

Minutes of the Environmental Enhancement Fund Subcommittee Meeting held in The Meeting Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 6 Rata Street, Mount Maunganui on Thursday, 17 February 2011 commencing at 10.39 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: I Noble

Councillors: R Bennett, P Sherry, M Whitaker

In Attendance: Councillor N Oppatt, B Campbell (Community Relations Manager), K Gosling (Education Team Leader), S Hohepa (Environmental Enhancement Fund Officer), D Pooley (Biosecurity Officer), A Butler (Community Relations Officer), L Butt (Governance Team Leader)

Apologies: Nil

4 **Announcement**

It is noted for the record that EEF Subcommittee member Councillor Neil Oppatt participated in the meeting by way of teleconference. With leave of the Subcommittee Chair, Councillor Oppatt took part in the meeting discussion, but did not vote.

As this was the first EEF Subcommittee meeting of the triennium, staff in attendance introduced themselves to the Subcommittee, and explained their roles.

5 **Report**

5.1 **Environmental Enhancement Fund Policy Review**

2.1.1 **Environmental Enhancement Fund Policy March 2010**

The Subcommittee deliberated the policy and sought clarification throughout its discussions.

In respect of the policy section 'Project eligibility', the Subcommittee agreed the policy be amended to allow for some flexibility for skilled staff to be able to use their expertise and judgement to determine and justify labour and plant costs.

It was recommended that the fourth paragraph of '1.1 Aspects of projects that we will fund' be amended to read: *"As a guide plants priced in the range of \$2.50 to \$4.00 per plant (native plants only) can be applied for. It is accepted that some projects may require more expensive plants."*

It was recommended that the fifth paragraph of '1.1 Aspects of projects that we will fund, Labour Costs' be amended to read: "Consultant/Project coordinator who will engage the community and ensure project viability - costs for this labour will only be up to 10 percent of the total approved funding. However project consultant/coordinator cost applications in excess of 10 percent will be considered on a needs assessed basis."

In respect of the policy section, 'Protecting the Fund's investment', the Subcommittee considered all unallocated funds be monitored and that the policy clearly explains that all unallocated funds are carried forward to the next financial year.

It was recommended that the first paragraph of 'Protecting the Fund's investment' be amended to read: "*Each year as part of Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Annual Plan process, Council will determine the amount, if any, that will be budgeted for the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF). It is set at \$300,000 annually in our Ten Year Plan 2009-2019. All unallocated funds will be carried forward to the next financial year.*"

2.1.1 He Matapuna Akoranga a Hawea Vercoe (Hawea Vercoe Commemoration Fund)

The Subcommittee noted that grants funded through the '*He Matapuna Akoranga a Hawea Vercoe*' would be decided by the EEF Subcommittee, and its decisions will be forwarded to the relevant Maori community.

Resolved

That the Environmental Enhancement Fund Subcommittee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, 'Environmental Enhancement Fund Policy Review'.**
- 2 Confirms that the significance of the decision has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in light of the level of significance of the decision it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

That the Environmental Enhancement Fund Subcommittee recommend to the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee that it:

- 3 Approves the amended 'Environmental Enhancement Fund Policy February 2011', and forwards a recommendation to the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee to adopt the 'Environmental Enhancement Fund Policy February 2011'.**

**Noble/Bennett
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.19 pm