

**Minutes of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at RSA,
12 Bowler Avenue, Gore on
Friday 5 April 2024, at 1.00 pm.**



Present:	Mr H Gardyne	(Chair)
	Mr S Bradfield	
	Ms S Crooks	
	Mr C Dillon	
	Mr J English	
	Mr J Gardyne	
	Mr S MacDonell	
	Mr B McLeod	
	Mr S Nicol	
	Mr N Phillips	
	Mr I Smith	
	Mr B Watt	
	Mr R Wilkins	
In Attendance:	Ms T Millar	(Thriving Southland)
	Ms C Andrews	(MPI)
	Mr G McGregor	(Aparima Catchment Liaison Chairman)
	Cr J McPhail	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Cr A Gibson	(Environment Southland)
	Cr J Pemberton	(Environment Southland)
	Cr L Ludlow	(Environment Southland)
	Mr P Hulse	(General Manager, Integrated Catchment Manager)
	Mrs Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr D Connor	(Team Leader, Catchment)
	Mr J Turnbull	(Works Supervisor)
	Mr C Cartwright	(Works Supervisor)
	Mr D Burgess	(Team Leader Biosecurity – Animals)
	Ms A Raymond	(Senior Land Sustainability Officer)
	Ms J Stewart	(Land Sustainability Officer)
	Mrs E Lawton	(Catchment Operations LTP & Stakeholder lead)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Team Leader Corporate Reporting)
	Mrs M Wass	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome and Chairman's Report (*Haere mai*)

Mr H Gardyne welcomed the attendees to the meeting and spoke to his Chairman's Report, a copy of which has been **attached**. He highlighted the Mataura Catchment Report, the ES capacity building project, the ES Long-term Plan and Infrastructure Strategy and the Slow the Flow and Upper Mataura Pilot Project.

Resolved:

Moved Mr H Gardyne, seconded Mr B Watt that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee receive the Chairman report.

Carried

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved by consensus:

That apologies be received on behalf of Mr R Beal, Mr S Dyer, Mr B Dillon, Mr L Frisby, Mrs P Wilkons and Mr S Wilkons.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

It was noted that an amended set of Terms of Reference were with the Liaison Chairs for review and would be shared with the committees further in the year.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of 21 February 2023

Mr Sean Nicol and Mr Ian Smith were to be added as apologies.

Resolved:

Moved Mr B Watt, seconded Mr H Gardyne, that the minutes of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 21 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Matters Arising

It was noted that any matters arising from the previous minutes would be addressed via the reports to the meeting.

Clarification was made that Iwi had been invited to the 2023 Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee Meeting.

6 Appointment of Committee and membership

Mr Connor assumed the Chair. Mr Conner called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr J Gardyne, seconded Mr S Nicol that Mr H Gardyne be elected to the position of Chairman of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Mr H Gardyne assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair. No nominations were received.

Mr H Gardyne called for nominations for the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr S McDonald, seconded Mr J Gardyne that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of all those members present at the meeting today, together with any apologies.

Carried

Resolved:

Moved Mr S McDonald, seconded Mr J Gardyne that an executive subcommittee of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of Mr Hugh Gardyne, Mr John Gardyne, Mr Bevin Watt, Mr Sean Nicol, Mr Chirs Dillon and one other member that would be appointed following the meeting.

Carried

Ms Sarah Crooks was subsequently appointed as the final member of the executive subcommittee

7 Catchment Report

Mr Connor spoke to his presentation which gave an overview of the work happening on the Mataura river. A copy of the presentation slides would be available on file. He highlighted the following work that had been done over the previous season:

- Rock placement over 23 erosion sites;
- heavy willow work programmes;
- annual fairway spraying targeting Mataura/Waikaia fairways;
- stop bank inspections and repairs;
- service requests, bylaw application and gravel evaluations.

He explained the stop bank condition scores and noted how the scores helped to prioritize bank maintenance for flood protection. A request was made to have annual stop bank defect progress statistics reported to future meetings to show if the baseline is moving.

An update was given on the Climate resilience projects (with 4 out of 5 being completed) and gravel, which included data from a section of the river that had been monitoring the overall trend (0.01 increase of gravel) between 2012 and 2023. He noted that the data did not indicate significant build up over that period, however data from that section of river wouldn't reflect the state of the whole area.

Mr G McGregor spoke to the meeting about the gravel extraction work that was being done on the Aparima and noted the discussions taking place at the Gravel working group. Stage 1 would use LiDAR to find out how much gravel and where and then a strategy would be designed to replace and extract gravel to maintain the habitats. Stage 2 would focus on gravel movement and would dictate longer term solutions.

Discussion took place and the following points were noted:

- LINZ administered land - if DOC could be onsite more often it could smooth their relationships with land owners;
- LiDAR data, post flood, could be updated by doing drone surveys. Bathymetric data would be expensive but the current data would provide a baseline for affected parties wanting to renew timeframes for the data they need;
- Ecosystem – impediments on when work is done as there are nesting times that you can't work during.

7 Financial Report – 2023/24 and proposed 2024/2025

Mrs Hawkins spoke to the financial report and noted that the overhead and staff costs would not be charged out to individual catchments anymore and would come directly from the regional budget. The flood warning expenditure would also move to the regional budget. It was proposed that the general rate in the River Works budget be removed from all catchment liaison committee budgets and instead be spread out evenly across the entire region as a flood infrastructure rate. The Long-term plan consultation outlined further information and included a proposal to moving to capital value rating.

A discussion took place and the following was noted:

- Are these the councils' decisions to put things in the regional 'pot'? – if these items are taken out of catchment budget they have no control of how much is spent in the necessary areas (structural maintenance) - the province can't support it all.
- Interest on the Mataura disaster reserves – no interest paid on the leaseholder reserve fund.
- Budget would need approved and completed by the third week of May for the auditors.

It was noted that the committee would decide on the budget after the presentation on the long-term plan and infrastructure budget.

Resolved:

Moved Mr H Gardyne, second Mr S McDonald, that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee receive the financial report and approve the proposed 2024/25 budget in principle, pending the results of the LTP consultation.

Carried*Mr I Smith abstained***9 General****Long-term Plan 2024-34**

Cr McDonald gave an overview of the high-level points for the infrastructure strategy and LTP matters:

- He noted that any feedback to the long-term plan was encouraged, whether it was for or against - If there were alternative suggestions then please also include those.
- Moving to capital value rating system (as part of the rating review) which bases rates on capital value instead of land value, ensuring an even spread of rates over the whole region, instead of having smaller pockets of the region with larger rate increases than others;
- 30 year strategy – general focus on flood protection scheme review and levels of service and prioritising urban flood protection;
- Meteorological phenomena where there will be heavier rainfall and higher flow rates that will last longer - climate change would add another layer;
- Increasing the stop bank serviceability to 'level 3' on the defect rating scale;
- Proposing to have a capital works programme.

Mrs Hawkins explained the proposal for an infrastructure strategy rate. (Her presentation would be available on file) The presentation highlighted:

- Three consultations under the long-term plan – rates changes, budgets changes and fees & charges.
- Review of catchment rates had been undertaken beforehand and feedback from the catchment liaison chairs had been used to form the proposal. (noted that not all chairs were in agreeance)
- 140 catchment rates becoming one rate, based on capital value – will have a different impact depending on the ratio of land value to capital value. Taking away classifications and moving biosecurity and land sustainability rates into a general rate.
- If Regional Council didn't change the way they rate now, then future increases would fall on a small group of people.
- Doesn't affect drainage rates, as there would need to be a review on the drainage rate in the future.
- She noted that members in attendance would receive an estimate of their properties rates increase following the meeting.

A lengthy discussion took place on the concerns around the proposal and the following was noted:

- Mataura modelling will be the first done – estimated 6 months before I can be shared with the community – there have been previous issues around transparency and accuracy of modelling. New modelling will be peer reviewed to help with this.
- adequacy of the stop banks and data – stop banks are designed to manage an event (overtopping), the peaks will last longer and need to pre-empt this - stop banks can only be built so high so other solutions will be needed.
- focus is to look after what they have and make sure it works well into the future – not everything can be engineered so need to look at other methods - being proactive to look at different areas where they can slow the water down.
- wrong focus, need to incentivise people to slow the water down, need to understand the other perspectives especially those rural but also urban.

Resolved:

Moved Mr H Gardyne, seconded Mr S Nicol that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee agree in principle to the LTP 2024-34 rating proposal.

Carried
Mr I Smith Against

It was noted that LTP submissions could be made individually or as a group. It was agreed that members were happy to make their own submissions, however Mr Gardyne advised members to contact him if there were any concerns.

Mataura Catchment Group Grants

Ms Raymond spoke about the ongoing Mataura Catchment Group grant programme. Staff have drafted rules and regulations and would like the catchment groups to get involved in selecting recipients. There is \$25,000 allocated in the budget per year for this, however as there are so many projects coming through, staff feel a larger fund would be beneficial.

Resolved:

Moved Mr H Gardyne, seconded Mr S Nicol that the executive subcommittee of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee would meet with the Environment Southland and Thriving Southland coordinators to discuss the Mataura Catchment Group grants further.

Carried

Biosecurity

Mr Burgess spoke to the committee about Wallibys and the threat to Southland. He advised everyone to report any sighting to Environment Southland as soon as possible as it was likely they could start coming down through the Mataura catchment.

Murihiku Slow the Flow and Upper Mataura Pilot Project

Thriving Southland noted that there were Slow the flow conversations happening in the catchment group areas.

Role of Liaison committees and role with ES

The committee discussed the need to be afforded ‘community board’ status and staff advised they would investigate the ability to obtain this.

Resolved:

Moved Mr H Gardyne, seconded Mr S Nicol, that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee requests the Council investigate obtaining a community board status to the major catchment liaison committees.

Carried

It was noted that the new Catchment Liaison Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) were being designed around widening the groups responsibilities to a more community focused role. There had been a wide range of views on the ToR which is why they hadn’t been adopted.

Agreement from the committee was needed on the Southland District Council ‘Gravel management above bridges’ consent variation being shifted out to 150m.

Resolved:

Moved Mr C Dillon, seconded Mr H Gardyne that the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee agree that limits be extended from 10m to 150m.

Carried

9 Termination

Mr Gardyne thanked all who had made presentations and extended further thanks to staff members.

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 5:16pm.

Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee - Chairmans Report

Annual General Meeting – 5 April 2024

Welcome and thank you for attending our MCLC – 2024 AGM. I also thank the ES Chairman for his attendance along with Councillors McPhail, Gibson, McDonald, Pemberton and Ludlow, and staff present who will be introduced as we proceed through the meeting.

The Mataura **Catchment Report** is good reading in regard to the absence of any major flooding but for two breaches of the stop banks at Athol and Cattle Flat in October 2023, and overtopping at Garston, Athol and Cattle Flat. This doesn't paper over the issues existing around gravel relocation and in extreme cases the extraction of gravel. That is an item in General Business. The specific work about and below Mataura bridge shows the good outcomes when affected parties work together with a shared objective, both completed under budget so credit to catchment management.

The ES **Capacity Building Project** is still progressing and oscillates between appearing marginalise the role of the CLC's to acknowledging the important service liaison committees perform as a conduit with the greater community and bringing those concerns to council. The Terms of Reference is a product of that work and will be discussed in more detail later, but I have to say there is an impasse on the inclusion of Soil Conservation and Water Storage within the narrative of the Terms. This is of the Council's making, for approving the TOR before sign off from the CLC's. I have circulated my understanding of Conservation for you to read.

From the previous RIVER WORKS and DRAINAGE title much emphasis was given to the adoption of INTEGRATED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT as the way forward. More recently it has changed again to CLIMATE RESILIENCE and FLOODWAY PLANNING. It has been my submission that the ICM moniker was self-explanatory and CR and FP subsequent seem to reflect how ES looks at the catchment, from an Invercargill or a coastal perspective. This premise is illustrated in the proposal to increase operating expenditure in Flood Infrastructure by \$2 300 000 per year and this is only our 25% with the balance from central government? We want a clear answer, have Gov't confirmed that? ES could do more towards conservation in the upper catchment reaches by:

- understanding and applying the full benefits of conservation from a conservator perspective; and
- appreciate the benefits of private water storage as an added flood mitigation measure.
- Incentivise land owners to 'slow the flow and leave the proposed flood infrastructure money in rate payers pockets.

The **LONG TERM PLAN** is currently out for consultation and the cut-off for submissions is 26 April. Previously the Council travelled to all corners explain any new LTP and I will speak later on this matter. In my opinion this is being hurried, affording inadequate consultation with the public, and needs to pause to capture the intimated rewrite of the RMA. The LTP should be deferred 12 months in line with the advice of Minister Bishop to the ORC, who are equally in haste to adopt their LTP, noting particularly, that proceeding and the requiring amendments is wasting your time and our money.

The long awaited **Infrastructure Strategy** is light on specifics and costings and I, and you as well, will look forward to the presentation in General Business from Randal Beal.

The **Financial Report** is positive but significant changes in Revenue, Finance and Rating Policies will require your attention as those changes have a significant impact on groups across the catchment. As will be explained there is two components of this years LTP:

- The Revenue and Financing Policy/Rate changes
- The Budget changes the ultimately affect your rates bill.

Another item under General Business is **Slow the Flow and Upper Mataura Pilot Project** and this draft document (circulated) explains how 2 years of work; includes collaboration, taking the learnings to inform future climate adaption planning and decision making, conduct comprehensive feasibility studies using

hydrodynamic modelling and rigorous assessment against climate change and weather events, all associated with nature-based climate adaptation solutions. I'm not making this up! 2 years of collaboration, learnings, feasibility studies, assessments and reports before any practical expenditure on sound conservation is put into practice.

Before I finish this afternoon, we need our thoughts on the status and relationship CLC's have with ES. Lastly, we discuss the revived **Catchment Group Grants** scheme and want your input.

Thank you.

It is a privilege to be your chairman and having your support. Special thanks to Dave Conner-CM and Clint Cartwright-WS.

HUGH GARDYNE – CHAIRMAN MCLC