



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.634

7 August 2001

File: E/6/18/2

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Tuesday, 7 August 2001 at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Buchanan, (Chairperson), Gibson, Macaskill, McDavitt, Shields and Turver and Mr Morrison and Ms Duncan

Also Present

Councillors Thomas and Shaw

Officers Present

Messrs Cutler, Darroch, Pryce, Skene, Van Schalkwyk and Waddy, Dr Bradbury and Ms McLachlan

Welcome

Councillor Buchanan welcomed Ms Duncan, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to her first meeting as replacement for Mr Earl.

Councillor Buchanan also welcomed the group of trainee reporters from Massey University.

Councillor Buchanan noted that Mr C Harrington from the TV1 Assignment programme will be present during the meeting for the item about the Council's Agent Orange investigation.

Public Business

Procedural Items

E 402 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Buchanan/Cr McDavitt)

That the apology from Councillor Allen be confirmed.

E 403 **Public Participation**

Mr P Thomas, Resource Management Consultant, Environmental Management Services Ltd.

Mr Thomas said he wished to talk to members at today's meeting as a representative and advisor to five joint appellants to the Council decisions not to grant new resource consents extending the previous three year consents for a maximum number of 35 overnight stays per annum in five specific boat sheds.

The boat sheds were at Cambourne.

Mr Thomas said that the Environment Committee had given specific instructions to officers that there was not to be any mediation or discussion with the appellants over the matter while it was before the Environmental Court.

Mr Thomas said that he would like to take today's opportunity to put directly before the committee some specific proposals for consideration in relation to addressing the reasons why the applications were refused.

A copy of Mr Thomas' oral submission was circulated.

Following questions, Councillor Buchanan thanked Mr Thomas for his representations and said officers would report to the next Environment Committee meeting on 13 September 2001 taking account of the comments made during today's meeting.

E 404 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Gibson)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2001, Report 01.446, be confirmed.

Harbour Matters

There are no Harbour matters for consideration.

Civil Defence Matters

Matters for Information

E 405 **Six Monthly Activity Report**

Report 01.529

File: Z/1/2/1

Ms Duncan said that the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill was due for a second reading in the House of Representatives. The proposed new regulations were currently with Local Government New Zealand for comment. Ms Duncan said that she was an Emergency Management advisor with responsibility for Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne and Wellington and said she was looking forward to the interchange with the various Emergency Management managers in these areas.

Resolved

(Cr Turver./Cr Gibson.)

That the report be received and the information noted.

Environmental Matters

Matter for Information

E 406 **Agent Orange Investigation**

Report 01.528

File: K/9/3/16

Mr Strong, Section Leader, Resource Quality, summarised his Report 01.528 and said that so far his team had not been able to substantiate any of the claims being made about unwanted drums of toxic Agent Orange chemicals being dumped at different sites at the ICI New Zealand's manufacturing site at Seaview, Lower Hutt.

Results have not yet been released for the Wingate Landfall site. Research had found no record of dumping in Cook Strait or Pauatahanui Inlet.

Mr Strong said any chemicals discharged at the site would have seeped down into groundwater by now. Monitoring of groundwater wells at the site had shown no contamination.

Mr Strong said it was not clear whether Agent Orange itself was blended in New Zealand or overseas.

The Council would continue to investigate the issue.

Mr Strong concluded that the Regional Council has been trying to get information out of the public and the Council is concerned to ensure that any materials that may still be out there are located as soon as possible.

Following questions it was resolved as follows:

Resolved (Cr Turver/Cr McDavitt)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 407 **Delegation of Resource Management Act 1991 Functions to Hearing Commissioners**

Report 01.564

File: WGN010151

Resolved (Cr McDavitt/Cr Gibson)

That pursuant to section 34(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environment Committee, acting under authority delegated by the Wellington Regional Council under section 34(1) of that Act, appoints:

- *Richard Fowler*

To jointly hear and consider resource consent applications WGN010151 received by the Wellington Regional Council from Transit New Zealand, the submissions on those applications, and make a decision on those resource consent applications under sections 102, 104, and 105 of that Act.

E 408 **The Opportunities for Increased Use of Indigenous Plant Species in River Control Work**

Report 01.557

File: ENV/12/7/3

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Macaskill)

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That trials involving the use of native species in “front line defence” situations be established.*
- (3) *That the decision be referred to the Policy and Finance Committee for information and comment.*

E 409 **Regional Council Submission to the Oceans Policy Group on Oceans Policy: Values and Vision**

Report 01.560

File: ENV/13/7/1

Councillor Buchanan said that government had set up an Oceans Policy Group to examine the marine environment. The Policy Group, lead by Dame Cath Tizard, was presently consulting widely with the public on the development of a National Ocean's Policy. Councillor Buchanan said that the Regional Council had been requested to support this group and he was presently chairing public meetings in the Wellington region. The group's task is to identify the goals and principles important to managing the marine environment.

Councillor Buchanan noted that members had already discussed these matters in a workshop earlier in the year.

Resolved (Cr Gibson/Cr Macaskill)

That the Draft Submission be adopted.

E 410 **Regional Policy Statement Implementation 2000/2001**

Report 01.567

File: X/8/3/1

Mr Skene, Manager Environment Co-ordination noted that the report on the Council's implementation of the Regional Policy Statement for 2000/2001 should include a reference to the Otaki Friends of the River.

Resolved (Cr Gibson/Cr Turver)

That the Report be accepted as evidence of the Council's implementation of its regional Policy Statement for 2000/2001.

E 411 **Effects of Urban Stormwater in the Wellington Region: a Synthesis of Existing Information**

Report 01.527

File: ENV/5/1/8

Councillor Buchanan noted that the long-term financial strategy had included a reference to scoping the extent of the problem concerning the effects of urban storm-water in the Wellington region. This was the first report about the subject.

Following receipt of the report officers will now proceed to have meetings with territorial authorities within the region to devise ways to improve the impacts of storm-water discharges in many parts of the region.

Resolved (Cr McDavitt/Cr Buchanan)

That the report be received and the future action be endorsed.

Matters for Information

E 412 Divisional Manager's Report

Report 01.540

File: E/6/18/3

Councillor Shaw arrived at 11.50am.

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Gibson)

- (1) *That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Departmental Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.*
- (2) *That Council request government to review the specifications for sulphur levels in diesel.*

E 413 Proposed Hazardous Waste Collection Strategy

Report 01.506

File: ENV 4/2/1

Resolved (Cr Macaskill/Cr Buchanan)

That the report be received and the contents noted

E 414 Instream Habitat Assessment for the Lower Reaches of the Hutt River

Report 01.505

File: K/8/15/4

Resolved (Cr Turver/Cr McDavitt)

That the report be received and its contents noted.

E 415 Review of the Minimum Operating Level for the Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer

Report 01.504

File: K/8/5/4

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Turver)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 416 Waiwhetu Stream Sediment Investigation

Report 01.508

File: ENV 4/3/1

Resolved (Cr Gibson/Cr McDavitt)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 417 **Decisions on Non-notified Resource Consent Application
Report 01.510**

File: K/3/6/12

Resolved (Cr Turver/Cr Buchanan)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 418 **Incident Response Report**

Report 01.509

File: K/4/6/1

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Macaskill)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

E 419 **Regional Council Input to District Planning**

Report 01.550

File: X/25/1/1

Transmission Gully

Mr Morrison commented on the memorandum from Dr Bradbury dated 22 June 2001 to Councillor Gibson which had been copied to all Councillors about early planting for Transmission Gully.

Mr Morrison noted that the Porirua City Council was also an interested party to a change in the conditions relating to the designation process for the tree-planting at Transmission Gully. Mr Morrison also had other comments about the memorandum.

Councillor Buchanan said it would be timely to have a further report on matters relating to Transmission Gully for the next meeting of the Environment Committee on 13 September 2001.

Resolved (Cr Buchanan/Cr Gibson)

That the report be received and the information noted.

Other Matters

E 420 **Questions – Councillor Gibson**

Report 01.539

File: E/6/18/3

Resolved (Cr Gibson/Cr Buchanan)

That the report be received and the information noted.

E 421 **General**

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm.

CR IM BUCHANAN
Chairperson

Date: