

Report 99.424

Minutes of the Meeting of the Landcare Committee held in the Committee Room, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Tuesday, 8 July 1999 at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Werry (Chairperson), Bonner, Mr Gilbert, Councillors Macaskill, McQueen, Shaw, Shields and Thomas and Mr Ross

Officers Present

Messrs Andrell, Annakin, Cameron, Dick, Ms Edwards and Messrs Paul and van Dyk

Public Business

Procedural Items

LC71 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr McQueen)

That the apologies of Councillors Laidlaw and Long be confirmed.

LC72 **Public Participation**

Geoff Nicholls – Rimutaka mountain bikers

Mr Nicholls, representing a group of mountain bikers, outlined their proposal to set up a downhill mountain biking park in the Martin's Block plantation forest, next to the Tunnel Gully Recreation Area. The proposal would complement the Makara cross-country course. The group intends to become an incorporated society.

Mr Nicholls discussed several issues related to establishing the proposed park, including:

- Tracks would follow natural contours, be essentially “rough” and not damage tree roots.
- Tracks would be constructed and maintained by volunteers
- There may be some conflicts between the bikers and other users
- Signage would be sponsored by Upper Hutt City Council
- Once the Club was formed, it would obtain public liability insurance before track construction began.
- The group hopes to complete both phases of the project as soon as possible.

LC73 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Thomas)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 1999 (Report 99.346), including the public excluded part of the meeting (Report PE99.347), be confirmed.

The Chair obtained leave of the Committee to consider the report on the mountain bike park proposal before any further business, as it related to the discussion under public participation.

Matters for Decision

LC74 Mountain Bike Park Proposal : Tunnel Gully

Report 99.353

File: R/2/3/1

The Committee asked Susan Edwards to report back on the public liability issues associated with establishing the proposed park.

Ms Edwards was also asked to investigate the possibility of either preserving the bike tracks after the forest is harvested, or logging sensitively around what had the potential to become a significant recreation facility.

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Macaskill)

- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.*
- (2) That the Committee approve the concept of Part 1 of the proposal (development of the downhill trails in the Martin's Block), subject to the resolution of outstanding issues to be reported back to the Landcare Committee for final approval.*

Report of Subcommittee

LC75 Report of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee – 28 June 1999

Report 99.367

File: E/6/10/6

Cr Macaskill, Chair of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee, spoke to this report. In his view, the success of the Advisory Committee process reflected directly on the quality of the work done by Wellington Regional Council staff. This had also been acknowledged by the territorial authorities.

Cr Bonner requested a copy of costings for the Hutt River Floodplain Management "Design Standard".

Cr Thomas noted that in question (3) under HRF51 of the Advisory Committee's report, she referred to the Ava Rail Bridge rather than the bridge at Silverstream.

Cr Macaskill left the meeting at 10.38am on other Council business that required urgent attention. The Committee agreed that this item be laid on the table until Cr Macaskill returned.

Morning tea: 10.38am

Resumption: 11.00am

LC76 Future Direction for East Harbour Regional Park

Report 99.352

File: R/6/1/2

Anne Manley, Parks Planner – Policy, Regional Parks (Strategy and Marketing), was present for this item.

Cr Macaskill returned at 11.05am.

Members agreed that access and land rationalisation remained central to the Park's future development potential.

Cr Shaw wanted to see a region-wide strategy developed between the Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and the territorial authorities on the current and prospective ownership of public land. Cr Werry would like a workshop on future Regional Park opportunities.

Mr Gilbert noted creative options for linking the two land blocks in East Harbour Regional Park, such as in the Netherlands where the authorities buy access rights from landowners on an annual basis without alienation of the land.

Members also wanted more certainty on the future status of the Northern Block.

Cr Shields said private sponsorship options should be considered for any proposed educational centre.

Resolved

(Cr Thomas/Cr Macaskill)

That the Landcare Committee:

- (1) Receive the report and note the contents.*
- (2) Note the recreation, environment, and heritage Signature Values of East Harbour Regional Park.*
- (3) Agree that the Lakes Block, Baring Head and the coastal margins are the key elements of the Park.*
- (4) Agree that the fundamental issues to be resolved for the future of East Harbour Regional Park are land rationalisation and access, and that these issues need to be addressed before progressing with plans for new recreation, environmental or heritage initiatives in the Park.*
- (5) Agree that serious attention be given to alternative road access to the southern end of the Park.*
- (6) Agree to officers exploring opportunities with the other Park landowners to the WRC becoming the lead agency in East Harbour Regional Park.*
- (7) Note the proposed timetable for progressing work on East Harbour Regional Park during Years 1–4 (1999/2000–2002/2003).*

(continued over)

- (8) Note that public consultation will be undertaken through a visitor*

survey (in 2000) and the review of the Management Plan (from 2001) incorporating discussion on the continued inclusion of the Northern Block in the Park, and Development Concept 2 for the Lakes Block.

- (9) *Note the opportunities to contribute to key Council objectives and outcomes through maintaining and/or enhancing the values at East Harbour Regional Park (e.g. Regional Policy Statement implementation, biodiversity, and the Environmental Education and Communication Strategy).*
- (10) *Note that development of East Harbour Regional Park will be addressed as part of the next Long-term Financial Strategy.*
- (11) *Note that to fund any land purchase, it may be necessary to access the Land Purchase Reserve in the future.*
- (12) *Request officers to provide advice on the mechanisms and opportunities to achieve a rationalisation of the ownership, management and development of public recreation lands in the Wellington Region.*

LC75 **Continued:**

Report of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee – 28 June 1999

Report 99.367

File: E/6/10/6

Cr Werry wanted the community consultation to make it clear that funding, particularly the speed of implementation (\$2 million or \$4 million per year), would depend on the Wellington Regional Council's Long-term Financial Strategy process.

Resolved

(Cr Macaskill/Cr Werry)

That the report of the meeting of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 28 June 1999, items HRF44 to HRF52 inclusive, and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

Cr Macaskill left the meeting at 12.09pm.

Matters for Information

LC77 Environmental Asset Plan

Report 99.380

File: F/2/2/10

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Thomas)

- (1) *That the report be received and its contents noted.*
- (2) *That the Committee note that the proposed Environmental Asset Plan will form Volume 4 of the Regional Parks and Natural Forests Asset Management Plan, which will be presented to the Committee in August.*

LC78 Divisional Manager's Report

Cr Werry complimented Geoff Dick on the excellent process for obtaining the Hutt Mouth consents.

Cr Shields encouraged Chris Wootton, Belmont Regional Park Ranger, to pursue setting up a community group to enhance the area around the Cannons Creek entrance to the Park.

Cr Shields requested that officers give Councillors appropriate notice of events such as the Active Living Leisure Expo.

Mr Ross agreed to investigate the issue of Department of Conservation land being the source of plant pest *Pinus Contorta*, which has appeared in the Orongorongo Catchment.

Report 99.380

File: E/6/16/3

Resolved

(Cr Bonner/Cr Shields)

That the report be received and its contents noted.

LC79 Questions

Cr Thomas sought a report on negotiations with Shandon Golf Club, and Geoff Dick agreed to brief Cr Thomas.

LC80 General

There were no items of general business.

LC81 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Shaw)

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

Land Purchase to Facilitate Programmed Capital Works

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<i>General subject of each matter to be considered:</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
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<i>Land Purchase to Facilitate Programmed Capital Works</i>	<i>To enable the Council to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist (ie to enable the Council to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage).</i>
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This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act, or section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

*Wellington Regional Council
Winstone Aggregates Ltd*

The open part of the meeting closed at 12.29pm.

Cr R Werry
Chairperson

Date