
MINUTES
of the
NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT MEETING
held
1.30 pm, Friday, 8 March 2019
at
Ruma Marama, Nelson City Council,
110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

Present: Councillors C M Maling (Chair) and D E McNamara, Tasman District Council
Councillors S Walker and T Skinner, Nelson City Council
Independent Member, Brendon Silcock

In Attendance: Acting General Manager (D Clifford); Acting Operations Manager (N Clarke)
Senior Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council
Management Accountant (A Bishop), Nelson City Council
Industry Representative, Brian Mills (Alliance Group)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Brian Mills from Alliance Group who was in attendance to represent the industrial users.

The Chairman also advised the members that he would be leaving the meeting at 2.00 pm. Cr Walker had agreed to chair the meeting from that time.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Walker

NRSBU19-03-01

That apologies from Cr CM Maling who requested to leave the meeting at 2.00 pm be accepted.

CARRIED

Apologies were also received from independent member, Philip Wilson and Tasman District Council representative and Acting Engineering Services Manager, Dwayne Fletcher.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

4 LATE ITEMS

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Walker

NRSBU19-03-02

That the late item, A1 NRSBU Memorandum of Understanding – Changes to Audit Requirements be considered at today's meeting.

CARRIED

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Walker/Mr Silcock

NRSBU19-03-03

That the minutes of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 7 December 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 Acting General Manager's Update Report

Acting General Manager, Mr Don Clifford spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr Clifford noted that the reference to the "annual plan" in the original resolution should read "business plan".

Mr Clifford reported that there had been no health and safety issues during the period. He noted that the management team had been working with the contractor to prepare robust health and safety plans.

Mr Clifford spoke about the recent accidental death of a toddler who drowned in a wastewater pond in Gore. While he acknowledged that the NRSBU's Bell Island location is unique in that the plant is sited well away from residential housing, management are aware of the security risk and will be recommending some fencing and gate work that can be done to ensure the site is safe.

In response to a question, Mr Clarke noted that salt water cannot be used for the screening process because of the amount of nitrates present in salt water. Mr Clarke said that staff had been using recycled water to clean the screens during the Tasman District drought but would revert to potable water when the drought was over. Mr Clarke said that staff are also considering other options for cleaning the screens.

In response to a question, Mr Clarke said that staff had been unable to pinpoint the exact problem with the flow meter at Songer Street. He noted that flow meters are being replaced where necessary.

In response to a question regarding the desludging process, Mr Clarke noted that this work had halted while staff applied for a resource consent. Mr Clarke said that staff are also looking at ways to get the sludge off the surface so there was less odour from the ponds.

In response to a question about the Argentine ants infestation on site, Mr Clarke noted that the ants were mostly contained in the south eastern corner of Bell Island. He said that any ant poisoning programme needed to consider the bird nesting area, especially the godwit nesting site. Mr Clarke agreed to report to the next meeting on the costs of continuing to contain the Argentine ants to one part of the island.

Mr Clifford said that odour management is still an important issue for the management team. He noted that while customers had been reporting odours through the Tasman District Council's customer services database, the customers were not necessarily laying a complaint. Senior Executive Assistant, Robyn Scherer was asked to contact the Tasman District Council's Customer Services Manager to ensure there was more clarity in customer services requests regarding reported odours at Best Island.

In response to a question, Mr Clarke said that staff are trialling a mulcher to apply biosolids within the forested area.

Cr Maling left the meeting at 2pm.

Cr Walker assumed the chair.

The meeting discussed the current maintenance contract. Mr Clarke agreed that the contractor is not performing as well as they should and there is some risk associated with their work practices. Mr Clifford said that management staff are working with the contractor to ensure they understand their obligations and that the Operations and Maintenance Manual is kept current and includes all of the required maintenance processes and procedures.

It was agreed that the biosolids operation provides a positive story for ratepayers. Mrs Scherer was asked to liaise with Tasman District Council's Community Relations Manager and Mr Clarke so that this "good news" story can be published in the Tasman District Council's Newline publication.

Mr Clifford noted that the NRSBU had been approached by Tasman District Council requesting they pump some of their wastewater into the regional pipeline owned by the business unit. Staff are working with a consultant to look at options before responding to Tasman District Council.

Mr Clifford advised the committee that the trade waste application from Turners & Growers remains outstanding and staff will report back to the next committee meeting with a recommendation on how this issue can be managed.

The committee discussed the NRSBU workshop which had to be cancelled as a result of the recent Pigeon Valley fire emergency. The Chairman asked Mrs Scherer to work with Nelson City Council staff on an appropriate date for a one-day workshop as soon as possible.

Mr Clarke spoke about a trial which is investigating options to get the treated wastewater to a certain quality for re-use. He noted that the current drought in Tasman District has prompted this work to be completed earlier. It is hoped that the trial will result in some options to use this water on golf courses etc.

The Committee agreed that staff should continue this project with some urgency and requested an update to the next meeting.

Mr Clifford noted that the draft NRSBU Business Plan had been included in his report to this meeting. He advised that staff would be unable to meet the deadline to present the draft business plan to both councils but it will be presented at the earliest opportunity.

The members discussed the draft business plan. Mr Clifford noted that the capital budget had increased to ensure that the required renewals and resource consent-related improvement works could be completed.

Cr Walker asked that the schematic diagram which he has seen in the office at Bell Island be included in the draft business plan.

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Skinner

NRSBU19-03-04

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit:

- 1. receives the Acting General Manager's Update Report, NRSBU19-03-01; and**
- 2. notes the changes to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the appointment of committee members; and**
- 3. approves the draft Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Business Plan 2019/2020.**

CARRIED

A.1 NRSBU Memorandum of Understanding - Changes to Audit Requirements

Mr Bishop spoke to the report contained in the agenda which was taken as read.

Moved Cr McNamara/Cr Walker

NRSBU19-03-05

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit:

- 1. receives the NRSBU Memorandum of Understanding - Changes to Audit Requirements; and**
- 2. recommends to Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council that the proposed amendment removing the requirement for a separate audit of the annual report is approved.**

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The meeting concluded at 3.03 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair:

Confirmed Minutes