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Report 01.323
5 April 2001
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Utility Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Thursday, 5 April 2001 at 9.30am

Present

Councillors McQueen (Chairperson), Laidlaw, Macaskill, Shaw, Thomas and Werry and Councillor Hutchings (WCC)

Officers Present

Messrs Allard, Benham, Darroch, Kennedy, Leonard, Morrison, Nugent, Roberts, Kristine Scherp, Sells and Stone

Public Business

Procedural Items

US186 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Laidlaw)

That the apology from Councillor Shields, be confirmed.

US187 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public who wished to participate in the meeting.

US188 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Shaw)

That the Public and Public Excluded minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2001, Report 01.182, and Report PE 01.183, the public excluded part to remain in public excluded, be confirmed.

Matters for Information

US189 Divisional Report

Report 01.225

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Managing Water Consumption during Summer

Mr Kennedy, Manager Strategy and Assets, gave a presentation on how the drought conditions during the summer were managed by the Operations Group. While there had been a slight upward trend in consumption during what has been a very dry summer the supply from the catchments had stood up very well. The water aquifer levels also quickly replenished. No real difficulties were experienced in meeting the demands for water during this period. The Treatment Plants are operating well and the optimisation project is providing excellent flow predictions.

Councillor Macaskill left at 10.45am.

Mr Kennedy also gave a statistical analysis of turbidity readings showing how the Council was managing supply to comply with the drinking water standards for New Zealand.

Resolved

(Cr Shaw/Cr Thomas)

That the report be received and the information noted.

Morning tea: 11.00am

Resumption: 11.10am

US190 Water Integration

Councillor McQueen said Mr Benham, Divisional Manager, Utility Services and Mr Allard, Corporate Advisory Services Manager, and himself had attended a Water Integration meeting with members and officers of the Porirua City Council. Councillor Hutchings was also present. There had been probing questions and a briefing which was helpful and positive.

Mr Allard said the consultation process, “Having your Say on Water Integration Services”, was now underway. The Regional Council was receiving a steady stream of enquiries and several submissions had already been received.

Councillor Hutchings left at 11.20am.

US189 **Divisional Report (Continued)**

Public Health Risk Management Plans

Councillor McQueen said the Divisional Report had included a reference under the heading Strategy and Asset Group on Page 29 of the Report on Proposed Public Health Risk Management Plans.

Mr Kennedy, Manager Strategy and Assets, said Government was proposing changes to the Health Act and a draft Bill will be presented to Parliament in September this year. The Bill will propose mandatory drinking standards for all public water providers in New Zealand. The proposed Risk Management Plan will cut across the Regional Council’s system in several respects and will raise a number of issues including extra costs. Mr Kennedy said Council is unable to progress these concerns until the Draft Legislation is introduced into Parliament and Submissions can be made to the Select Committee. Mr Kennedy said members will be kept informed of developments as they occur.

Benchmarking Report

Councillor McQueen again referred to the Strategy and Assets Group Manager’s Report where reference was made to the Benchmarking Report that compares the Water Group’s activities with Water Care Services Ltd in Auckland.

Mr Kennedy informed the meeting about how overall, the Regional Council compared favourably with Water Care Services given the two Water Utilities had different ways of operating in separate parts of the country.

US 191 **Questions**

Consultation Document – Water Consultation

Councillor Werry asked how the savings of \$2.8M a year, as described in the Water Integration Consultation document, would be allocated. Mr Benham said it was not possible to give a breakdown of the savings because the analysis was at a high level. This would be clarified if the Integration Proposal proceeded.

US 192 **General**

There were no items of general business.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

EUAN McQUEEN
Chairman

Date: