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Committee Council  
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## Report of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 12 May 2009

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting that took place at the Regional Council Centre on 12 May 2009.

### 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. Climate change response update

Jane Bradbury spoke to the paper which described progress to date with the preparation of a regional climate change response plan together with a timeline for delivery of the plan. She emphasised that the plan would incorporate emissions reduction and adaptation issues. There was discussion on whether the setting of emission reduction targets was appropriate for the region, given the role of central government in the achievement of targets. However, the setting of targets is part of the CCP-NZ programme of which Greater Wellington is currently a member.

It was pointed out that to ensure the implementation of the plan, the Working Group's intention was for a draft plan to be produced for councils for discussion as part of their annual planning round for 2010/11. The Committee was of the view that we need to demystify climate change and better inform the community much earlier than provided for in the timeline. The Committee asked the Working Group to prepare a community engagement strategy for the climate change response plan.

#### **4. Divisional Manager's report**

Murray Kennedy reported that the corporate pandemic plan had been reviewed and updated almost immediately before the recent swine flu outbreak in Mexico, and subsequent pandemic concern that followed. In addition he commented that there is an opportunity to accommodate staff engaged in the water supply business at one location. The committee will be kept updated of developments.

The Stuart Macaskill Lakes were engineered and built to a 1980 standard and the lakes comply with the comprehensive safety review (carried out last year) which is part of a regular five year review of dam safety. Mr Kennedy reported that there is now a concern that the upper levels of the embankment and lake lining do not meet today's earthquake standard and the new dam safety legislation. We are in the process of identifying and costing the remedial work that needs to be done. As a consequence the LTCCP capital expenditure programme will need to be adjusted. In response to a query Mr Kennedy advised such work is being developed separate to the raising of the lakes project. However, there are significant economies to be had from undertaking both projects concurrently.

Murray Waititi advised that the Park Network Strategy public meetings are underway, and although attendance levels are lower than expected, some good information has been gathered. Mention was made of the 1080 possum operation planned at the Hutt water catchment area and areas adjacent in May. A communication plan and accompanying information will be delivered to the community in advance of this taking place.

Chris Laidlow updated the Committee on the water supply business activities. Management systems have been the focus of the past two–three months with the new SAP asset management system planned to be rolled out in a few months time.

#### **5. Regional Outdoors Programme 2009**

Andy Nelson presented a summary of the Regional outdoors programme. He reported that the number of people who participated in the programme was up slightly on last year, with 1,749 more people at events this year over last year (an increase of 11%). This is an impressive result particularly as five events were cancelled because of poor weather conditions.

The surveys conducted after the events produced some interesting results. The overall satisfaction rating by participants was high at 4.75 (out of 5) with some 30% indicating that it was the first time that they had attended an event. In addition, around 50% of the people surveyed had heard about an event through word of mouth or by a mail drop. Surprisingly, these forms of promotion had a greater reach than radio advertising.

The programme, now into its ninth year, shows that the relationships developed with the region's territorial authorities, sports clubs and community groups are working well and each year a stream of new ideas is trialled.

## 6. **Proposed additions to the 2009/10 Capital Works Programme - Queen Elizabeth Park**

Councillor Laidlaw recommended, that Council is requested to change the 2009/10 Capital Works programme to accommodate some previously unbudgeted replacement works at Queen Elizabeth Park. Such work involves upgrading the farm bridge and the water supply system.

The farm bridge crosses the Whareroa Stream and forms part of the main farm access road that links Poplar Avenue to the north with MacKay's Crossing. The bridge is now closed for heavy traffic and now needs to be replaced. Presently, the quality of the Queen Elizabeth Park water supply system does not meet the Drinking-Water Standards, the reticulation system leaks, and the casing of the bore is in a poor state of repair.

## 7. **Consideration of submissions for the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan 2008**

The Committee received the written submissions and in discussion, explored some procedural issues. The Committee will deliberate on the plan at a future committee meeting.

## 8. **Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

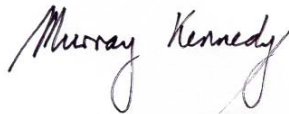
1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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