

**Minutes of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at SDC Council & District
Library, 176 Main Street, Otautau
Tuesday, 26 March 2024, at 1.30pm.**



Present:	Mr G McGregor	(Chair)
	Mr A Brown	
	Mr E Mathieson	
	Mr L Baird	
	Mr C Lawry	
	Mr A De Wolde	
	Mr M Beattie	
	Mr J McKenzie	
	Mr G Dickson	
	Mr D Wohlers	
	Mr D Edge	
	Mr J White	
	Mr P Gutsell	
	Mr R Flett	
In Attendance:	Ms R Halder	(Thriving Southland)
	Ms B Aitken	(Thriving Southland)
	Cr N Horrell	(Environment Southland)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Ms T Hawkins	(Environment Southland)
	Mr R Beal	(Environment Southland)
	Mr D Connor	(Environment Southland)
	Mr C King	(Environment Southland)
	Ms N Bulling	(Environment Southland)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Environment Southland)
	Ms K Brown	(Environment Southland)
	Mr N Perham	(Environment Southland)
	Mr A Buzka	
	Mr L Templeton	
	Mrs H Hart	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attending the meeting. Mr McGregor read out his chairman's report, a copy of which has been retained on file.

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved:

Moved Mr McGregor, seconded Mr Brown, that apologies were recorded on behalf of Mr Heywood, Cr McPhail, Mr Frazer, Mr Boyd, Mr Simpson, Mr Miles, Mr Turner (Paul), Mr Turner (Peter) and Mr Adams.

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

No comments were made on the terms of reference.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2023

Resolved:

Moved Mr McGregor, seconded Mr Lawry, that the minutes of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 24 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Chairs Report

This was read out during the Welcome.

6 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

At this time Mr McGregor assumed the chair and called for nominations for the Chairman of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Horrell, seconded Mr White that Mr McGregor be elected to continue the position of Chairman of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Mr McGregor assumed the Chair.

Resolved:

Moved Cr Horrell, seconded Mr White those present, together with all those who had lodged apologies for the meeting, and those on the mailing list, should constitute the members of the Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

8 Financial Report – 2022/23 and proposed 2023/24 and proposed 2024/25

Ms Hawkins presented on the proposed budgets and further explained:

- percentage from rates and where the money comes from;
- costs such as flood warning, support costs etc;
- proposed changes for the year starting July and moving some of the costs into the regional bucket;
- Mr King commented on staff member costs going into catchment operations, looking at more of a region wide approach to help with management and budgeting;
- proposed rate structure;
- costs which have increased with inflation;
- land drainage - explaining the figures and how they are split 10% community and 90% landowner. Three-year cycle of doing drain cleaning;
- explained \$664,000 for disaster reserve;
- Mr de Wolde disagreed with 4% inflation rate, and after discussions tabled an option of 2.5%;
- approval was discussed subject to the following motion.

MOTION: Budget subject to approval after the following amendments, that:

1. The budget be amended to include inflation of 2.5%.
2. The Waimatuku payment continue to be included.
3. The structure maintenance still be within the Aparima catchment.

Those in favour of the budget being passed. All in favour.

Moved Mr Lawry, Seconded Mr Flett.

Carried

9 Catchment Report

Mr Conner provided a detailed presentation (which would be retained on file) that included the 2022/23 work programs, and the 2023/24 and 2024/25 proposed work maintenance programmes and the financial report. He highlighted the following:

- work programs for the 2022-23 year – recap;
- 2023 flood events and work update;
- asset inspections/ defects update;
- future works;
- budget.

Discussion points and comments:

- we no longer carry out the inspection side of the gravel inspections. Mr McGregor noted having compliance doing large gravel is fine, but the farmer-based ones perhaps need more education. Cr Horrell agreed to take this back for discussion;
- Mr Conner gave a brief overview of the 2023 Aparima work program and flood event;
- Cr Horrell informed the committee that Environment Southland (ES) are working towards a catchment wide consent to do the works and provided further explanation. The consenting process is slow and expensive;
- Cr McDonald mentioned the Gravel Working Group and bringing together groups such as DOC, iwi and the catchment liaison committees.
- Mr Beal talked about getting consents, groups working together, having the right data to support this, and taking the steps to fill in the data gaps. Forming a consultation to apply for consent, gives a chance for everyone to work together in Southland. He raised the issue of cost of discarding the gravel if nobody wants to buy it and answered various questions.
- Mr Conner described Stopbank defects, describing them, talking about condition scores and showed photos of each condition. He mentioned the annual inspection, due for Aparima in July 2024.
- A question was raised if landowners can do anything to improve the stopbanks and Mr Conner agreed this is a good question and is something to think about in how we provide this information.

Mr D Conner talked about future priorities and then introduced Mr R Beal to talk further on this, he commented/presented:

- Thanked the committee with the support getting the additional budget last year
- Infrastructure Strategy – a 30 year document and every council needs one
- Aim of a nice graded river, getting rid of vegetation in the middle, making room for the river within our floodbanks and creating room that is taken up by weeds.
- Managing the gravel, consents, having a budget.
- Scheme reviews
- Oscillation period – we are experiencing floods like we had in the 70s and 80s and can expect more floods.
- 1500 defects in our schemes and looking to budget and address these in five years
- We need to be heavy on data and science as we won't be granted consents and budgets without it
- Discussed current conditions after inspections, flood control and operational budget to deal with maintenance.

Questions were raised on the effectiveness of the CLC groups. Cr N Horrell spoke to this mentioning it is good to hold council to accountability, we will always listen. These groups are the community voice for councils and can give feedback on a broader range of things. Mr R Beal explained CLC groups are one of the biggest assets with regards to relationships, knowledge, local community voice.

Break at 3.00pm, resumed meeting at 3.23pm

Ms F Young spoke to a presentation reminding the committee of the Mission as an organisation and our Vision, introducing herself and Kate Brown, with information on roles.

10 General

Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34

Mr Beal spoke to this explaining:

- the LTP as a rolling plan every 3-4 yrs, it never gets finalised;
- the workshops and their purpose;
- a key point is the rating system requiring change for some time, we have been communicating with the groups and it has always come back to wanting a review;
- the rating system and infrastructure go hand in hand;
- Mr Beal mentioned the predictions shown last year for the next 30 years with 10% more rainfall for Southland and minimising risk.

Proposed Rates Review

Ms Hawkins spoke to this presentation

- explained the complications around the old rating system and how it will be simplified. Key assumptions made with regards to how this province has changed from 35 years ago, mobility of goods/services, people across the region, relying on regional infrastructure. The need to design a rate to reflect the interconnected way we are now;
- the reasons rates need to be balanced out, the LTP with the statement of proposal, to replace the 140 different rates across southland with one rate.
- detailed the current percentage split between rural, residential and commercial;
- rising costs and the budget is to allow the continuation of capital projects;
- borrowing money and paying off over time, and assuming 75% government funding.
- an online calculator on the website will help people to work out what their rate change will be;
- invited to answer questions in the back of the booklet (handed out) and submit views.

Mr R Beal and Ms J Lloyd left the meeting at 4.24pm

Biodiversity and the Environmental Enhancement Fund

Ms Bulling introduced herself and spoke to this, covering:

- Fencing native habitat – stock exclusion;
- Pest mammal control;
- Pest plant control;
- Wreys Bush concrete.

Biosecurity.

Ms P Bulling spoke to this:

- giving examples of plants such as Old Mans Beard, Purple Loosestrife and Oxygen Weed (Lagarosiphon) prevention;

- Canadian Geese – explaining the biosecurity act only allows ES to work on areas listed under the act, Geese are not an area we work on. The team are happy to take calls and provide advice;
- Possums - there are no possum control areas in the Aparima catchment, advised if farmers have possum problems, and their neighbours also do, get together and ask for a possum control area – then ES will do the initial knock down, and farmers can continue through bait stations, trapping, or whatever is most suitable for the property. Showed leaflet with information to take;
- Wallaby's – advised to keep an eye out in the headwaters of the catchment, and if seen, give ES a call to deal with them.

Current projects

Ms F Young presented on current projects:

- Freshwater Farm Plans and Catchment Context – gave explanation and tools for helping manage adverse effects on farm. Advised the ES team are happy to provide information about maps, background information, risks, treatments on farm. There are online maps to download. Suggested to get started now and be prepared;
- Intensive Winter Grazing. Mentioned website for movie regarding 10 degree slope etc.
- Southland Riparian Project – explained and advised to talk to ES if interested in purchasing native plants to plant along waterways – this project is in the early stages.
- Waituna project – not in the Aparima catchment, but mentioned due to lots of media and community interest – explained the actions taken.
- Murihuku Slow the Flow project – explained it is nature based solutions, talked about the aim, working with stakeholders, iwi and community.
- Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan – explained, discussed findings, the plan forward, next steps, public availability of information.
- Southland Sediment Strategy with regards to interest in where we are in terms of the state of the environment, water quality, nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment etc. – how we make it accessible and readily available in the community – talked about working on catchment summaries and access to information.

ACE – Aparima Catchment Group Update, Thriving Southland

Rachael Halder spoke to the committee and referred to current projects of Thriving Southland, such as:

- ACE – Aparima Community Environment and the Aparima Catchment Groups - passed leaflets around. Explained the project with funding through Thriving Southland.
- Thriving Southland looking at hosting national science challenge.
- Waimatuku selected to be one of 14 NZ rivers in NZ to be part of the DOC project – a full time DOC person allocated plus funding every year for mitigations.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 5.05pm

Action Plan – Aparima Catchment Liaison Committee meeting 26 March 2024

Action	Description	Responsibility
Amendment to budget	The budget be amended to include inflation of 2.5%	Environment Southland
Include in budget	The Waimatuku payment continue to be included	Environment Southland
Include in budget	The structure maintenance still be within the Aparima catchment	Environment Southland
Information for landowners regarding Stopbanks.	Stopbank improvements – question was raised if landowners can do anything to help	Environment Southland consider how to provide information around this to landowners.