

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 11.45 AM

PRESENT:

Evan Williams (Deputy Chairman)
John O'Neill (Mayor)
Graeme Page
Graham Smith
Simon McDermott

IN ATTENDANCE:

Glen Innes (Chief Executive Officer)
Bernie Haar (Asset Manager)
Frank Ledingham (Manager – Roading) for part of the meeting
John O'Connor (Utilities Engineer) for part of the meeting
Rosemary Moran (Committee Clerk)

I APOLOGIES:

Resolved that apologies be received from Crs O'Sullivan and Pullen.

The Mayor/Graeme Page

II MINUTES:

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Operations Committee held on 4 August June 2009, including such parts as were taken with the Public Excluded, be confirmed and adopted as the correct record of the meeting.

John O'Neill /Graeme Page

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Road to the Fox Peak Skifield:

In response to a question regarding recent expenditure on road to the Fox Peak Skifield, the Asset Manager advised that approximately \$3,000 had been spent on road maintenance and a further \$1,500 on signs and edge marker posts. He said no contribution to the work from the Department of Conservation had been received to date.

2. Overweight Vehicle Permits:

The Asset Manager advised that the charge of \$29.50 for overweight permits was set by regulation. He was investigating how other local authorities managed the effects of overweight vehicles on their roads. He advised that he would be reporting in due course with recommendations on how the Council might recover the costs of repairs to roads damaged by overweight vehicles.

3. Allandale Water Supply Intake:

The Utilities Engineer updated the Committee regarding the need for improvements to be made to the intake for the Allandale water supply and the decision of the

Ashwick/Opuha Water Races Committee not to give approval for the Allandale Water Supply to supplement the Allandale infiltration gallery by taking up to 12 litres/sec from the Ashwick/Opuha Stock Water Race Control Structure.

He said an onsite meeting with the Chairman of the Allandale Water Supply Committee and Cr Williams was to be held as soon as possible with the view to achieving a solution before the demand for water increased with the onset of summer.

4. Solid Waste Education Programme:

In response to a query from Cr McDermott, the Asset Manager confirmed that the solid waste education programme had been suspended after the Education Officer had completed engagements which had been booked prior to the Council's decision.

Resolved that the solid waste education programme be suspended for a further 31 days or until such time as a review of the programme has been completed.

Simon McDermott/The Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the frustration of the Council with regard to ongoing solid waste issues. He warned against confusing activity with progress when it came to the management of solid waste and suggested that ad hoc decision making was not helping elected members or staff to clarify their view of the issues.

The Mayor referred to the need for an overall plan rather than experiments and trials and suggested the Committee consider Cr McDermott's earlier proposal that an independent review of the solid waste activity be commissioned.

III REPORTS:

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT:

This report from the Asset Manager referred to Roding, Essential Services and Solid Waste.

The meeting was adjourned 12.35 pm for lunch and reconvened at 1.10 pm.

Roding:

The Asset Manager undertook to provide a report to the Committee of the expenditure following flood damage to the Coal River Bridge.

Solid Waste

The Asset Manager advised that he initiated regular meetings with Cr Pullen and the Solid Waste Manager to work through the review of the solid waste operation. It was noted that Cr Page had also been appointed to the review team.

The Asset Manger also noted that the Twizel Community Board's had recommended that the free recycling bins trial in Mt Cook Street, Twizel, be abandoned because of local concern about the amenity value of the bins. The Committee confirmed its approval of the recommendation. It was noted that the bins were to be removed to the RRP where Twizel residents could continue to dispose of separated recyclables into the bins at no cost.

The Asset Manager said the proposal for an independent review of the solid waste activity had been discussed and he undertook to ensure that the Operations Committee

would have an opportunity provide input into the terms of reference and employment of a reviewer if the project was taken on.

V VISITORS:

The Chairman welcomed James Ryan, Principal Regional Transport Planner for Environment Canterbury, who attended to introduce the Regional Land Transport Strategy review to the Council and seek advice on key issues and consultation. Mr Ryan was accompanied by Regional Councillors Jo Kane and Mark Oldfield.

Mr Ryan delivered a power point presentation, a copy of which is attached to this record as Appendix A.

Cr Kane gave an overview of the new directions from the Land Transport Association and said that Environment Canterbury would be convening a meeting for the Timaru, Waitaki, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils to discuss them; Mark Yaxley, NZTA's Regional Director for Canterbury and West Coast would be in attendance at the meeting.

The Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer both expressed concern that the new rules effectively precluded opportunities for the Mackenzie District to gain subsidies for road works.

Cr Kane suggested that playing by the old rules would not be effective and that it was up to the Council to be innovative in applying the aims of the Regional Land Transport Strategy to local situations, viz:

- assisting economic development
- assisting safety and personal security
- improving access and mobility
- protecting and promoting public health and
- ensuring environmental sustainability

when determining their roading programmes in the future.

The Chief Executive Officer asked if the Minister's view might extend to tourism or the transport of produce to markets in meeting the first aim, ie assisting economic development?

Cr Kane noted that about \$149m remained unallocated which was available for local projects in the region.

She suggested that Council's comments on the strategy could focus on the points of difference between the larger urban councils and smaller rural authorities such as Kaikoura and Mackenzie. This would enable the Regional Council to advise the government of critical areas that should be taken into account when considering applications for subsidies.

She suggested that, for example, and with regard to footpaths and cycleways, the focus in a rural authority would not be on helping people to travel to work in a more sustainable manner, rather it would need to be about the use of walkways and cycle ways for recreation.

Mr Ryan noted that while the government had been clear about its short term funding priorities, they were likely to change over the life of Regional Land Transport strategy.

The Chairman thanked the visitors. He undertook to convey to Mr Ryan the Council's ideas as to how he might engage with Mackenzie residents in the consultation process on the Issues Discussion Document following the Timaru meeting.

The Operations Committee meeting was adjourned at 2.45pm and reconvened at 3.35 pm.

III REPORTS:

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT (Continued):

Road Maintenance Contract:

The Asset Manger said that the Opuha Ward contract had been put out for re-tender. An application had been made to the New Zealand Transport Agency for approval to allow an extra month's extension to the Whitestone, the current contractor, to enable the tender process to be completed. The Asset Manager said the response from Mark Yaxley, NZTA's Regional Director for Canterbury and West Coast, had been that he considered there could be value in extending the Whitestone contract for a further nine months to June 2010, which would enable the two ward contracts to be alighted and let as one. He had warned that technically the Council would be in breach of its agreement with NZTA if it chose to carry on with the re-tender process and that could result in the NZTA refusing to fund the subsidy portion of the physical works for the month a contract was not in place.

The Asset Manager said a telephone conference had been arranged with Mr Yaxley on 10 September 2010 to discuss the matter. He said he had also spoken with Whitestone about a possible nine months extension to the contract and Whitestone had undertaken to get back to him.

Councillors expressed the desire for the opportunity to debate the proposal that the Opuha and Pukaki Ward road maintenance contracts to be let as one.

Cr Smith left the meeting at 3.55 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.55 pm and reconvened at 4.10 pm.

III REPORTS:

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT (Continued):

Essential Services

The Asset Manager referred to the resource consent for the **Fairlie Water Supply** and asked if there were any questions.

Cr Page expressed his concern that there could be many days in a year when the conditions of the consent required Fairlie to be subject to stringent water restrictions.

Cr McDermott referred to the **essential services projects** which had been programmed for the year and suggested they be prioritised.

The Asset Manager said it would be useful to his team for the Committee to indicate its priorities. He undertook to supply for the next Operations Committee meeting a list of the projects, with details of all the issues involved, to enable the priorities to be resolved.

The Utilities Engineer referred to the **Eversley Reserve foul sewer system** and investigations in a similar project at Arowhenua. He said it was not possible to transpose that model to the Eversley situation.

The structure of the tender was discussed and the Asset Manager said it would need to be in the market place within the following six weeks.

The Utilities Manager said he would need to establish the number of connections required into the future; however he acknowledged it was not feasible for people to commit until the tenders had been received. He noted that if any septic tank systems which were leaking would not be accepted which would involve further expense for the ratepayers.

It was noted that each individual ratepayer would need to sign up for the new system. The Chief Executive Officer said that most of the community was keen to have it even though it would cost a significant sum.

The Utilities Engineer drew attention to the comments in the report on the **Burkes Pass Water** supply.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE
CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.40 PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____