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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
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Divisional Managers' Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the Committee's previous meeting held on 11 August 2006.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

4.1 Geoff Dick – Catchment Management

Manager appointment

I am pleased to advise that I have appointed Stephen Hill to the role of Manager, Support Services. Stephen was formerly the Divisional Accountant and his new position will incorporate all the financial reporting and transactions for the Division, plus responsibilities for Masterton office and Technical Services.

Applications for the Manager, Flood Protection have closed and interviews will take place shortly.

BioWorks management team

I have taken some time to consider the BioWorks 2005/06 result, internal communication and management issues, and the ongoing reporting of BioWorks performance. These issues have been discussed with the Chief Executive.

We have decided to put in place a “BioWorks management team” which will meet monthly. Agenda items will include monthly reports from both BioWorks and the Vector Manager on work being progressed, performance targets and financial matters. The management team will also consider such items as the job monitoring systems, areas for improved efficiencies and customer satisfaction.

We have established a new monthly report format for BioWorks which includes a number of KPI's (key performance indicators) including strata passed on first monitor, strata completed by the original interim completion date and meeting monthly vector manager progress report requirements.

The first meeting will be held shortly to consider the 2005/06 year end report and the report for the period ending August 2006. A summary report will then be provided for the next Committee meeting, focussing on performance year to date and management improvements implemented.

Communications – Catriona Robertson

There have been several community-based events which have resulted in good media coverage over the past month.

Children from St Teresa's School in Featherston took part in the inaugural planting at Tauherenikau Bush on Monday 7 August. The day was planned to coincide with Conservation Week. The school has taken ownership of a piece of land in the bush block as part of an ongoing educational programme. Adverse weather on the day shortened the planting but we are planning a follow-up/celebration day on site during term four.

A Honda TreeFund community planting day was held at Mauriceville on Thursday 31 August. 1000 native trees were planted, transforming the southern entrance to the village and creating an environmental reserve in the central village area.

The winners of the 2006 BFEA Lifestyle Farm/Small Block Award hosted a field day on their award-winning farm near Carterton on Sunday 10 September.

A large part of my work focused on the production of public information material for the Hutt Valley and Moores Valley Bovine Tb vector control operation. This was distributed to approximately 9000 residents in the operational area.

I've spent quite a bit of time publishing material on our website and highlighting key Catchment Division initiatives - you'll find feature links on our homepage which take you directly to the RPMS review consultation material and online

submission form, key information on the Hutt Valley and Moores Valley operation and a link to the Akura Conservation Centre.

I'm currently working on the September/October issue of the Rural Services Newsletter (publication of this has been delayed due to other work priorities), a South Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme newsletter, a farm plan feature for the Annual Report summary and rook control media work.

4.3 Nigel Corry – Environment Management

Manager Appointments

I am pleased to advise that I have now appointed Ted Taylor to the position of Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigation, and Alistair Cross as Manager, Environmental Regulation. Both Ted and Al have been operating in Acting capacities over the last few months in these positions, and have considerable experience with Wairarapa issues and the Wairarapa community. These experiences will hold them in good stead with the challenges ahead in their Departments. While Ted will spread his time between staff in both the Wellington and Wairarapa offices, he will be permanently based out of the Wairarapa. I am pleased that this outcome allows for a management presence for the Environment Management Division to be based in the Wairarapa office.

Dangerous Dams Policy

At the time of preparing this report, hearings on the Draft Dangerous Dams Policy were about to occur. We had 5 submissions on our Draft Policy, and a subcommittee of Councillors Long and Kirton were scheduled to hear and decide on these submissions on Friday 8 September. I will provide an update on the outcome of these deliberations at our meeting.

4.4 Murray Kennedy – Water Supply, Parks & Forests

Forestry Manager's Report - Barry Leonard

Tauanui Logging

1600 tonnes were produced during August generating a net return of \$31.48 per tonne.

Improving weather conditions and drying ground saw the remainder of the 1970 stand harvested and windthrow from the July storms tidied up. Cartage was steady with no hold ups due to the condition of the road.

After initially serving notice of his intention to quit the logging contractor has reconsidered his options and is now renegotiating rates to continue at Tauanui. A hauler operator will be harvesting those areas not suitable for ground based operations.

Based on these operations, the harvesting and marketing agent has produced a logging plan for the rest of this year and a tentative plan for 2007/08.

Silviculture

8.5 hectares of High Pruning were completed in Hiwinui. Thinning of regeneration has continued in Hiwinui and Tauanui.

Rural Fire

Fine, warm, windy weather resulted in three vegetation wildfires on the first weekend of September with those responsible being caught out by the wind developing suddenly in the afternoon. Significant fires have occurred in the South Island over the last few weeks with landowners losing control of vegetation fires.

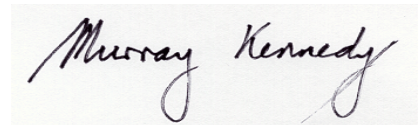
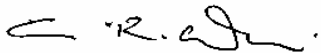
Early indications are of El Nino conditions developing during the summer. As a result, rural fire managers are preparing for a potentially difficult summer.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:



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Attachments 1, 2: