MINUTES

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
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HUNTERVILLE RURAL WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Date:	**Monday, 8 June 2026**
Time:	**4.00pm**
Venue:	**Council Chamber** **Rangitīkei District Council** **46 High Street** **Marton**

Present	Mr Bob Crawford Mr Mark Dawson Mr Bernie Hughes Mr John McManaway Mr Sam Duncan Mr Shane Voelkerling Cr John Hainsworth
In attendance	Mr Andrew van Bussel, Water Supply Specialist (Zoom) Mr Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships Mr Ivan O'Reilly, Senior Reticulation Technician Ms Crystal Johnston, Executive Assistant – Group Managers Mr Brent Manning, Consultant – B Spoke Engineering Solutions

Order of Business

1 Welcome / Prayer

Mr Crawford opened the meeting at 4.00pm.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/014

That the apologies received from Mr S Weston, Cr F Dalgety, and HWTM A Watson be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Mr J McManaway/Mr B Hughes. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflict of interests were declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

Local Water Done Well is to be discussed at the end of the meeting under 9.2 Operations Report.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

A member requested confirmation of the unit rate charged on Council's most recent electricity account to provide a benchmark for future reference. Officers confirmed that this information had been provided to Mr Weston. The member requested that future minutes should more accurately capture the substance of members' questions and the responses provided.

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/015

That the minutes of Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13 April 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Mr B Hughes/Mr M Dawson. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from previous Hunterville Rural Water Supply Meetings

Kiwirail - Makohine Viaduct

It was noted that the viaduct update was covered within the Operations Report.

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/016

That the report Follow-up Action Items from previous Hunterville Rural Water Supply Meetings be received.

Mr B Crawford/Mr J McManaway. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - May 2026

Mr Crawford advised that there was no Chair's Report for this meeting.

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/017

That the Chair's Report – May 2026 be received.

Mr B Crawford/Mr J McManaway. Carried

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Hunterville RWS - Financial Summary - April 2026

Members discussed the reported operating surpluses and deficits, with particular focus on electricity expenditure and capital expenditure.

A member raised concerns regarding the electricity budget, noting that expenditure had increased significantly compared with previous years. It was observed that electricity costs were approximately $241,000 in the previous budget year, with an actual expenditure of approximately $255,000. The current year's budget is $275,000, while year-to-date expenditure has reached approximately $314,000, raising concerns that, if the trend continued, total expenditure could exceed $400,000 by year end.

Officers advised that the year-to-date expenditure included approximately $47,000 relating to a reconciliation ("wash-up") from the previous electricity contract, which had been invoiced during the current financial year. Officers explained that, after reviewing the forecasts, the projected annual electricity cost is approximately $258,000 against a revised budget of $329,000. It was noted that the first year of the new electricity contract incorporated significantly higher rates, with pricing expected to reduce in the second year of the contract. Officers further advised that the $47,000 adjustment related to the overlap between the previous and current electricity suppliers and delayed invoicing.

A member remained concerned that the adjustment related to the previous financial year and queried whether the forecasting fully reflected the increased electricity prices. Officers confirmed that the forecast incorporates the approximately 40 percent increase in electricity rates under the new contract and advised that they had undertaken a detailed review of both the tariff structure and billing methodology. Officers expressed confidence that the current forecasting accurately reflects anticipated expenditure.

Members requested that future reporting include a breakdown of electricity costs, including expenditure and units consumed, between meetings to assist with ongoing monitoring.

A member also queried the finance costs included within the budget. Officers advised that these relate to a historic internal loan dating back to the 1990s. It was noted that the loan had proven difficult to reconstruct due to incomplete historical records and is an internal accounting entry rather than external borrowing. Officers advised that the matter had previously been discussed and that the associated interest will be correctly accounted for in the June financial statements.

Discussion then turned to the reported capital expenditure of approximately $25,000. A member sought clarification as to whether these costs represented capital or operational expenditure and requested examples of the works undertaken. Officers advised that the expenditure relates to the replacement of capital assets such as valves and pipework. Minor replacements, such as taps, are treated as operational expenditure. Officers also noted that works associated with the Makohine Viaduct and tank site monitoring form part of the capital programme, with the largest expenditure relating to ducting installed at the Makohine site. It was noted that other significant capital items, such as pump or liner replacements, would also be capitalised where appropriate.

Members requested that future reports identify the major capital expenditure items to provide greater visibility of significant capital works.

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/018

That the report 'HRWS Financial Summary – April 2026' be received by the Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Committee.

Mr J McManaway/Mr B Hughes. Carried

9.2 Operations Report - June 2026

Officers advised that scheme water consumption remains within the conditions of the resource consent.

An update was provided on the Makohine upgrade, with construction scheduled to commence on 22 June. Officers advised that the project is progressing as planned and is being actively managed.

Mr McManaway provided an update on the proposed marae connection. Members were advised that progress has been complicated by land title and ownership matters, together with Hunterville Rural Water Scheme's expectation that a financial contribution be made towards the works. Officers advised that an alternative pipe alignment had been offered and that a further site visit would be undertaken. It was acknowledged that the matter is likely to continue for some time but will require resolution.

Officers advised that the liner at the upper pump station storage tank had failed, resulting in damage to the tank foundations. The reticulation team was commended for its prompt response, which enabled water supply to continue by pumping directly through the system without relying on the reservoir.

Officers reported that Timber Tanks had proposed undertaking structural inspections of the scheme's storage tanks at an estimated cost of approximately $700 per tank. Five tanks require inspection. The inspections would identify any recommended replacements or health and safety improvements. Members discussed whether the inspections should proceed, noting the value of understanding the current condition of the assets.

Information was also provided regarding the replacement of mechanical flow meters with magnetic flow meters. Officers advised that the existing mechanical meters are approaching the end of their service life and are becoming increasingly unreliable, resulting in inaccurate readings. Members were advised that replacement magnetic flow meters are estimated to cost between $3,000 and $5,000 per unit, with ongoing telemetry subscription costs of approximately $10 to $30 per meter per month.

Officers advised that routine meter readings continue to be undertaken monthly in accordance with existing procedures. It was noted that a remote monitoring system would allow readings to be checked without staff travelling to each site. A report on this proposal will be presented at the next committee meeting.

A member raised a recent restrictor failure at Mr Crawford's property and asked whether this type of failure was common. Officers advised that such failures do occur from time to time, noting that the scheme is approximately 40 years old and many of the restrictors have performed well over that period.

Members discussed the proposed installation of seven new flow meters.

A question was raised regarding whether the proposed flow meters would integrate with the existing tank level indicators. Officers advised that they would not currently integrate. Members also discussed telemetry options provided by Leveno. Officers advised that Leveno had submitted a proposal, however the available data is approximately one hour behind real time, which presents operational concerns. Further investigation with the operations team will be undertaken. Members commented that real-time monitoring is only effective if the information is actively monitored and noted that Leveno systems are capable of generating alerts when operating parameters fall outside predetermined limits.

An update was provided regarding communications at the woolshed site. Officers advised that migration to Starlink remains under consideration, although little further progress has been made.

Officers undertook to investigate the matter further, including alternative router options with higher-gain aerials, and report back at the next meeting.

Members discussed the increasing number of incidents involving contractors or landowners damaging water pipelines with excavators. Two recent incidents were referenced, including one where excavation occurred well within a paddock. Members expressed concern that such incidents appear to be increasing and discussed Council's approach to recovering repair costs. Officers advised that each incident is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Members agreed that greater awareness is required and suggested including a reminder in future communications advising landowners and contractors to identify the location of water pipelines before undertaking excavation. Cr Hainsworth noted that staff had previously advised that a telephone enquiry should be made before excavation commences. Members also acknowledged that new property owners may be unaware of pipeline locations.

Members asked whether repairs and pipeline locations are recorded within Council's GIS system. Officers confirmed that this information should be entered into the GIS database. A question was also raised as to whether Council could identify pipeline easements on property titles.

Mr Manning advised that registered easements provide legal protection for Council assets. Members also discussed the possibility of installing physical markers along pipeline routes or fence lines displaying pipeline locations and contact information. It was noted that many older markers and warning tapes have deteriorated over time.

Members asked whether the proposed tank inspections would identify structural failures such as blow-outs. Officers advised that the inspections are intended to provide a comprehensive internal assessment of the tanks and should identify structural issues, including cracked supports and other defects. It was noted that two primary support struts have previously cracked and been reinforced, while another tank has experienced settlement. Officers advised that the inspections would provide a detailed condition assessment beyond a visual external inspection and would also support Council's insurance requirements.

Members sought clarification regarding the size of the storage tanks. Officers advised that the two pump station tanks each have a capacity of approximately 150 cubic metres, while the main storage tank has a capacity of approximately 300 cubic metres. Officers also confirmed that similar inspections are planned for the town water supply tanks and the Calico Line storage facilities.

Mr Manning provided an update on Local Water Done Well. Members were advised that, following Council's decision in May 2025, rural water schemes are not currently intended to transfer to Central Districts Water, although Hunterville Urban Water Supply will transfer. Mr Manning advised that discussions have been held with Mr Weston and that the future governance arrangements for rural water schemes will continue to be worked through with Council and the relevant committees.

Officers advised that the Local Water Done Well report is expected to be completed by the end of the month. It will first be considered by the Executive Leadership Team before being presented to Council and publicly released in July. A copy will also be provided to the Rural Water Schemes Committee and may form the basis of a future committee agenda item.

Members then discussed future drinking water standards. A member asked how far the current scheme is from complying with the new standards. Officers advised that detailed technical advice would need to be confirmed with Managers. It was noted that the scheme is currently classified as a mixed-use supply under the Taumata Arowai framework and is presently regarded as a non-potable supply. Registration is required by November 2028, with an acceptable compliance solution required by 2030 where full treatment is not immediately achievable. Officers confirmed that all available compliance options will be presented to the scheme committee.

Members queried Council's responsibilities beyond the property restrictor and how water use after that point is classified. Officers advised that the Hunterville Rural Water Scheme remains responsible under the Territorial Authority framework. Mr Manning suggested inviting Taumata Arowai representatives to attend a future committee meeting to discuss the regulatory requirements in greater detail.

Members also sought confirmation that the Hunterville urban water supply forms part of the Drinking Water Standards regime. Officers confirmed that it does, noting that it has a treatment plant and is subject to ongoing monitoring. Officers explained that significant weather events can affect the plant's ability to consistently achieve treatment requirements, requiring operators to slow or temporarily shut down the treatment process and, where necessary, cart treated water to maintain supply. Officers advised that options for an additional storage reservoir are also being investigated to improve resilience.

A member asked about the additional cost of treating water beyond the standard unit rate. Officers advised that treatment costs vary depending on the individual scheme and the treatment processes required.

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/019

That the Operations Report – June 2026 be received.

Mr S Voelkerling/Mr J McManaway. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/HRWS/020

That the committee agree to Timber Tanks completing inspections of 5 tanks at $700 per tank for full reporting and inspection.

Mr J McManaway/Mr M Dawson. Carried

The meeting closed at 4.57pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Hunterville Rural Water Supply Management Sub-Committee held on 10 August 2026.

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Chairperson