

Report 08.37
Date 25 January 2008
File WS/08/05/01

Committee Catchment Management
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 28 November 2007.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

Appointed members

Nominations for appointed members to the Catchment Committee have closed. Consideration of the nominations has commenced with the aim of the appointment panel making recommendations to Council for consideration at its meeting on 25 February.

Appointed members will then join the Committee for our next meeting on 19 March 2008.

BioWorks

Bio Works has just won, through an open bid process, a two year preferred supplier agreement with the Animal Health Board. The unit now has certainty of work through to June 2009. Negotiating the final terms of the agreement occupied a large amount of my time since the Christmas break.

Work is well underway on the planning necessary to ensure we can deliver this work on time and within budget. A separate report on the contract and consideration of the strategic direction for the unit is attached to this order paper.

Vector Management - 2008/09 contract extension

A high priority now is to finalise the extension of the Council's vector management contract for 2008/09. Greater Wellington received notice in December last year that from 2008 the Animal Health Board will commence rationalising vector management areas and taking vector management responsibilities in house.

Two meetings have been held with senior Animal Health Board staff to discuss the extension by one year of Council's current vector management contract which is due to expire on 30 June 2008. Verbal agreement on the broad terms of the contract extension has been reached but a promised letter of intent has yet to be received.

8 January Kapiti flood event

Shortly following the flood event I spent some time out in the field with Kees Nauta, our Kapiti Area Engineer looking at a few of the 'hot' spots following the event.

I visited Otaihanga, the damage to the NIMT bridge over the Waitohu Stream, ponding in the Ngatotara Stream catchment, and got a general appreciation of the extent of the overland flow that closed State Highway 1 during the event.

The flood event impacts were mostly on the northern Kapiti Streams, in particular the Mangaone and Waitohu catchments. However the flood event has exacerbated some long standing erosion issues adjacent to the boating club in Otaihanga that now need a permanent fix.

The flood warning process went well through this short sharp event. Councillors may remember seeing the television clips about the evacuation of campers from the El Rancho holiday camp.

Chrystalls Extended stopbank

On my visit to Kapiti I also got an opportunity to visit the now largely completed new stopbank.

Our contractors have made great progress with this job and it is good to see this project so well advanced. At the time of my inspection work was concentrating on forming the new inland haul road along the upper reaches of the stopbank and final shaping of the adjacent berm area. The main stopbank itself is complete except for removal of stones from the soil covering and sowing to grass.

Application to the Hill Country Erosion fund

Dave Cameron has completed the initial application stage for a grant from the Hill Country Erosion fund which is part of the overall Sustainable Land Management package put out by the Government.

The application will be considered by the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee before being submitted. I will ask Dave to brief the Catchment Committee at the 7 February meeting.

The application is based around accelerating Council's current sustainable land management programmes in yet to be determined priority catchments. This additional work is subject to the agreement and contribution from landowners, and needs to fit into the total catchment management concepts being developed to help determine work priorities in the next LTCCP.

Communications

Catriona Robertson has resigned from Council to take up a new position in Wellington. Catriona's last major task was to pull together the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy document as part of the current review of this document. This will shortly be released for public comment.

We wish Catriona well in her new role. Recruitment of Catriona's replacement is underway.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Financial Report
Attachment 2: Departmental Managers' Report