

Rangitikei District Council

Hunternville Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 17 October 2016 – 3:00 p.m.



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Present: Mr Bob Crawford, Chair
Mr Bret Journeaux
Mr Paul Peterson
Mr Bernie Hughes
Mr John McManaway
Cr Dean McManaway
His Worship the Mayor, Andy Watson

In attendance: Mr David Rei Miller, Asset Engineer – Roading and Utilities
Mr George McIrvine, Finance & Business Support Group Manager
Ms Joanna Saywell, Asset Manager - Utilities
Mr Andrew van Bussel, Operations Manager - Utilities
Mr Ivan O’Reilly, Reticulation Serviceman
Ms Linda Holman, Governance Administrator

Tabled documents: Item 1 - Report from Ms J Saywell: “Water Collection Tanks and Safe Household Water”

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence from Mr Sam Weston and Mr Mark Dawson be received.

Mr B Hughes / Mr B Journeaux. Carried.

3 Confirmation of order of business

The Chair informed the Committee that there would be no change to the order of business from that set out in the agenda.

4 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved minute number **16/HRWS/022** **File Ref** **3-CT-3-2**

That the Minutes of the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee meeting held on 8 August 2016 be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

Mr B Journeaux / Mr P Peterson. Carried.

5 Chair's Report

Mr B Crawford noted he did not have a report for the committee.

6 Hunterville Rural Water Supply – Operations Report

Mr A van Bussel noted that the dam has settled down, and that he should have included that the trees have been cut down the intake. This was done to avoid future problems with power lines. Ms J Saywell asked if more ladders are needed to improve Health and Safety, Mr A van Bussel agreed and said he would look into the matter.

Resolved minute number **16/HRWS/023** **File Ref** **6-WS-3-4**

That the 'Hunterville Rural Water Supply – Operations report' dated 1 October 2016 be received.

Mr B Hughes / Mr B Journeaux. Carried.

7 Financial Report – August 2016

Mr G McIrvine noted that both June and August 2016 results were included, and looking at the September figures, the scheme was expected to be over budget by \$42,000.

Concern was expressed by the Committee that the expected savings from the lower electricity charge have not been reflected in the financials. More information was requested and will be provided at the next meeting by Mr G McIrvine, Mr A van Bussel, Mr D Miller, and Mr I O'Reilly to clarify the following:

1. Have the negotiations finished? Mr D Miller said he will clarify this issue
2. The impact of old and/or underperforming pumps – does this increase power consumption?
3. Seasonal differences – can savings be made by making better use of off-peak power rates?
4. Has the consumption increased? This may account for why there have been no savings to date. If so, why?
5. Can future reports be broken down differently? E.g. yearly comparison by month to make it easier to spot issues sooner

Mr B Crawford noted that there were two large invoices for SCADA faults and queried why a six month old system is faulty and why they are not covered by a manufacturer or installer guarantee. Mr A van Bussel and Mr G McIrvine will investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

Discussion was held around the process of invoice payment by the RDC, and it was noted that in the case of the SCADA fault this was essential to be fixed at the time and so the invoices were only scrutinised after the fact.

Mr B Crawford noted that the two outstanding debtors mentioned on page 16 of the Order Paper have been followed up and the debts should be cleared by the end of this week.

Mr J McManaway queried the final financial position of the scheme and Mr G McIrvine noted that the accrual accounting used can be problematic as the inclusion of depreciation can affect the bottom line negatively. Mr J McManaway will speak directly with Mr G McIrvine on this matter. Mr B Crawford queried what the surplus would have been without depreciation being included, Mr G McIrvine replied that it would have been approximately \$50,000.

Mr G McIrvine noted that future budgets will reflect the new power charge to improve forecasting. Mr D McManaway noted that the HRWS reduced their charge-out rate but this has proved to be too little to cover the actual costs. This has been raised to \$2.80 and the higher amount should enable the scheme to be “on a level playing field” later this year.

Mr G McIrvine noted that the 2017/18 budget will be available at the next meeting on 12 December 2016.

Resolved minute number **16/HRWS/024** **File Ref** **3-CT-3-1**

That the Financial Report to the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Sub-Committee's meeting on 17 October 2016 be received.

Mr B Journeaux / Mr B Hughes. Carried.

8 Tutaenui Community Irrigation/Stock Water Scheme – update on pre-feasibility study

Mr B Crawford provided an update on the pre-feasibility study noting that in the last meeting some boundaries were changed, and that there was need for a person to talk to prospective users. Mr D Miller made apologies on behalf of Mr Ross McNeil and noted that two independent consultants have been engaged to discover where water can be taken from and where it can be pushed to. Mr R McNeil has a survey-taker available, and Massey University and Agricultural Research may also provide summer student/s to carry out this work.

Mr A van Bussel has a meeting set up with the two engineers mentioned above for an update on the status of the scheme and the options. Mr J McManaway asked for a cross section of the bed level to be documented, Mr A van Bussel said he would load this information into Sharepoint. Mr D Miller noted that Horizons Regional Council may be the better organisation to provide this information.

Mr D Millar noted that the end of stage one of the feasibility study is mid-November and he expects a report back after that date. Committee members expressed an interest in knowing what changes to reticulation are captured on GPS. Mr D Miller will provide maps at the next meeting to show any "glaring omissions", but noted that expansion has not been great.

9 Updating the Scheme Committee Constitution

Discussion was held around the new Rural Water Supply Policy, and which changes need to be made. The main issue is around the responsibilities of the property owners to keep 48 hours water supply stored during peak seasons, to alert the tenants to the fact the water is not intended for human consumption, and to allow access to the property for repairs and maintenance to be carried out.

Mr A van Bussel suggested that this information be communicated to property owners as a memo in the next bill that is sent out, and then every year after that. Mr A van Bussel undertakes to discuss this with the Finance Department. It was also resolved to update the 'Rural Water Supply Policy' to reflect this.

Further discussion was held around removing a sentence from the Constitution, and it was noted that in order to follow due process then the next meeting should be preceded by a triennial election of members to the Committee.

Resolved minute number **16/HRWS/025** **File Ref**

That the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee recommends to Council that it amend the Rural Water Supply Policy by:

1. Making it clear that the onus is on the property owner to; a) provide 48 hours supply of water stored on-site in peak period, b) inform any tenants that the water is not for human consumption, and c) provide access for repair or maintenance work to be carried out by authorised organisations or individuals.
2. Removing the sentence within point 6.1 Subdivisions (“Such approval will not, however, be unreasonably withheld.”).

Mr B Journeaux / Mr P Peterson. Carried.

Resolved minute number **16/HRWS/026** **File Ref**

That the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee requests that the Chief Executive arrange a triennial election, to be organised by the end of the year.

Mr B Crawford / Mr B Journeaux. Carried.

10 General Business

Nil

11 Late Items

Nil

12 Next Meeting

Monday 12 December 2016, 3.00pm

13 Meeting Closed – 4.10pm

Confirmed/Chair: _____

Date: _____