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Report 01.56

8 February 2001

File: E/6/16/2

File: landcare/report 01.56.doc

Report of the Meeting of the Landcare Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington, on Thursday, 8 February 2001 at 9.30am

Matters for Council Decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.
Matters for Information of Council are in italic type.

Present

Councillors Werry (Chairperson), Bonner, Laidlaw, Long, McQueen, Shaw, and Thomas and Messrs Gilbert and Ross

Officers Present

Messrs Andrell, Annakin, Ballantyne, Philippa Crisp, Darroch, Dick, Susan Edwards, Farrell, Trecia Smith, McLean and Waititi

Public Business

Procedural Items

LC216 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Laidlaw)

That the apology from Councillor Macaskill and Councillor Shields be confirmed.

LC217 Public Participation**Valerie Smith, Belmont Resident and Friend of Belmont Regional Park**

Valerie Smith said she represented a wide ranging group of people who have a great affection for Belmont Regional Park. Valerie Smith said this group wished to protect the Park for the enjoyment of as many as possible by forming an umbrella group called the 'Friends of Belmont Regional Park'. The 'Friends' would be a bridge of communication between the public and Council and would promote the enjoyment of the Park in the community.

Mr Ross, District Conservator, said his Department supported a network of voluntary park groups and would arrange for contact to be made with Valerie Smith.

Members were keen to ensure contact with similar supporters of the Park on the Porirua side. Following questions Councillor Werry thanked Valerie Smith for her submission supporting the Park and noted the item will shortly be considered by the Committee.

Mr A Cockcroft and Mr M Deane, Akatarawa Action Committee (ARAC)

Mr Cockcroft referred to the paper from ARAC outlining the proposal for a motorised recreational development of Cleary's Road in the Akatarawa Forest. ARAC was an umbrella group for all motorised recreational vehicles in the region and had an excellent working relationship with the Regional Council during the past 5 years. ARAC was proposing two parallel tracks to improve the motorised recreational opportunities in Cleary's Road and at the same time will support Council in protecting the ecological values in the area. ARAC has access to manpower and equipment and would contribute to any costs for the enhancement.

Following questions Councillor Werry thanked ARAC for their representations and said the proposal will be considered later in the meeting.

Mr K McGavin, Secretary, Wellington Tramway Museum Inc

Mr McGavin said he was speaking on behalf of the Tramway Museum Society which owns and operates the Tramway Museum in Queen Elizabeth Park. Mr McGavin said the Society strongly supported the building of a railway station or platform immediately north of Mackay's Crossing and directly opposite the entry to Queen Elizabeth Park. This would encourage greater use of the Park and its facilities. The current realignment of State Highway One provided the opportunity for such a platform.

A copy of Mr McGavin's submission was circulated.

Following questions Mr Annakin, Divisional Manager, said that the State Highway One realignment certainly suggested an opportunity, but that the submission was

best considered within the framework of the Long Term Financial Strategy, however Mr McGavin was free to make an Annual Plan Submission.

LC218 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved

(Cr Long/Cr Thomas)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2000, Report 00.895 and the public excluded minutes, Report PE 01.08, be confirmed, the public excluded part to remain in public excluded.

Matters for Decision

LC219 Friends of Belmont Regional Park

Report 01.20

File: R/5/1/2

Mr Ross noted that his Department had protocols for working with “friends” groups and that these were different from the Terms of Reference.

Moved

(Cr Long/Cr Thomas)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That the concept of establishing the “Friends of Belmont Regional Park” be endorsed.*
- (3) That it be agreed officers work with community representatives and other Park landowners to develop a Terms of Reference for the Friends and to report it back to the Committee for endorsement.*

Amendment

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Shaw)

That recommendations (2) and (3) above be amended as follows:

- (2) That members welcome the prospect of working cooperatively with the "Friends of Belmont Regional Park" while acknowledging their independence.*
- (3) That officers work with community representatives and other park land owners to develop a Terms of Reference for the Friends and to report progress back to the Committee.*

CARRIED

The motion as amended was then put and **CARRIED**.

LC220 Queen Elizabeth Park – Mackays Crossing Entrance/Wetland Development and Arbor Day 2001

Report 01.04

File: R/1/6/6

Mr F Boffa, Boffa Miskell, was present for this item.

Mr Ross noted the cultural significance of the Whareroa Stream to iwi.

Resolved (Cr Laidlaw/Cr Thomas)

- (1) *That in principle the redesign of the Mackays Crossing entrance and the Wetland Restoration Project be approved.*
- (2) *That it be noted that officers will report back to the Committee once the landscape concept plan is finalised.*
- (3) *That the Arbor Day proposal at the Mackays Crossing entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park be approved.*

LC221 Cleary's Road Alternative Route

Report 01.51

File: R/2/3/3

Mr Gilbert declared an interest and said he would not be voting on this item.

Moved (Cr Long/Cr Shaw)

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That the opportunity to enhance the recreational values of the Akatarawa Forest created by the ARAC proposal to utilise the existing portion of road as a bog be noted, and agree that officers further investigate the feasibility and likely costs of the proposal to create a new portion of road parallel to Cleary's Road.*

Amendment (Cr Laidlaw/Cr Shaw)

*That the following words be added to recommendation (2) above:
"including the potential impacts on private land owners"*

CARRIED

The motion as amended was then put and **CARRIED**.

Susan Edwards, Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy and Marketing) said she would arrange a visit to the site in conjunction with the rescheduled opening of the Orange Hutt.

LC222 Waikanae River Gravel Extraction Review

Report 01.05

File: N/6/11/3

Teresa Smith, Environmental Planner, Flood Protection, gave a presentation on the potential environmental impacts on the river and the proposed mitigation factors.

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Shaw)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That the extraction proposal and programme as outlined be agreed.*
- (3) That a business plan change will be sought, through the Six Month Review process, to reallocate \$52,000 from existing Flood Protection operating budgets to fund the resource consents applications, be noted.*
- (4) That holding a public meeting with the Otaihanga community in late March 2001 to explain the Regional Council's proposed strategy for gravel extraction in the Waikanae River, be endorsed.*

Members requested early notice of the proposed meeting with the Otaihanga community.

LC223 Summit Railway Village Project, Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area

Report 01.46

File: R/2/3/3

Resolved

(Cr Shaw/Cr Laidlaw)

- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) That officers incorporate the idea of an interpretation trail along the Rimutaka Incline Walkway into the review of the Interim Forest Lands and Water Collection Areas Management Plan, be agreed.*
- (3) That officers further refine the project and likely costings for consideration through the next full review of the Long-term Financial Strategy, be agreed.*

Matters for Information

LC224 Forest Condition Update - Catchments

Report 01.49

File: F/2/2/7

Councillor McQueen asked that this report be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Utility Services Committee and asked that Philippa Crisp be present to answer questions from members.

Councillor McQueen left at 12.20pm.

Philippa Crisp, Landcare Advisor (Environmental Stewardship) gave a presentation on the condition of the catchment, monitoring techniques for possums, large vertebrates and vegetation and the linking of these techniques with management and the current policies.

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Thomas)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

LC225 Willow Sawfly in the Wellington Region

Report 01.06

File: N/50/3/4

Mr Ross left at 12.35pm.

Members noted the contribution of Wairarapa staff to this report.

Resolved

(Cr Werry/Cr Thomas.)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

LC226 Divisional Manager's Report

Report 01.52

File: E/6/16/3

Members noted the success of the Regional Outdoors summer events programme.

Resolved

Cr Werry/Cr Shaw

That the report be received and the contents noted.

LC227 Questions

There were no questions.

LC228 General

Friends of the River

Mr Gilbert said the Friends of the River Groups were making good progress and said he especially appreciated the support of the officers of the Landcare Division. Mr Gilbert also mentioned there were occupational safety and health issues to be considered when the Council was involved in joint projects with the 'Friends'.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

COUNCILLOR R WERRY
Chairperson

Date

Wellington Regional Council – 8 March 2001

To be moved:

That the report of the meeting of the Landcare Committee held on 8 February 2001, Items LC216 to LC228 inclusive, be adopted.