
MINUTES
of the
NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT MEETING
held
1.00 pm , Friday, 9 March 2018
at
**Ruma Marama, Nelson City Council, 110 Trafalgar Street,
Nelson**

Present: Councillors C M Maling (Chair) and D E McNamara, Tasman District Council
Councillors S Walker and T Skinner, Nelson City Council
Mr Philip Wilson (Nelson Pine Industries) representing the Industrial Water Users

In Attendance: General Manager (J Robinson) and Executive Assistant (R L Scherer),
Tasman District Council
General Manager Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Senior Asset Engineer – Solid Waste (J Thiant) and Management Accountant (A Bishop) Nelson City Council

Part Attendance:

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr Robinson advised the committee that he is presenting a report to the Nelson City Council-Tasman District Council Joint Committee regarding the NRSBU Committee's recommendation to appoint an independent member to the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee. The Joint Committee meeting will be held on 27 March 2018 and Mr Robinson will provide a copy of the report to the NRSBU Committee members when it is finalised.

Moved Cr Skinner/Walker

NRSBU18-03-1

That the minutes of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 8 December 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 General Manager's Update Report

Mr Robinson spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

Mr Robinson noted that staff intend to introduce a new topic at each committee meeting and that odour management will be the topic for today.

Moved Cr Walker/Cr Maling

NRSBU18-03-2

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee receives the General Manager's Update Report

CARRIED

Odour Issues – Bell Island

Mr Robinson provided a summary of the meeting held with Best Island residents on 15 February 2018.

Mr Wilson expressed his disappointment with the meeting and felt that NRSBU staff had performed very poorly. He said that it had taken too long to call the meeting and that the focus of the meeting should have been on resolution of the odour issue. Mr Wilson suggested that the procedure for residents to make complaints about odour from Bell Island should be better managed.

In response, Mr Robinson noted that there will be two options for people to make complaints about odour; to Nelmac who are responsible for following procedures and to Tasman District Council who log odour complaints as a requirement of the resource consent.

Mr Robinson advised the committee that an information flyer will be delivered to Bell Island residents explaining how they should make any future complaints about odour issues.

The committee discussed odour testing and agreed that the General Manager should appoint an independent contractor to independently test for objectionable or offensive odours attributed to the operations at Bell Island.

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Walker

NRSBU18-03-3

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager to arrange for an independent person to regularly monitor and report on any objectionable or offensive odours attributed to the Bell Island Treatment Plant operations.

CARRIED

Renewal of Discharge Resource Consent

The Committee discussed the current application for renewal of the discharge resource consent. Mr Robinson noted that an independent specialist will be engaged to provide a peer review of the management processes at Bell Island and that review will be available before the consent hearing.

NRSBU Customer Group

Mr Robinson tabled the meeting notes and actions arising from the recent NRSBU customer group meeting. He advised the committee that Alliance General Manager, Terry Kreft is retiring and the Board resolved to acknowledge Mr Kreft's active participation in the customer group over many years.

Moved Cr Walker/Cr Skinner

NRSBU18-03-4

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature to Terry Kreft acknowledging his participation in the NRSBU customer group over a long period and thanking him for his valued input.

CARRIED

Saxton Pumpstation Overflows

Mr Thiart spoke about the recently issued resource consent conditions to discharge overflows of untreated sewage into the Waimea Estuary. Condition 6 requires the NRSBU to notify the three industrial contributors to cease discharging to the network when the Saxton pumpstation reaches or exceeds 85% capacity and to advise them when they may restart their discharge. There is a need to update the operating protocols to work within the conditions of consent.

Mr Thiart noted that he will work with the three customers and Nelmac to ensure everyone understands what is required of them.

Bell Island Irrigation and Lease of Land for Farming Purposes

The Committee discussed the current cattle grazing lease which expires on 30 June 2018. It was agreed that it is likely that the NRSBU will need this land for future improvements or to extend the biosolids discharge area. The Committee agreed that the lease should be concluded and asked the General Manager to discuss this with the current lessee and to conclude the lease to both parties' satisfaction.

Moved Cr Skinner/Cr Walker

NRSBU18-03-5

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager to initiate discussions with the lessee, Raine Farms to cease the lease agreement for land at Bell Island to the satisfaction of both parties.

CARRIED

Argentine Ants

Mr Thiart spoke about the Argentine Ant issue with the difficulty in confining their movement and that staff are responsible for ensuring they are kept away from the shell bank. He noted that Tasman District Council staff are carrying out a peer review of the NRSBUs argentine ant eradication programme. A recommendation on next steps will be presented to the Committee at the June meeting.

Adverse Events

Mr Robinson noted that the recent adverse storm events had resulted in inundation of the Beach Road pumpstation which compromised the NRSBU operations. This is a high priority issue and staff are working on a resolution.

Mr Robinson spoke about the need to align the procedures used by Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council for the closure of beaches after an adverse storm event and the possibility of stormwater contamination. Both councils need to agree on the same procedures to provide some measure of alleviating reputational risk.

Hydrodynamic Modelling

Mr Robinson advised the committee that MetOcean had been contracted to carry out some hydrodynamic modelling. This modelling is quite complex and Mr Thiart suggested that MetOcean be asked to workshop the model with the committee so that the Committee members understand the modelling process and how it can assist in planning for future storm events.

Contract 3458 – Operations and Maintenance

Mr Robinson noted that Mr Louverdis is Engineer to this contract and that he has recommended that the NRSBU rollover the contract for two years. This will provide sufficient time for staff to review how the contract can be streamlined to ensure all the deliverables are optimised.

This may incur some costs and these will be reported to the Committee when they are known.

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Walker

NRSBU18-03-6

THAT the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager and the Engineer to the Contract (Contract 3458) to initiate discussions with Nelmac with a view to rolling over the contract for two years and to ensure that any opportunities for improvement are optimised.

CARRIED

Contract 3619 – Biosolids Operation

Mr Robinson spoke about the current consent for the application of biosolids at Baltune Forest. The Committee agreed that this consent should be allowed to lapse.

Moved Cr Walker/Cr McNamara

NRSBU18-03-7

THAT the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager to let the resource consent for the application of biosolids at Baltune Forest to lapse.

CARRIED

Renewal of Consent for Biosolids Application at Rabbit Island

Mr Robinson recommended that the NRSBU employ John Marsden to provide legal advice on the resource consent application for biosolid application at Rabbit Island.

Moved Cr Walker/Cr McNamara

NRSBU18-03-8

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the General Manager to engage the services of John Marsden to provide legal advice to NRSBU staff for the renewal of the resource consent for biosolids application at Rabbit Island which expires in 2021.

CARRIED

Accel-o-Fac Evaluation of Performance

The Committee agreed that the General Manager should arrange a repeat survey of the facultative ponds in June 2018 to provide further information on the performance of the mixers and provide guidance on the renewal and upgrade of the electrical mixers.

Treated Wastewater Reuse Project

Mr Robinson, as a member of the Nelson Golf Club and Mr Wilson, as an employee of Nelson Pine Industries both declared their interests in this matter.

Mr Robinson advised that OPUS have been contracted to provide a proposal to complete a limited viability study on the reuse of treated wastewater. Staff will then need to develop a strategy to engage both councils on what the consultants recommend.

Financial Status

Mr Bishop spoke to the finance section of the report which was taken as read. He noted that NRSBU income continues to track above budget.

Draft Business Plan

Mr Robinson advised the Committee that staff are waiting on feedback from both councils regarding the Draft Business Plan. He expects that staff will present a report to the June meeting asking them to approve the final Business Plan.

Audit New Zealand Letter

Cr Maling referred to the recommendation from Audit NZ in the Audit Letter of 11 December 2017 recommending that the NRSBU enter into a formal agreement with Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council regarding their respective loans to the NRSBU.

Moved Cr Maling/Cr Walker

NRSBU18-03-8

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee instructs the Management Accountant to prepare a letter to both councils regarding Audit New Zealand's recommendation that the NRSBU enter into a formal agreement with Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council for the provision of the loans provided by both councils.

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

The meeting concluded at 3.13 pm

Date Confirmed:

Chair: