

# **Tararua District Council Eketahuna Community Board**

Minutes of a meeting of the Eketahuna Community Board held in the Eketahuna Service Centre Meeting Room, 31 Main Street, Eketahuna on Friday 3 April, 2009 commencing at 10.00am.

## **1. Present**

Board Members J M Harman (Chairperson), K A M Dimock and Cr W H Davidson (Council appointed community board member).

### **In Attendance**

Mr B King	-	Chief Executive (For item 5)
Mr S Taylor	-	Manager District Assets (For Item 5)
Mr R Taylor	-	Governance Manager

## **2. Apologies**

### **2.1 *That the apologies be sustained from Board Members C C Death and Elizabeth Fraser-Davies for non-attendance at the meeting***

*Davidson/Dimock*

*Carried*

## **3. Personal Matters**

3.1 The Board's congratulations are to be conveyed to Royden and Kate Cooper on their success as the winner of the Wairarapa Farmer of the Year contest.

3.2 The Board noted and acknowledged the recent passing of Wally Fafeita (a local identity of the Eketahuna Community).

## **4. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

4.1 The following matters were notified as items of general business not on the agenda for discussion at today's meeting:-

- Painting of the town's public toilets
- Direction sign to Eketahuna Bowling Club

## **5. Eketahuna Water Supply Take Consent Variation Decision**

5.1 The Council's Chief Executive – Blair King and its Manager District Assets – Stephen Taylor were in attendance at the meeting for this item of business. Additional items tabled regarding this matter were a letter from Cooper Rapley on behalf of the Regional Council inviting discussions on the appeal and directions from Judge B P Dwyer concerning the process for the appeal.

5.2 There were also two members of the public in attendance at the meeting during these discussions, being Jay Reid and John Haar.

- 5.3 The Chief Executive spoke on the Council's position relating to the consent variation granted by the Horizons Regional Council for the Eketahuna Water Supply, with these discussions including reference to the following matters.
- The Council has accepted the Horizons Regional Council's decision regarding the consent variation granted for the Eketahuna Water Supply.
  - The Board should have certainty that the grounds for its appeal will achieve a successful outcome, taking into account any costs which it may incur through pursuing this course of action.
  - Should the Board decide to proceed with the appeal then the short term impact will be that the original consent conditions relating to the low flow restrictions will continue to apply until the appeal is resolved.
  - The longer term impact will create a situation whereby it is difficult for staff to undertake with certainty the collating of information to support the justification for appropriate water abstraction volumes and rates of take from the Makakahi River, particularly during periods of low flow.
  - There may be a misunderstanding in respect of the consent's duration. It does not expire until November, 2019.
  - The review clause merely provides the opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the consent's conditions in avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment arising from exercising the provisions of the consent.
  - Through proceeding with the appeal there is a risk that the decision made by the hearing commissioners is changed, and this has the potential for a less satisfactory outcome to the basis of the consent conditions.
- 5.4 Board members spoke on their concerns relating to the lack of progress in resolving the issues regarding the quantity of water available from the Makakahi River for the Eketahuna Water Supply.
- 5.5 It was noted that the process relating to this matter had commenced in 2004, and since that time delays were encountered with costs being incurred. This situation is unsatisfactory from the community's perspective, particularly as water restrictions had been applied and nothing has been done to address the issue of water shortages during the summer.
- 5.6 Further comment was made by board members that the consequences of these delays were impacting on the life style of residents in the Eketahuna Community, and the Council needed to consider providing water storage facilities to support the Eketahuna Water Supply when river levels are low.
- 5.7 The Manager District Assets and the Chief Executive emphasised to board members that the Horizons Regional Council Hearing Committee has granted a consent variation for the Eketahuna Water Supply Take that deleted the previous low flow conditions, and replaced them with a consent that is able to be managed and complied with adequately.

- 5.8 It was also acknowledged that there were frustrations previously experienced in progressing issues relating to the Eketahuna Water Supply consent. However, the way forward is to accept that the consent variation provides an acceptable outcome which enables a higher flow rate of extraction from the Makakahi River to service the Eketahuna Water Supply.
- 5.9 The Board were also advised that the issue in Eketahuna relating to how much water is lost through non-public consumption is a matter which staff are continuing to pursue, particularly with regard to farmers use of water from the Eketahuna Water Supply.
- 5.10 Leading up to the review in July, 2011 information will be collated by the Council regarding rates of water abstraction from the Makakahi River, particularly taking into account the monitoring data at low flows. This shall enable justification to be provided to support the water take required for the Eketahuna Water Supply to operate on a sustainable basis.
- 5.11 In response to a question from the Board, the Manager District Assets advised that the consent costs can be appealed to the consent authority if the amount charged is considered to be unreasonable (rather than through the Environment Court).
- 5.12 ***That the Eketahuna Community Board agrees to withdraw its appeal to the Environment Court in respect of the decision of the Horizons Regional Council concerning resource consent 101169, being the variation granted for the Eketahuna Water Supply Take, and***
- That the Tararua District Council's Chief Executive be requested to arrange for the Board to meet with the Horizons Regional Council's Chief Executive and his appropriate staff to discuss the issues relating to the Eketahuna Water Supply Take from the Makakahi River.***
- Harman/Dimock*** ***Carried***
- 5.13 The Chairperson invited Jay Reid to address the Board in terms of the request which he had previously submitted to speak at the meeting.
- 5.14 Jay Reid acknowledged that given the Board's decision to withdraw its Environment Court appeal there was little potential in discussing his proposal. This involved a joint appeal to the Environment Court concerning the Woodville Water Supply consent variation decision, and the possibility of combining the two appeals where the grounds of appeal have concurrence.
- 5.15 Jay Reid noted the Board's decision to enter into dialogue with the Horizons Regional Council may not resolve its issues concerning the Eketahuna Water Supply, particularly as the Regional Council had previously adopted an approach of prosecuting the Tararua District Council for non-compliance with resource consent conditions.
- 5.16 Jay Reid invited the Board to join with him as an interested party (without contingency costs) in his appeal to the Environment Court concerning the Woodville Water Supply consent variation. This will focus on the issue of whether it is appropriate for land owners to utilise public services such as water supplies which cross their land. Many of these arrangements are historic and not relevant with the passing of time.
- 5.17 The Chairperson thanked Jay Reid for his comments to the Board.

## **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

- 6.1 ***That the minutes of the Eketahuna Community Board meeting held on 6 March, 2009 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.***

*Dimock/Davidson*

***Carried***

## **7. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### ***7.1 Inter-town Fibre Connection (Item 6.1)***

- 7.1.1 The Government's recent announcements concerning funding to extend the broadband service were noted.

### ***7.2 Tararua District Road Safety Group (Item 8.1)***

- 7.2.1 The location of the Alfredton sign at the Jones Street intersection is still a potential road safety hazard.

- 7.2.2 It is disappointing to note that no progress has been achieved in having a safety guardrail erected at the state highway entrance to Eketahuna (to replace the fence which is in poor condition).

### ***7.3 Proposed New Bridge For Palmerston North (Item 7.2)***

- 7.3.1 It was noted that the Palmerston North City Council has reinstated to their Long Term Council Community Plan the proposed new bridge project.

## **8. Bush District Education Plan Working Group**

- 8.1 Diana Eagle was in attendance at the meeting to speak on the work being undertaken by the Bush District Education Plan Working Group (a community initiated education project), and her presentation included reference to the following matters.

- This is a community driven process supported by the Ministry of Education.
- The area involved covers twelve schools and six early childhood education facilities.
- There are eight community members on the Working Group, including the Mayor.
- The process is about developing a strategic plan for the future that reflects the aspirations of the community for education in the Bush District area.
- The plan when finalised will be presented as a recommendation to the Minister of Education.
- There are two stages of consultation with the community, and a public meeting has already been held in Eketahuna.

- Through the public meeting in Eketahuna there was an indication that some people within the community do not consider they have any link or connection to the Bush District.
- Concerns raised at the public meeting included ensuring that schools in the area are sustainable and they can attract good quality staff and representatives to their board of trustees.

8.2 Community board members were circulated with a Bush District Education Plan response sheet to complete, and the Chairperson agreed to arrange for this to be undertaken and returned.

8.3 The Chairperson thanked Diana Eagle for attending the meeting to brief the Board on the Bush District Education Plan and the issues relating to this matter.

## **9. Tararua District Council Report**

9.1 ***That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 11 and 25 March, 2009 (as circulated) be received.***

***Davidson/Dimock***

***Carried***

## **10. Reports From Board Representatives Appointed to Organisations and Assigned Responsibilities**

### ***New Zealand Community Boards Conference 2009***

10.1.1 A report from Board Member Death regarding this matter will be included on the agenda for the Board's next meeting.

### ***Meeting in Alfredton Organised by the Police***

10.2.1 This meeting was attended by the Board's Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Cr Davidson.

10.2.2 There were over thirty present at the meeting, and they were informed that there are professional poachers active in their area.

10.2.3 The meeting included presentations from three representatives of the Police, and the possibility of community patrols being arranged with assistance from the Police was supported.

## **11. Chairman's Remarks**

11.1 Nil

## **12. Anzac Day**

12.1 The Board's Chairperson will make the necessary arrangements for the Anzac Day Service in Eketahuna.

12.2 This shall be undertaken in conjunction with Joe Sweeney of the Eketahuna Returned Services.

**13. General Assistance Grants Scheme 2008/2009**

13.1 Cr Davidson declared an interest in the applications received from the Eketahuna Club and the Pukaha Mount Bruce Board, and he abstained from the discussions and voting on the motion regarding this matter.

13.2 *That the following grants be approved for disbursement from the Eketahuna Community Board's General Assistance Grants Scheme for the 2008/2009 annual funding allocation:-*

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Granted</b>
1.	<i>Eketahuna Bowling Club</i>	<i>Rates relief</i>	<i>\$ 510.00</i>
2.	<i>Eketahuna Club</i>	<i>Purchase replacement fridge for the club's kitchen</i>	<i>\$ 800.00</i>
3.	<i>Eketahuna Golf Club</i>	<i>Club's centennial celebrations</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>
4.	<i>Eketahuna Our Town</i>	<i>Monthly community newsletters</i>	<i>\$ 630.00</i>
5.	<i>Eketahuna Volunteer Fire Brigade</i>	<i>Fire Brigade's centennial celebrations</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>
6.	<i>Friends of the Anzac Memorial Bridge</i>	<i>Sound equipment and hire of chairs for Anzac Day Service</i>	<i>\$ 100.00</i>
8.	<i>Pukaha Mount Bruce Board</i>	<i>Consent fees for visitor centre extension</i>	<i>\$ 326.18</i>
			<i>-----</i>
	<b>Total amount granted</b>		<b>\$2,966.18</b>

*And that the application from the New Pacific Studio be declined on the grounds that the project of an art and writing competition is more appropriately assisted through the Creative Communities Funding Scheme.*

**Dimock/Harman**

**Carried**

13.3 A letter was tabled from Hamish Adie Youth Aid Officer based at the Pahiatua Police Station, requesting funding towards the cost of attending a conference on neighbourhood support and supportive communities organised by the Bluelight Charitable Trust.

13.4 It was agreed that an invitation be extended to Hamish Adie to attend the Board's next meeting to speak on this matter and the work that he is undertaking in the Southern Tararua area.

**14. Items Not On The Agenda**

14.1 ***Painting of the Town's Public Toilets***

14.1.1 It was requested that when the town's public toilets are painted the murals be left as is.

14.2 ***Direction Sign to Eketahuna Bowling Club***

14.2.1 It was requested that a direction sign to the Eketahuna Bowling Club be provided at the corner of Haswell Street opposite the hotel.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 12.40pm.

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Chairperson