

Minutes of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee held at Environment Canterbury, Council Chamber, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 10.30am.

Present

Committee Chair Councillor Greg Byrnes, Deputy Committee Chair Councillor Nick Ward and Councillors Iaeen Cranwell, Joe Davies, Paul Dietsche, Grant Edge, Tutehounuku Korako, Ian Mackenzie, Claire McKay, Craig Pauling, Genevieve Robinson, Vicky Southworth and Deon Swiggs.

1. Mihi/Karakia Timatanga - Opening

Committee Chair, Councillor Greg Byrnes opened the meeting with a mihi whakatau, followed by a karakia.

The Chair provided the following information to the meeting regarding the recent Heathcote River/Ōpāwaho fish kill incident.

“A large number of dead fish were found in Heathcote River/Ōpāwaho on Thursday 2 March 2023 after a report coming in from a member of the community. When staff arrived at this site it was determined that the cause of the event was likely to be a discharge incident that resulted in an unknown contaminant entering the river or stormwater network. There was immediate concern that the unknown substance could be still in the water and so public advice and notification to agencies was given.

Our staff requested support from Christchurch City Council staff who helped to understand the extent and support investigation of the possible source of the incident. Water monitoring was undertaken, fish and water samples have been collected for analysis. A clean up to remove dead fish occurred yesterday and ongoing monitoring for harm to wildlife continues.

We want to acknowledge the actions of the community member reporting this event. We also want to assure the community that this is a priority situation and staff are continuing work to investigate the source and cause of this incident.”

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Chair Peter Scott and Councillors John Sunckell and David East, who were away on Council business.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest reported.

4. Public Forum, Deputations, and Petitions

There were no requests for public forum, deputations, and petitions.

5. Extraordinary and Urgent Business

There was no extraordinary or urgent business.

6. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

7. Minutes

Refer page 8 of the agenda.

7.1. Minutes - Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee Meeting

Refer page 8 of the agenda.

Resolved BBC/2023/001

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Notes that this is the first meeting of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee and therefore there are no prior minutes to confirm.

Cr Cranwell/Cr Korako

CARRIED

8. Report Items

Refer pages 9-21 of the agenda.

8.1. Update to the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committees' Terms of Reference

Refer pages 9-13 of the agenda.

Staff sought the Committee's recommendation that Council adopts the updated Terms of Reference.

Resolved BBC/2023/002

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Recommends to Council that it adopts the amended Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee in Attachment 8.1.1.

Cr Ward/Cr Mackenzie

CARRIED

8.2. Biodiversity & Biosecurity quarterly work programme update

Refer pages 14-19 of the agenda.

Staff provided an update on the progress of the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio.

The Committee requested that the 'gap analysis' be provided to the members.

Resolved BBC/2023/003

Staff recommendations adopted without change.

That the Biodiversity and Biosecurity Committee:

1. Receives the work programme report for the Biodiversity and Biosecurity portfolio (excluding the Braided River Revival programme which is reported to the Catchment Resilience Committee).

Cr McKay/Cr Edge

CARRIED

9. Resolution to go into Public Excluded

Resolved BBC/2023/004

I move that Emma Davis, Senior Strategy Manager, Alex Morgan, Team Leader Strategy & Planning, Zoe Buxton, Senior Strategy Advisor, Verity Halkett, Senior Strategy Advisor, Rich Langley, Project Coordinator, Laurence Smith, Principal Advisor, and Carl Diamond, Manager - Biosecurity, Parks and Forests be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public have been excluded for item 9.1.1 of the public excluded agenda as they have knowledge that is relevant to that item and will assist the Committee.

AND

That at 11.02am the resolution to exclude the public set out on pages 20 to 21 of the agenda be adopted.

Cr Pauling/Cr Robinson
CARRIED

The public were re-admitted to the meeting at 11.07am.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 August 2023 at 10.30am.

11. Mihi/Karakia Whakamutunga - Closing

A karakia was provided by Cr Davies.

Meeting concluded at 11.09am.

CONFIRMED 2 AUGUST 2023

Chair, Councillor Greg Byrnes
Environment Canterbury