
MINUTES
of the
NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT MEETING
held
11.00 am , Monday, 27 August 2018
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors C M Maling (Chair) and D E McNamara, Tasman District Council
Councillor S Walker, Nelson City Council

In Attendance: Industry representative, P Wilson
Acting General Manager (D Clifford)
Group Manager – Works and Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Management
Accountant (A Bishop) and Senior Asset Engineer – Solid Waste (J Thiant),
Nelson City Council
Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council

1 OPENING, WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Walker/Cr McNamara
NRSBU18-08-1

That apologies from Cr T Skinner be accepted.
CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Walker/Cr Maling
NRSBU18-08-2

That the minutes of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 22 June 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 NRSBU Annual Report - 2017/2018

Acting General Manager, Don Clifford spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr Clifford commented that the NRSBU had achieved a financial surplus for the 2017-2018 financial year. He noted that some operating costs were over budget and this was attributed to the storm event on 1 February 2018. Mr Clifford advised the committee that weekly odour inspections are being managed by the contractor.

In response to a question about the inundation of the Beach Road pump station during the February storm event, Mr Clifford advised that staff are looking at options to raise the pump station; this could take the form of bunding or physical lifting. Mr Thiart noted that a permanent generator is in place at the Beach Road pump station.

In response to a question, Management Accountant, Andrew Bishop confirmed that the NRSBU has lodged a claim for insurance on the pump station and this will be included in the accounts for the 2018-2019 financial year.

The committee agreed that a letter of congratulations should be sent to staff regarding the “no lost time injuries” noted in the health and safety update. The Chair requested that Mrs Scherer draft a letter to that effect for his signature.

In response to a question regarding the two instances of overflows noted in the compliance table, Mr Thiart confirmed that these were related to the storm surge event on 1 February 2018.

Mr Louverdis noted that infiltration/inflow issues are a strong focus for both councils.

Mr Clifford advised the committee that he is reviewing the NRSBU staff and contractor support to ensure that the NRSBU has the right skills and experience in place. He noted that he will report back on this review at the next meeting.

Mr Clifford also noted that he is reviewing the board performance as is required under the Terms of Reference every two years.

The committee discussed the recent workshop between Nelson City and Tasman District Councils including the environmental concerns regarding the discharge (volume and quality) of effluent to the estuary. It was agreed that cultural issues relating to the discharge will become more stringent in the future.

Cr Walker advised the committee that Nelson City Council Councillors and staff had recently met with the Nelson Golf Club regarding the use of treated effluent for watering their greens. It was noted that the costs associated with delivering this option are very high.

In response to a question, Mr Thiart confirmed that the NRSBU has paid for the aerators and staff are looking at options to purchase more in the future. Staff will prepare a report for the next meeting focusing on desludging options. Mr Thiart noted that the quality of the current discharge is very good.

Annual Report – amended wording

Mr Clifford circulated an amended paragraph to replace paragraph 9.2 in the annual report:

Analysis of the scheme capacity trends shows that loads to the plant have not increased at the growth projections used to develop the 2010 upgrade and it is therefore considered that there is adequate capacity within the system to treat wastewater discharged to Bell Island. This position is supported by the technical submission relating to the treated wastewater discharge consent.

Odour issues

Mr Clifford spoke about the odour issues which had been particularly bad during last summer. He noted that staff are preparing a plan to ensure that odour is not an issue again this coming summer. Mr Clifford advised the committee that the issues with the biomechanical filter have been remedied and staff are addressing some other mechanical-related issues which resulted in raw sewage entering the ponds. This includes the option of diluting the material before it enters the ponds.

In response to a question, Mr Thiart confirmed that the operations at Bell Island are automated and Nelmac are responsible for responding to any alarms as soon as possible.

In response to a question regarding the inlet structure and hydrogen sulphide levels, Mr Clifford noted that there are now two inlet screens and staff are looking at options of dosing incoming material to reduce hydrogen sulphide entering the system.

In response to a question regarding liaison with the Best Island residents, Mr Clifford confirmed that staff are meeting with the residents next month and have arranged to take them on a site visit in October.

Mr Clifford noted that some of the items contributing to the odour issues will take longer to remedy.

Financial Performance

Management Account, Andrew Bishop summarised the unit's financial result for 2017-2018. He noted that any surplus is returned to the two councils.

In response to a question regarding the interest rate on capital and the consequent charges to the industrial users, Mr Bishop confirmed that he would check out the current situation and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Grazing contract

Mr Clifford noted that he has been in contact with Julian Raine and both parties have agreed on the contract renewal for a one-year extension with the same conditions as the previous contract.

Moved Cr McNamara/Walker NRSBU18-08-3

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit:

- 1. receives the NRSBU Annual Report - 2017/2018; and**
- 2. approves the NRSBU Annual Report - 2017/2018 subject to audit.**

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

The meeting concluded at 11.55 am.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: