

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

PAEROA RURAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAEROA RURAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA ON FRIDAY, 04 DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 10.30AM

PRESENT Messrs M Peters (Chairperson), C Zydenbos, T Hamilton and Cr R Garrett

IN ATTENDANCE S Clark (WRC - Works Supervisor, Paeroa Team - Integrated Catchment Management), A de Laborde (Group Manager – Engineering Services), S de Laborde (Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager), Mr B Stephens (Drainage Overseer) and Ms C Black (Council Secretary)

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

THAT the apology of P Casey and Cr Buckthought be received and sustained.

PRDD20/11

Peters/Hamilton

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: PAEROA RURAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 07-08-20 - 2815395

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Paeroa Rural Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 07 August 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.

PRDD20/12

Zydenbos/Hamilton

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mill Road Pump

At the August meeting, the Chair expressed his dissatisfaction that the Mill Road pump was out of commission for 12 months and requested that a letter be sent from Council requesting a response as to why it was out of service for so long. The Chair asked for an update on this matter, as he had not received a response to date.

The WRC Works Supervisor advised that the reason for the length of time it took to recommission the pump was because it took some time to reach a decision whether it be replaced or repaired and when agreement was reached that it be replaced, further issues arose with its installation.

WRC Update – Steve Clark

Operational:

- 2km of fencing on the Puriri river right bank,
- Finished structural audits on the Waihou with 7 sites done..
- Tree maintenance Taieri stream.

- Stopbank audits have been completed. Stopbanks are in best condition within the last 5 years of inspection.
- Spraying is underway on Waihou River.
- Drains, floodgates and pump stations have been inspected.
- Mill Road No. 2 pump has just been overhauled.
- Stocks comes out on Friday and is being overhauled.

Adrian spoke on drought effects referring to the 'drains of death' reported on where many fish species in drains succumbed to the lack of flowing water over the last season's drought period.

Adrian spoke on the Drought hui which has been held recently and included a number of stakeholders; Iwi, WRC Doc, Fish and Game, GNS Science (NIWA) and HDC to give consideration on what action can be taken if a drought occurs again. Conflicting messages around the opening and closing of floodgates, catching eels and moving them to alternative waterways was discussed. A decision is to be made at a meeting at the Waikato Regional Council on Monday 7th December on what process will be followed.

It was noted that the water levels in the region already are lower than they were this time last year.

DRAINAGE REPORT – OCTOBER 2020 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 4 MONTHS TO 31 OCTOBER - 2867352

The Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager presented the district drainage operational activity report to October 2020.

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received.

PRDD20/13

Petefs/Zydenbos

CARRIED

The Drainage Overseer reported on vegetation control is concluding next week. The Tirohia area should be completed before Christmas.

Measuring up to replace steel work on floodgate at Komata.

In February 2021, the floodgate at north Tirohia will be reinstated.

Financial Report

The Chair requested a copy of the actuals for the Paeroa Rural Drainage District for the 2019/20 year.

Steve de Laborde will go back to Councils finance department to seek clarity on the financials.

Steve advised that the 2020-21 budget is not underway yet.

Mechanical cleaning will commence in early 2021.

Adrian explained the overheads and how are they are apportioned. Opening balances and overheads will be brought back to the next meeting in March 2021.

WRC - Shovel Ready Projects and Waikato Regional Hazards Portal

For the information of the members, it was advised that the Council Secretary would email the links to both the WRC 'Shovel Ready' projects listed on the WRC website: [Shovel ready projects | Waikato Regional Council](#) and information on hazards: [Waikato Regional Hazards Portal](#) and [Flood room live | Waikato Regional Council](#). These matters were also covered at the three other land drainage committee meetings the previous day.

GENERAL BUSINESS

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Terry Hamilton asked if Council staff undertaking spraying of drains could commence earlier in the morning before the winds get up.

Craig Zydenbos - Bank of the Rotokohu Canal – the Drainage Overseer advised that the banks need battering back which may require landowners to give up 2.5 metres of their land on both sides of the canal.

It was noted that the high populations of Koi carp are causing banks to slump.

As regards to the responsibility to reduce the populations of Koi carp, the Chair stated it is not the responsibility of the Regional Council to reduce the Koi carp populations; it is the responsibility of the Department of Conservation.

The Chair believed that WRC could apply for funding to undertake a report on the issue of Koi carp.

Craig Zydenbos asked about the protection of eels and other fish species if another drought strikes the region. What process is in the place to protect fish species in waterways?

Adrian advised a meeting is to be held at the Waikato Regional Council on Monday, 7th December, where it will be considered how the flooding of freshwater into drought-affected waterways in support of fish species under threat is to be undertaken.

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

CONFIRMED

M Peters
Chairperson

4 March 2021