

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPARA RIVER WORKING PARTY HELD ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2010 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 66 CARTERS ROAD, AMBERLEY.

PRESENT

Garry Jackson (Chair), Brent Mcguire, Rob Gerard, Leigh Love, Ross Williams, Douschka Saunders, Sarah Hughes-Games

APOLOGIES

David Beer, Tony Fitzsimmonds, Gareth Renowden, Greg Bennett, Paul Williams, Norton Hiller, Andrew Parrish, Richard Goord, Julie Coster

IN ATTENDANCE

Helga Rigg (Minutes), Chris Rhodes

MINUTES

THAT THE PREVIOUS MINUTES BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD

McGuire/Love

CARRIED

Whilst Ms Saunders wasn't at the previous meeting she wanted it recorded that she did not consider that it was appropriate that motorbikes be allowed up river at all hours.

Members of the Working Party queried whether the two action points from the previous meeting had been actioned? These related to approaching Mr Forbes regarding access between Barnetts Road and Stringers Bridge and in relation to access between Stringers Bridge and White Gorge. Neither of these two points has been actioned to date.

With respect to the Draft Waipara Management Strategy that had been sent out to the Working Party previously, Mr Gerard noted that reference to the Northern Pegasus Bay Coastal Management Plan (Coastal Plan) needed to be updated to take into account that some of the recommendations in that document have now been implemented as Council by-laws.

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Vehicles

The Working Party continued its discussion from the previous meeting with respect vehicles in the different management sections of the river. Building on the previous resolution that vehicles be permitted between SH1 Bridge and Webbs Road, Mr Rhodes (the farm manager of Teviotdale) advised that they would accept access to this section of the river provided that private property from the existing fencelines was respected. The Working Party also considered whether a speed limit should be enforced particularly in the area around the SH1 Bridge area given that it is a high use area. The Working Party considered that any speed restrictions to be imposed should be consistent with those imposed under the Coastal Plan. As such the Working Party resolved:

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDS THAT VEHICLES BE PERMITTED BETWEEN BARNETTS ROAD AND WEBBS ROAD ON THE PROVISION THAT PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM EXISTING FENCELINES IS RESPECTED AND THAT A MAXIMUM

SPEED OF 10KPH APPLY IN HIGH USE AREAS WITHIN 50 METRES OF PEOPLE, OR A MAXIMUM OF 30KPH APPLY IN ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE RIVER.

It was noted by some member so the Working Party that there are some popular swimming holes located further upstream from Barnetts Road and that access should be permitted to these. The following discussion considered how far upstream from Barnetts Road vehicles should be allowed to travel taking into account the popularity of the swimming holes with locals and the ownership regime in this part of the river. The Working Party agreed that:

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDS THAT THERE BE NO VEHICLE ACCESS BETWEEN A POINT YET TO BE DEFINED UPSTREAM OF BARNETTS ROAD TO WHITE GORGE WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT ORGANISED 4WD CLUB TRIPS BE ALLOWED SUBJECT TO LANDOWNER PERMISSION

It was suggested that any vehicle access in the river be subject to a Code of Practice such as the 'Tread Lightly' principles. Given that the river is classed as a road under the relevant legislation, the Working Party resolved that:

A CODE OF PRACTICE BE ADOPTED THAT INCLUDES THE TREAD LIGHTLY PRINCIPLES AND ALSO INCLUDES HOURS OF OPERATION IN RELATION TO THE USE OF MOTORBIKES AND ATV'S, THAT VEHICLES BE ROAD LEGAL (INCLUDING REGISTRATION AND WARRANT OF FITNESS) AND THAT VEHICLES BE APPROPRIATELY MUFFLED.

Camping

The Working Party then considered in which management areas camping should be allowed. Given that the majority of the river is subject to AMF rights, the Working Party resolved that

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMEND THAT CAMPING ONLY BE PERMITTED IN THE AREA AROUND THE STATE HIGHWAY 1 BRIDGE AND THE AREA ALONG THE SOUTH BANK OF THE RIVER BETWEEN WEBBS ROAD AND THE WAIPARA RIVER MOUTH. IN ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE RIVER THERE SHALL BE NO CAMPING UNLESS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE RELEVANT LANDOWNER.

Firearms

Having considered the relevant legislation and legal opinion on the use of firearms in the Waipara River at the previous meeting, the Working Party agreed that the use of firearms was only permitted on public land provided that the use was in accordance with the legislation. Alternatively, firearms could be used on private property provided that the user had the prior arrangement and approval of the relevant landowner and that the firearms are used in accordance with the legislation. The Working Party referred back to previous comments around the use of shotguns versus the use of rifles, which can result in bullets ricocheting off stones in the river bed. As such, the Working Party resolved that:

THAT THE WORKING PARTY RECOMMEND THAT THE USE OF FIREARMS ONLY BE PERMITTED IN THE AREA AROUND THE STATE HIGHWAY 1 BRIDGE AND AT THE WAIPARA RIVER. THE FIREARMS SHALL BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND SHALL BE RESTRICTED TO SHOTGUNS ONLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. THE USE OF FIREARMS IN ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE RIVER SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE RELEVANT LANDOWNER.

Dogs

There was a brief discussion around the issue of dogs in the river and whether the existing Hurunui District Council Dog Control Policy and By-law is adequate in terms of controlling dog use within the river. The Working Party was in general agreement that the existing by-law was the appropriate mechanism for the control of dogs in the river.

Willows

Turning to the issue of willows in the bed of the river, the Working Party considered that those with AMF rights and people with water should take responsibility for cleaning up willows. It was suggested that this work could be facilitated through the formation of a river rating group and that adjoining landowners, and the Canterbury Regional Council contribute towards the cost together with a possible small contribution from Hurunui District Council.

Signage

It was suggested that any proposed signage be consistent with that being used for the Waimakariri River Regional Park, the Ashley River/ Rakahuri Regional River Park and the Pegasus Bay Coastal Management Plan.

The Chair then proceeded to advise the process from this point forward. The Working Party was advised that a copy of the initial draft strategy document be circulated to the group for their review on either the 12th or 13th July. The Working Party would then have a week to review the document and provide feedback and comments to Ms Rigg. The document would then be amended as required to take into account the relevant feedback and would be presented to the Council meeting scheduled for 29 July seeking approval for the document to go out for public consultation. It is likely that the feedback period would run for approximately 3 weeks throughout August with a further Working Party meeting being scheduled shortly after the closing date so that the group can consider the feedback received. It is envisaged that the necessary changes will be made to the strategy and that the final document be presented at the September/October Council meeting for adoption.

It was highlighted that in the initial consultation on the draft strategy, members of the Working Party would not be bound by the draft strategy itself as publicly notified and they would be free to submit any views or issues they choose.

Meeting closed 8.45pm