

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPARA RIVER WORKING PARTY  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2009 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS, 66 CARTERS ROAD, AMBERLEY.**

**PRESENT**

Garry Jackson, Ross Williams, Leigh Love, Mark Jones, Brent Maguire, Sarah Hughes-Games, Douschka Saunders, Rob Gerard, Paul Williams, Bryan Jensen, Andrew Parrish, Ross Little, Fred Murray, Helga Rigg

**APOLOGIES**

Greg Bennett, Norton Hiller, Chris Pansters, Gareth Renowden, Kingsley Timpson, Tony Fitzsimmonds, Jane Demeter, Jo Kane, Jake Lewis

**IN ATTENDANCE**

John Manson, David Beer, William Gardner, Richard Goord,

**MINUTES**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting held 8 December 2008 had not been circulated prior to the meeting. It was decided that the minutes would be adopted at the next meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted that Chris Pansters and Tony Fitzsimmonds do not have email access. As such, any correspondence is required to be sent to them as a hard copy. Douschka Saunders also requested that she also receive a hard copy of any correspondence in future.

There was a discussion concerning the absence of a representative from the Christchurch Off-road Motor-cross club from both field trips and absence from the meeting.

*Action Point – Ms Rigg to contact Sharleen James to determine whether she is still interested in being on the working party.*

**Meeting attendance by members of the public**

The Working Party discussed whether it was appropriate to allow members of the public to attend meetings and if they should be allowed any speaking rights. It was agreed that members of the public would be allowed to attend meetings but that speaking rights should be at the discretion of the chair.

**RECOMMENDATION ONE**

**THAT THE PUBLIC BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND MEETINGS AND BE INVITED TO SPEAK FOR 5 MINUTES AT THE CHAIR'S INVITATION ONLY.**

Mainwaring/Saunders

CARRIED

## **Consultation on draft recommendation**

The Working Party considered whether the draft strategy needs to go out for public consultation. Mr Gerard noted that this issue did not need to be decided on at this stage and that any public consultation might depend on whether the document was controversial. He described the public consultation process that took place with respect to the Northern Pegasus Bay Coastal Management Plan. He noted that the modifications and feedback took some considerable time to develop into that plan.

After further discussion the Working Party agreed that this matter would be decided at a later stage.

## **WORKING PAPER THREE**

### **Review of sections of the river**

The Working Party next considered whether the seven sections of the river agreed to at the inaugural meeting were still appropriate.

There was some discussion regarding what the definition of the 'source' of the river was. It was agreed that the source of the river should not be defined at this stage as this would be dependant on the management issues that may arise further down the track. It was agreed that the Working Party would review and define what source meant at a subsequent meeting.

Mr Murray requested that the reference to 'access' in paragraph 2.2 be recorded as 'vehicle access'.

Ms Saunders requested that each meeting being with an update of issues relevant to the Waipara River and any complaints that may have received.

## **RECOMMENDATION ONE**

**THAT THE MANAGEMENT SECTIONS OF THE RIVER BE CONFIRMED AS:**

- WAIPARA RIVER MOUTH (FROM THE COAST TO WEBBS ROAD)
- WEBBS ROAD TO WASH CREEK
- SH1 AREA (WASH CREEK TO BARNETTS ROAD)
- BARNETTS ROAD TO STRINGERS BRIDGE
- STRINGERS BRIDGE TO THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF WHITE GORGE
- WHITE GORGE TO THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF DOCTORS GORGE
- DOCTORS GORGE TO SOURCE

Jackson/Love

CARRIED

Cr Little sought clarification on whether he was entitled to vote as a local resident and/or as an Environment Canterbury councillor. The chair was satisfied that Cr Little was a full member of the Working Party and as such he has full voting rights.

## Strategy development management approach

The Working Party discussed whether they still wished to consider each section of the river separately at subsequent meetings or if it might be more appropriate to consider the individual issues for the river as a whole. Mr Gerard noted that the approach in the Waimakariri River Regional Plan was something in between these two approaches. In that plan they used a mapping approach by issue and by value.

The Working Party then proceeded to list the issues as follows:

- Motorbikes
- Vehicle access / pedestrian access
- 4 wheel drive vehicles
- Gravel extraction
- Camping
- Rubbish
- Fire risk
- Nohoanga
- Vandalism
- Natural history / scientific values
- Ecological values / biodiversity
- Property boundaries
- Weeds / pests / willows
- Shooting
- Fishing
- Water quality
- Dogs
- Trespass
- Passive recreational activities e.g. walking, horse riding, mountain biking
- Legalities

## RECOMMENDATION TWO

THAT THE WORKING PARTY APPROACH TO DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR THE WAIPARA RIVER IS ON AN ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS WHICH PROMOTES APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES AS REQUIRED FOR EACH OF THE SEVEN MANAGEMENT SECTIONS OF THE RIVER.

Murray/Saunders

CARRIED

Having identified the issues, the Working Party considered the time it would possibly take to develop a strategy for the Waipara River, particularly bearing in mind that some of the recommendations may require some form of funding from the statutory bodies and that it would be preferable that provisions for funding be made in the next financial budget. In terms of the Hurunui District Council's Annual Plan, this would require the strategy to be finalised (including the public consultation process) before November/December 2009. The Working Party considered that this would be a very tight time line, given the number of issues that need to be considered.

There was some discussion about the number of meetings to be held each month and the preferred night for meetings. The Working Party generally agreed that meetings would be held on a Monday night from 7.00 – 10.00pm.

*Action Point – Ms Rigg to develop a forward work plan based around the identified issues.*

### **Waipara River Mouth**

Ms Rigg presented an overview of the rules in the Hurunui District Plan relevant to the Waipara River mouth area and outlined the recommendations made in the Northern Pegasus Bay Coastal Management Plan (Coastal Plan) relevant to the Waipara River mouth.

The Working Party then considered the nohoanga site. It was noted that Ngai Tahu were not represented on the Working Party and that a representative should be invited to attend future meetings.

#### RECOMMENDATION THREE

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMEND THAT THE HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE WORKING PARTY APPROACH NGAI TAHU AND COMMENCE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ABOUT THE NOHOANGA SITE AT THE RIVER MOUTH AND OTHER SITES ON THE RIVER AS APPROPRIATE.

Murray/Gerard

CARRIED

Vehicle access was then discussed by the Working Party. Mr Gardiner noted that a lot of the damage at the river mouth was caused during army training. Army vehicles had been observed at the river twice in the past three weeks. It was noted that army vehicles are used for training up the length of the river.

The Working Party identified that the designated vehicle access track to the rocks as shown in the Coastal Plan is partly located over private land. It was noted that the recommendations in the Coastal Plan refer to the reparation of the track and that the landowner has not been consulted regarding this matter. It was also noted that the same landowner owns land at that area of the river known as the Horse Shoe. That area is currently used by motorcyclists and recreational vehicles.

There was some further discussion regarding the recommendations in the Coastal Plan with respect to the banning of vehicles in the red area and the repair of rut damage in the estuary.

#### RECOMMENDATION FOUR

THAT THE WORKING PARTY ACKNOWLEDGE THE NORTHERN PEGASUS BAY COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION MADE IN THE PLAN:

- THAT MOTOR VEHICLES ARE BANNED IN THE WAIPARA RIVER ESTUARY IN THE AREA INDICATED IN RED, SUBJECT TO A DESIGNATED MOTOR VEHICLE TRACK FOR WHITEBAITING ACCESS DURING THE SEASON.

#### NEW RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE WORKING PARTY ENCOURAGES THE HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL TO GET INTO DIALOG WITH THE OWNERS OF TEVIOTDALE WITH REGARD TO THE ACCESS TRACK TO THE ROCKS AND ANY OTHER AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE AN INTEREST.

Jackson/Goord

CARRIED

A significant amount of discussion was had on whether it would be appropriate to ban vehicles from a wider area than that proposed in the Coastal Plan i.e. the blue area in Appendix 1 of the Working Paper. There was a great deal of discussion regarding which areas were most important in terms of protecting birdlife and whether it was necessary to protect such a large area of the river bank area which would provide less protection for wildlife but could potentially be restored to increase the landscape and biodiversity values of the area.

There was some discussion about extending the blue area up the river bed to Webbs Road and providing a designated vehicle access track through this area to provide a link to the access track to the rocks. It was suggested that the designated route be marked out using painted river stones. The Combined 4WD representatives offered to maintain the white marker stones so that the route would be defined after heavy flow events. Another suggestion was that signage informing the public about the wildlife values of the area is established at the main entry points e.g. Webbs Road and Golf Links Road.

*Action Point – Ms Rigg to draft up a new recommendation and amended map showing the proposed vehicle prohibited area and circulate to all parties for comment before the next meeting.*

It was noted by the Working Party that the working paper did not address the issue of pest control in the river mouth area.

Meeting Closed 10.25pm