Ms Feist provided an overview of the issues that had been identified and the recommended approach that provided for varying ecology flows and protection levels of native species found across the region.

Timeframes on analysis was estimated at two years, with budget dovetailing with the water allocation plan change process to minimise costs. Staff clarified that the monitoring costs were included in science budget and that the amendments would relate to providing better limits on water allocation.

Mr Phizacklea noted for the Committee's consideration, that the decision to be made on the preferred process for preparing the draft plan change also be used for the water allocation plan change process.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Minor Plan Change to Amend Ecological Flow Methodology.**
- 2 Agrees to develop a plan change to amend the Instream Minimum Flow Requirements methodology in the operative Bay of Plenty Regional Water and Land Plan in accordance with Section 4.1 of this report, and include Instream Minimum Flow Requirements for streams and rivers in Schedule 7 of the Plan as determined by the amended methodology.**
- 3 Confirms its preferred process for the plan change as:
 - (b) Statutory Minimum – preparation of a proposed plan change and section 32 evaluation report for Council approval.****
- 4 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

Nees/Thompson
CARRIED

1.7 Plan change for water allocation - issues and options

Refer PowerPoint presentation (Objective ID A1006600).

David Phizacklea (Planning Frameworks Manager), Glenys Kroon (Planner) and Gerard Willis (Director, Enfocus Consultants) provided a presentation of the key issues and options that required direction from the Committee to progress preparing a draft plan change on water allocation.

Ms Kroon noted the difficulties of allocating water within the consent process and provided a range of options and recommendations. The Committee discussed and received clarification on some of the key issues and options as follows:

- Science data and modelling had determined that fifty per cent of the annual recharge of groundwater could be allocated.
- The use of a second tier to allocate surface water would vary with each stream taking into account wet and dry seasons. This option would require a high level of management with tiers 1 and 2 assessed by criteria. For existing consents transitioning to the new system, staff would need to look at reducing some historical allocations. Costs of telemetering and the advantages of eliminating compliance visits and monitoring was noted.
- Councillors agreed that establishing priorities for consent processing needed to ensure municipal supply as first priority, be able to verify separate uses, manage transfers fairly and have consideration of future innovations.
- Staff noted that restricting access to water during low flow events would require a system to measure instream flows.
- Staff advised there was no clear evidence of any existing impacts with the current provisions of managing non-consented water allocation however clarification was needed with regard to drinking water for stock.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, “Plan change for water allocation - issues and options”.**
- 2 Notes that staff will prepare a Proposed Plan Change to report back to the Committee for approval following consultation with Territorial Authorities, Iwi Authorities and key stakeholders.**
- 3 Confirms its preferred option for the trade-off between the level of allocation of surface water and reliability of that allocation as:**
 - **Option 1: Continue with current level of allocation and reliability but add a second tier of water allocation that will be subject to more frequent restrictions.**

**Bennett/Thompson
CARRIED**

- 4 Confirms its preferred option for establishing priority for consent processing as:**
 - **Option 1: Establish criteria for assessment; AND**
 - **Option 4: Facilitate consent transfer.**

**Thompson/Bennett
CARRIED**

- 5 Confirms its preferred option for placing restrictions on access to water during low flow events as:**

- **Option 1: Determine priority of access and enable restrictions before minimum flow is reached.**

**Bennett/Thompson
CARRIED**

6 Confirms its preferred option for managing non-consented water allocation as:

- **Option 1: Retain current permitted allocation provisions of 15m³/day surface water and/or 35m³/day groundwater, clarifying that this includes water used as part of s(14)(3)(b);**

AND

- **Option 5: Provide additional provision for short term higher volume takes.**

7 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).

**Bennett/Marr
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

1.8 Committee Discussion Document on Sewerage Assistance to Low Income Homeowners

Refer PowerPoint Presentation (Objective ID A1006598).

Kataraina Maki (Sustainable Development Manager) and Anders Elbo (Policy Analyst) provided a presentation on the findings and options outlined within the discussion document for providing assistance towards sewage treatment costs to low-income households in maintenance zones. Direction was sought from the Committee on next steps to identify Council's role in providing assistance to those in genuine hardship. Staff noted that a high proportion of low-income households in the maintenance zones were affected by higher than average targeted rates and that the policy intent was to give assistance to the householder as opposed to landlords.

Councillors discussed the issues and options. It was noted that Council's policies had impacted on communities that may not have necessarily exacerbated the issues. Data also showed that initial contributions that had been previously provided to reticulated schemes had not significantly reduced rates therefore capital funding may not be the full solution.

Staff sought advice from the Committee on their preference of Scheme Options. Options 2b and 3 were noted as being preferred. The Committee requested further analysis on environmental impacts and on-going operational and capital costs and noted that the policy would need to deal with double-dipping at the territorial and individual household level.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, '*Committee Discussion Document on Sewerage Assistance to Low Income Homeowners*'.
- 2 Direct staff to develop a draft policy and implementation scheme for sewerage assistance to low income homeowners.
- 3 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).

Bennett/Sherry
CARRIED

1.9 Bay of Plenty 2011: Regional Trends

The Bay of Plenty 2011: Regional Trends was an internal report that provided a step towards the development of a sustainable development framework. It provided an overview with high level indicators of how well the region was achieving its long term goals and outcomes.

The Committee commended staff on a well written document, noting that it had been long awaited.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, '*Bay of Plenty 2011: Regional Trends*'.

Bennett/Nees
CARRIED

2 Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

2.1 Update on District Plans and District Plan Appeals

Reason

Disclosing the information may constitute contempt of Court.

Grounds

Disclosing the information may prejudice the maintenance of the law.

**Bennett/Sherry
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 2.11 p.m.