

MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz (Chair), Josh Wharehinga (Deputy Chair), Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop

MINUTES of the SUSTAINABLE TAIRĀWHITI Committee

Held via Audio Visual Link on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 9:00AM.

PRESENT:

Her Worship the Mayor Rehette Stoltz, Deputy Mayor Josh Wharehinga, Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Bill Burdett, Andy Cranston, Shannon Dowsing, Sandra Faulkner, Larry Foster, Debbie Gregory, Isaac Hughes, Tony Robinson, Pat Seymour, Terry Sheldrake and Kerry Worsnop.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Nedine Thatcher Swann, Director Lifelines David Wilson, Director Internal Partnerships James Baty, Acting Director Liveable Communities De-Arne Sutherland, Director Environmental Services & Protection Helen Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer Pauline Foreman, Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble, Governance Advisor Tania Clarke and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

The meeting commenced with a prayer.

Secretarial Note: Cr Burdett attended the meeting in the Council Chambers.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cr Worsnop declared an interest in Report 22-42 Climate Change Update as a member of "The Regional Impacts of Permanent Carbon Farming Group".

3. Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of non-confidential Minutes 27 January 2022

MOVED by Cr Faulkner, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Minutes of 27 January 2022 be accepted.

CARRIED

3.2 Action Sheet

4. Leave of Absence

There were no leaves of absence.

5. Acknowledgements and Tributes

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

6. Public Input and Petitions

There were no public input or petitions

7. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

8. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

9. Adjourned Business

There was no adjourned business.

10. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

10.1 22-30 Additional Information for Emissions Reduction Targets

Discussion included:

- The recommended targets are a balance between being ambitious and being realistic. Setting a 2030 net zero target will require more urgent action and will have cost implications. Setting a 2040 net zero target will give a buffer zone to gather more evidence and achieve the target.
- Information will need to be brought back to Council in terms of the cost implications and the impact on ratepayers if setting a 2030 net zero target.
- Trial runs and visibility assessment will need to be carried out prior to landfill gas capture for Paokahu Landfill. Further options are also being investigated regarding gas capture.
- Emissions from Tauwhareparae Farms have not been captured.
- There are projects that can be achieved in shorter timeframes eg Paokahu, waste disposal improvements and vehicle emissions.
- Changes that are within our control are needed that deliver actual outcomes. Looking within our organisation there is a limited amount that can be achieved with the bulk of it sitting with Paokahu Landfill.
- In respect to emissions from Paokahu Landfill the Maori landowners have been identified as the key stakeholders.
- Currently the Organisational Emissions Reduction Plan is the focus. Regarding the Regional Emissions Reduction Plan the net of stakeholders will be expanded along with working with Trust Tairāwhiti in developing an action plan.

- Offsetting will only create a burden for future Councils to deal with. This is about planning for our future and our Council's future. Council needs to be encouraging good behaviour which comes down to our actions. Central Government will be looking at ticking their achievements off via local government which could be in the form of shovel ready projects.
- By making a decision we are not tying ourselves down but merely having concrete actions and doing as much as is possible.
- Targets need to be realistic - do not overburden our ratepayers.
- Moving to new initiatives does not come quickly nor does it come cheaply.

Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble advised the Committee that the Government has set the net zero targets, and, in all likelihood, this will be imposed on Council and a plan will need to be in place. If we totally exclude inseting and offsetting, then Council is hamstrung in the options that are available to reach the net zero targets. The discussion today was around principals that drive our Emission Reduction Plan. There is a strong focus and a clear bias towards reducing emissions rather than inseting and offsetting. Having these principals in place will help develop an Emissions Reduction Plan that will meet wider aspirations and is not just about a number.

- See it as a global challenge and not just a local challenge.
- Going with a soft target will need to have disciplines and in this region it is about offsetting.

MOVED by Cr Seymour, seconded by Cr Foster

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Adopts the following option for emissions reduction targets to guide our organisational Emissions Reduction Plan:
 - a) A 2040 net-zero target (this being the preferred option).

LOST

Cr Worsnop abstained from voting.

MOVED by Cr Wharehinga, seconded by Cr Robinson

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Adopts the following options for emissions reduction targets to guide our organisational Emissions Reduction Plan:
 - a) A 2030 net-zero target.

Vote by Division

For

Cr Sheldrake
Cr Faulkner
Cr Stoltz
Cr Wharehinga
Cr Robinson
Cr Dowsing
Cr Akuhata-Brown
Cr Cranston
Cr Foster

Against

Cr Burdett
Cr Gregory
Cr Hughes
Cr Seymour

CARRIED

Cr Worsnop abstained from voting.

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 10.15am and reconvened at 10.22am.

11. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for INFORMATION

11.1 22-38 Expected Government Submissions 2022

Strategic Planning Manager Charlotte Knight attended and advised that consultation on the joint Discussion Paper on Managing Exotic Afforestation Incentives runs from 14 March to 22 April 2022 and staff are working with the Tairāwhiti Whenua Collective on a potential submission.

Questions of clarification included:

- Acknowledge staff for the mahi and also the community for being supportive of our efforts, as a Council, to engage in the processes.
- Decisions regarding the 3-Waters Reform are at the tail end. Council is still in a position of losing its local voice and being forced into larger entities and this will be relayed to the Government. Concern is that the community will be fatigued with all the information regarding the proposed changes including the Resource Management Act and the Future for Local Government.
- Council is bound by Central Government so must work in the way they are running their engagement and consultation. Council feedbacks to Central Government often on the processes around encouraging more alignment and collation.
- Highlighting the way ETS treats permanent forestry. The region has different ideas on how this should be treated across different land ownership types. The implications for our region will make it at least medium and possibly high on the table.

MOVED by Cr Akuhata-Brown, seconded by Cr Wharehinga

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

11.2 22-42 Climate Change Update

Chief of Strategy & Science Jo Noble attended and updated the Committee on the Permanent Carbon Collective and the Draft Regional Position Statement which was presented and discussed at the RTRO meeting. The advice given was that the group needed to do a little more work and engagement on the Regional Position Statement.

Questions of clarification included:

- Weightings and changing emphasis on particular outcomes can be considered. For example, there is very little done for biodiversity that won't have beneficial outcomes for the climate. With our strategic partners also taking a similar approach and then tying it in collectively will be beneficial as opposed to pockets that are isolated.
- Collaboration across regional boundaries - walking alongside our counterparts in other regions. Council does work with other Councils eg in scoping the climate change risk assessment for the region, contact has been made with all the regions who have similar work underway to learn from their processes. In terms of regional spatial planning there is a conversation underway with Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty. Questions around planning will come into it along with other infrastructure related conversations.

MOVED by Cr Worsnop, seconded by Cr Hughes

That the Sustainable Tairāwhiti Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report.

CARRIED

12. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.42am.

Rehette Stoltz

MAYOR