

MINUTES
OF THE WATER RACE SUB-COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM
ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2018 – 1.30pm

Committee Members in Attendance

1. Nigel Barnett (Chairman)
2. Cr Pat McEvedy
3. Cr Craig Watson
4. Mike Chaffey (Ellesmere)
5. Harry Schat (Ellesmere)
6. John Shanks (Paparua)
7. Martin Le Comte (Paparua Water Race Irrigation User Group)

In Attendance

8. Murray England, Strategic Manager Water Services
9. James Skurupey, Surface Water Engineer
10. Daniel Meehan, Surface Water Operations Engineer
11. Maree Pycroft, Secretary
12. Creagh Robinson, Accountant
13. Mayor Sam Broughton
14. Mark Turner, 931 Halkett Road, Christchurch
15. Ian Lowry, Stuart Lemon, Aaron Lil,

1. APOLOGIES

Tim Morris (Paparua)
Mike Mora (Christchurch City Council - representing Waimairi and Wigram Wards)
Clayton Fairbairn (Paparua)
Kerry Pauling (Malvern Community Board representative)
John Clarkson (Malvern)

Moved Pat McEvedy / Seconded John Shanks

"That the apologies are noted".

CARRIED

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Martin Le Comte introduced Mark Turner who attended the meeting as an observer and interested party of the Paparua Irrigation Users.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 26 FEBRUARY 2018

"That the Selwyn District Council Water Race Subcommittee confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26 February 2018 as a true and accurate record."

Moved Pat McEvedy / Seconded Harry Schat

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Selwyn District Council submission to the Christchurch City Council (CCC) highlights the close link with CCC through a number of means other than just our adjacent geography. Our water race network from the Waimakariri River feeds the top end of the Avon River through Christchurch, and the CCC stormwater network in Halswell feeds flows into the Halswell/Huritini River.

CCC contributes (approximately \$80,000/yr) to the management/maintenance of the Paparua water race network in recognition of the environmental and amenity values provided.

SDC is reviewing our rating structure for water races as part of our LTP. CCC's increased contribution to this network is part of our draft proposal.

Creagh Robinson raised an issue of cross boundary ratepayers. A legal opinion highlights the risks of territorial authorities rating properties in other districts. Although the likelihood of rates being challenged is minimal there is risk to Council of complaints or persons refusing to pay the rate leaving Council with the possible situation of trying to enforce the payment of a rate which is ultimately challengeable.

The Water Race Subcommittee requested that Council work with Christchurch City Council to:

- a) Ensure cross-boundary water race user rating compliance is effectively managed.
- b) Fairly share the public good costs of maintaining water race schemes.

5. FINANCIAL

5.1 Finance Report to 31 March 2018

Creagh Robinson, Finance Manager provided an overview of the financial operating position of all water race schemes for the period ended 31 March 2018.

Over the past 5 years, substantial changes have been identified which are expected to change the need for and use of the schemes. These include Central Plains Irrigation scheme and strategic pressure via the Canterbury Water Management Strategy process. A number of rating considerations are up for discussion in the Selwyn District Council Long Term Plan. The proposed new rating structure provides three standardised rating factors to replace the existing 10 rating factors.

Some members noted that the proposed increase for Ellesmere and Paparua ratepayers and a decrease for the least performing race Malvern.

Moved John Shanks / Seconded Harry Schat

"That the financial report to 31 March 2018 be received for information".

CARRIED

5.2 Unplanned Expenditure over \$5,000

Council have an important role to play in the community to ensure Council work is undertaken in an environment that is healthy and safe for all people involved and who may be affected

by Council work. Essentially the key changes for workers and Council Contractors is a greater clarity and awareness of duties and improved risk identification and management. Local authorities operate a wide range of functions and activities from high to low risk and many are contracted out. Over time risk identification and management expertise will become part of the core business operating model. But there will be a period of coming up to speed which will show in unplanned expenditure as risks are eliminated or minimized. The new law hasn't created new risks. It's a new framework around managing risk, including clarifying responsibilities. For responsible employers nothing has changed but for those with work to do, it puts them on notice and removes uncertainty by providing clear guidance.

"That the Water Race Sub-Committee receives the Unplanned Expenditure Report".

Moved Harry Schat / Seconded Mike Chaffey

CARRIED

6. WATER SERVICES REPORT

6.1 Lower Ellesmere Water Race Closures

The Department of Conservation has submitted against the closure of a number of lower Ellesmere water races. A moratorium is proposed on race closures within the Lower Ellesmere Water Race scheme until further work is completed to identify sites of high ecological value and cultural value. Three water races have been agreed for closure subject to further investigation and possible fish salvage.

Ian Lowry, Stuart Lemon and Aaron Lil are prepared to fund this activity but wanted an understanding of what the moratorium meant in terms of their closure. The Water Race Subcommittee support DOC to investigate the ecological biodiversity and assessment of environment effects. James Skurupey will discuss the most economical methods.

James Skurupey provided clarification around the Acts under which SDC must operate and outlined the process of doing an ecological survey.

Contrary to staff recommendation, the Water Race Subcommittee voted against a moratorium to identify races of ecological and cultural significance, in preference to performing due diligence.

Moved Pat McEvedy / John Shank

CARRIED

6.2 Proposed Water Race Closure to Proceed to Public Consultation

Council sought approval to proceed to public consultation for the proposed closure of 460.7 m of race through 3 properties between Manion Road and SH1 in support of CSM2 NZTA project and 7752m of race through 7 properties between Beattys Road and Bealey Road.

Moved Craig Watson / John Shanks

"That the Subcommittee agree to proceed to public consultation subject to receiving 100% approval."

CARRIED

6.3 Water Race Bylaw

The Bylaw has been through public consultation and hearing deliberations. The proposed amended Bylaw was presented to Council for adoption 9 May 2018. A verbal update on the changes was provided to the Subcommittee.

3.00pm - Murray England left the meeting

6.4 Fish Screen Project Update

Report was noted.

6.5 Strategic Water Races - Ecological and Aesthetics

The Asset Manager Water Services presented the 'working draft' of the Strategic Water Races - Ecological and Aesthetics' map to both the Christchurch West Melton and the Selwyn Waihora Zone committees. Staff will work with the Zone Committees, Local Runanga, ECAN and DOC to target and succinctly identify sites of ecological value.

The report to Council will be circulated to Subcommittee members. James Skurupey advised DOC and NIWA technically can only do fish salvage but time and money restraints have necessitated consultants being engaged to carry out this activity.

Brett Painter, ECAN is to be invited to a Water Race meeting to present on targeted stream augmentation and enhancement to Selwyn Waihora zone water races.

Moved John Shanks / Seconded Harry Schat

CARRIED

7. HEALTH & SAFETY

1. Site access for water race maintenance has been restricted by 5 farms due to perceived concerns over the spread of Mycoplasma Bovis. Council contractors will follow relevant Biosecurity Protocols.

Pat McEvedy declared a conflict of interest

2. SICON has provided cost estimates for all P2 Health and Safety Sites which are currently being reviewed. John Shanks expressed his concern about ongoing Health & Safety improvements and whether Council can maintain the upward trend of expenditure.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Glenroy Community Irrigation Company Ltd and Lynton Irrigation Limited and Canterbury Grasslands Ltd

Nigel Barnett and Cr Pat McEvedy will meet with Murray England to discuss the agreement Selwyn District Council has with Glenroy Community Irrigation Company Ltd and Lynton Irrigation Limited and Canterbury Grasslands Ltd to explore future options of the Ellesmere Water Race.

9.2 Next Meeting

9 July 2018

John Shanks and James Skurupey's apology was noted for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

