
MINUTES
of the
NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT MEETING
held
1.00 pm, Friday, 22 June 2018
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors C M Maling (Chair) and D E McNamara, Tasman District Council

Councillors S Walker and T Skinner, Nelson City Council

In Attendance: Group Manager Works & Infrastructure (A Louverdis), Senior Asset Engineer – Solid Waste (J Thiart), Management Accountant (A Bishop), Nelson City Council

Senior Project Manager (J Robinson) and Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council

Acting General Manager (D Clifford), Beca

Part Attendance: Julian Raine, Oaklands Milk

1 OPENING, WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked and acknowledged Jeff Robinson for his work in managing the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit. Don Clifford was introduced as the Acting General Manager.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies from Committee members. The meeting noted an apology from non-voting member, Philip Wilson.

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Raine Farms, Managing Director Julian Raine spoke to the committee about his company, Oaklands Milk which has two dairy farms supplying milk and two cheese factories. Mr Raine told the committee about his lease of land at Best Island and the pivot irrigation system that his company has installed on the land. Mr Raine noted the difficulty in finding flat land on the Waimea Plains for grazing. He asked the Committee to extend the current lease for a further 10 years noting that this would provide his company with some certainty.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Walker/Cr McNamara

NRSBU18-06-1

That the minutes of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 9 March 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 General Manager's Update

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

Mr Robinson suggested that the NRSBU needs to find a balance between discharging treated wastewater to water and to land. Both councils will also need to consider what land is required for any extension of the facilities at Best Island.

Mr Robinson suggested that the NRSBU committee extend the lease to Raine Farms for a shorter period until there is a plan for the whole area. Staff can then assess our forward plans and how they can complement Raine Farms operation on Best Island.

Mr Robinson noted that staff had not yet engaged the services of John Marsden to assist with the bio-solids consent renewal as agreed at the March committee meeting. It was agreed that Mr Robinson and Mr Clifford should progress this project after this meeting.

Mr Louverdis noted that both councils had decided to set up a liaison group comprising the Group Manager Works & Infrastructure, Nelson City Council and the Tasman District Council Engineering Services Manager to meet with the Acting General Manager on a regular basis. This will ensure there is a better coordination between the two councils at a technical level.

Mr Louverdis advised the committee that he will be standing down as the Engineer to the Contract as this role needs to be independent. He proposed that Rod Gibson from Cameron Gibson Wells will take over the Engineer to the Contract role and the required documentation will be prepared to effect that change.

In response to a question about costs for this change to Engineer to the Contract, Mr Louverdis confirmed that any costs would be minimal. He noted that the Engineer to the Contract is very rarely called on to assist with management of the contract.

Renewal of Contract 3458 with Nelmac

Staff have recommended that the current contract with Nelmac should be rolled over for a further two years. However it was agreed that a more collaborative approach is required

between both parties. Mr Clifford noted that he had already met with Nelmac staff who have agreed to focus on a collaborative approach regarding operation of the facility.

Health & Safety

Mr Clifford spoke about the current issue with high H₂S levels at Bell Island particularly at the inlet works. He noted that detailed work will be required to ensure there is no danger of an explosion around the electrical equipment. He spoke about the need to define the areas of danger including how people are being exposed to the gas and the possibility of the gas exploding. Mr Clifford advised the committee that new gas detection equipment had been purchased.

Mr Louverdis confirmed that the H₂S issues had been brought to his attention and he had addressed them immediately. He advised that the Standard Operating Procedures have been rewritten and contain stringent processes including a new induction process. He noted that Nelson City Council staff have been advised that they must be accompanied by a contractor when visiting Bell Island or any of the Council's wastewater assets. He advised the committee that Nelmac have also been asked to develop a working-alone policy.

In response to a question, Mr Clifford noted that H₂S is continually present at the inlet and that vents have been added to reduce the risk when working near this area of the operation.

In response to a question, Mr Louverdis agreed that exposure to H₂S could have been an issue for a number of years and that the Board should have been aware of it earlier. He noted that the issue has been logged in the H&S system and appropriate remedial actions have been taken.

Odour Management

Mr Clifford spoke about the regular odour patrols carried out at Best Island by David Lewis. He suggested that the NRSBU business could consider using a small group of people to carry out odour patrols. This could include a local resident which would assist in helping the community understand the odour issues. The committee agreed that this suggestion should be further investigated and progress reported to the next meeting.

Chairman Maling volunteered to work with Mr Clifford to identify residents who could be included on the group.

Cr Walker agreed with the idea of an odour patrol group but suggested that this initiative be carried out on a trial basis.

Mr Robinson suggested that the Tasman District Council Compliance Officer responsible for monitoring Bell Island odours should also be included in the odour patrol group.

Resource Consents

Mr Louverdis noted that Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council, their Chief Executives and Mr Louverdis and Mr Richard Kirby are meeting on 4 July 2018 to consider Nelson City's specific request to ensure that the NRSBU Business Plan reflects the higher environmental aspirations expected of Nelson City Council.

Mr Louverdis advised that Tasman District Council has approved the NRSBU Business Plan but

Nelson City Council are waiting to see that the Plan reflects their higher environmental aspirations. Technical experts from Stantec and Cawthron will be involved in the joint council meeting.

In response to a question about sewerage contamination signage used for beach closures, Mr Louverdis agreed that contaminants from road run-off also contribute to discharges to the marine environment.

Mr Robinson noted that the current signage specifically refers to “sewer overflows” which implies that the NRSBU has failed when actually other environmental discharges also contribute to the marine environment.

Mr Robinson referred to the table in item 7.3 of the General Manager’s report. He noted that a lot of effort will be required to progress the five different resource consents. This will involve continued assistance from consultants.

Customer Group

Mr Clifford noted that the NRSBU Customer Group had met on 21 June 2018. Cedenco, who are located in the former ENZA property are local representative for our customer Turners & Growers.

Mr Clifford advised that staff are working with Turners & Growers on a Memorandum of Understanding. Turners & Growers are required to sign a Trade Waste Agreement with the NRSBU.

He also advised that Nelman staff will work with NPI, Alliance and Turners & Growers representatives, Cedenco on the aberrational consent trigger so their operations can continue; this includes a buffer time to clean up and hose down their operation when an aberrational discharge occurs.

Operations Report

Mr Thiart noted that the plant has become much more efficient at capturing biosolids. He spoke about the efficiency of the new mixers which had been mirrored in a reduction in operation costs. Mr Thiart agreed to provide further information about these cost reductions at the next meeting.

Review of Action Plan

The Committee agreed to delay discussions about the action plan until after the joint councils meeting on 4 July 2018.

Financial Status

Management Accountant, Andrew Bishop provided an update on the NRSBU’s financial status. He noted that fixed contributions are running ahead of budget and the variable contributions are on target.

The meeting discussed inflow/infiltration issues which are a high priority for both councils.

Bell Island Treated Effluent Reuse Project

Mr Robinson noted that a draft report had been received from WSP-OPUS and this is being reviewed by Mr Thiart and the Acting General Manager. This project needs to consider cultural, environmental and community values in terms of reusing wastewater. Mr Clifford agreed to write to potential users advising them of the report and request a meeting so they can provide their feedback.

In response to a question Mr Thiart agreed that any wastewater reuse strategy needs to consider other initiatives such as the Waimea Inlet Strategy.

Moved Cr McNamara/Walker

NRSBU18-06-2

That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit:

1. receives the General Manager's Update report, NRSBU18-06-01; and
2. endorses the extra costs estimated to complete the consenting process; and
3. instructs the Acting General Manager to manage the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit in accordance with the Draft Business Plan 2018/19 until such time as approval is given (with or without amendment) from both councils; and
4. instructs the Acting General Manager to work with Raine Farms to find a solution for Raine Farms wish to extend their lease on land at Bell Island.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: