

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPARA RIVER WORKING PARTY HELD ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 700PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 66 CARTERS ROAD, AMBERLEY.**

**PRESENT**

Rob Gerard (Chair), Fred Murray, Ross Little, Leigh Love, Paul Williams, Gareth Renowden, Mark Jones, Sarah Hughes-Games, Douschka Saunders, Greg Bennett, David Beer, Brent Maguire, Garry Jackson, Tony Fitzsimmonds, Julie Coster

**APOLOGIES**

Andrew Parrish, Ross Williams, Norton Hiller, Richard Gourd

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED

Little/Williams

CARRIED

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Amelia Dalley (Minutes), Helga Rigg, Chris Rhodes, Jeff Scholes

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mayor Jackson gave an overview of the Draft Canterbury Water Management Strategy which is available for public comment and discussion until 2nd October 2009. Working Party members were encouraged to read the draft strategy and make a submission.

Ms Dalley gave a brief overview of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw as it has been through a similar process that the Waipara River Working Party is currently going through and deals with much of the same issues.

**MINUTES**

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2009 AS CIRCULATED, ARE TAKEN AS READ AND NOW CONFIRMED.

Chair

CARRIED

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Ms Rigg has written a letter to the Army. It is yet to be sent.

*Action Point – Ms Rigg to send a letter to Army and the Minister for Defence*

Letter to LINZ is also yet to be sent.

*Action Point – Ms Rigg to send a letter to LINZ inviting them to be a part of the Working Party*

It was questioned whether rūnanga are still interested in the process given that they have not attended a Working Party meeting. Ms Dalley clarified that the rūnanga delegate, whom the Council deals with gives his time voluntarily and Monday nights do not suit him particularly well.

**WORKING PAPER FIVE**

**Willows**

Mr Scoles gave a presentation on willow trees in river beds. It is not a new problem. It has been recognised in the past as an issue in the Waipara River but no action has ever been

taken. It was noted that river rating districts work well in the right place. River rating districts are based on those who benefit from the work being undertaken funded by the extra rate.

Mr Scholes advised that the cheapest option to eliminate willows is through aerial spraying with Roundup®. Mr Rhodes expressed concern that if the willows in the river were cleared that the extra flow in the river could cause further flooding of Teviotdale and that the dead willows may wash up on the property.

Mr Renowden expressed his concern about the effect that willows in the upper river are having on the recharge of the aquifers.

There was further discussion on a river rating district for the river. It was noted that a significantly higher than 50% threshold of affected ratepayers would need to consent to the river rating district for Environment Canterbury to consider setting the establishment of a rating district.

The possibility of Amberley Beach residents being beneficiaries of the removal of willows was discussed as it may allow more sediment to be deposited onto Amberley Beach.

It was queried whether landowners with AMF rights should be responsible for removing willows on that part of the river that they have rights over.

Mr Rhodes expressed concern over the high cost of removing the willows. It was also noted that gravel only really moves down the river in floods. It was also suggested that pines in the upper catchment could be affecting the level of flow in the Waipara River. Cr Little suggested that it may be possible to combine pest control rates into the river rating area should it be established.

Landowners are keen to see the willows cleared from the fairway but believe that the benefits to the wider community should be considered if a river rating district is to be investigated.

*Mark Jones left 8:20pm*

It was generally agreed that gravel extractors should be encouraged to remove willows whilst undertaking gravel extraction activities in the fairway of the river. Mr Scholes explained that Environment Canterbury cannot require resource consent holders to remove willows from the river as the Resource Management Act does not allow the regional council to place that type of condition on the activity.

The Working Party thanked Mr Scholes for his presentation.

#### MOTION

THAT HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL AND ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY WORK TOGETHER TO SCOPE COSTS TO REMOVE WILLOWS FROM THE FAIRWAY WITH AN OUTLINE OF A RIVER RATING/PEST DISTRICT.

Jackson/Fitzsimmonds

CARRIED

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE WORKING PARTY ENCOURAGE CONSENT HOLDERS TO REMOVE ALL WILLOWS WITHIN THE BED OF THE RIVER WITHIN THE PROPOSED EXTRACTION AREA.

Renowden/Little

CARRIED

### **GRAVEL EXTRACTION**

Ms Rigg gave a short presentation on the topic of gravel extraction. It was noted that gravel extraction can have a number of negative effects on the health of a river. Gravel extraction may be exacerbated by the willows channelling the river energy into narrow channels. Mr Scholes advised that he would support putting recommendation five to Environment Canterbury but that recommendation six would require a significant amount of work to be undertaken and as such may not be as practical.

*Douschka Saunders left 9pm*

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMEND TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY THAT A MONITORING PROGRAMME TO RECORD RIVER BED LEVELS FOR USE IN ASSESSING BED STATUS AND CHANGES AND MINIMUM BED LEVEL TO PROTECT INFRASTRUCTURE BE COMMENCED.

Williams/Little

CARRIED

Next meeting confirmed for 12 October 2009

Meeting Closed 9:10pm