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**MINUTES**  
of the  
**NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT MEETING**  
held  
**1.00 pm, Friday, 8 December 2017**  
at  
**Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond**

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**Present:** Councillors C M Maling and D E McNamara (Tasman District Council)  
Councillors T Skinner and S Walker (Nelson City Council)  
P Wilson (Industry Customer's Representative)

**In Attendance:** NRSBU General Manager (J Robinson), Engineering Services Manager (R Kirby) Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council  
  
Group Manager, Corporate Services (N Harrison) and Senior Asset Engineer (J Thiant), Nelson City Council

**1 OPENING, WELCOME**

Deputy Chair Cr Kit Maling welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Cr Dean McNamara who was recently appointed as the second Tasman District Council representative for this committee.

The members also discussed the vacancy for an iwi representative on this committee.

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Moved Cr Walker/Cr McNamara**  
**NRSBU17-12-1**

**That apologies for lateness from Cr T Skinner be accepted.**  
**CARRIED**

Cr Skinner arrived at 1.08 pm

**3 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT COMMITTEE**

The members discussed the appointment of an independent member to the committee. Philip Wilson noted that an independent member provides the opportunity to have another opinion on

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any issues that may arise between the two councils and the direction of the NRSBU. Mr Wilson believes an independent person is of value to both councils.

Cr Walker supported Mr Wilson's comments and suggested that an independent member would be beneficial and that this person could potentially chair the committee.

Jeff Robinson advised the members that his understanding was that the appointment of an independent member is a separate item from who will chair the NRSBU. He suggested that the NRSBU committee should recommend the appointment of an independent member to both councils in the first instance. The NRSBU committee can then determine ongoing chairmanship after the independent member has been appointed. He noted that an independent member does have voting rights.

Mr Kirby recommended that the two councils go through an expressions of "interest" process to find an independent member.

**Moved Cr Walker/Cr Skinner  
NRSBU17-12-2**

**That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit recommends to Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council that they appoint an independent member to the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee. This role would be remunerated in accordance with the Joint Council Policy for the Appointment of Directors.**

**CARRIED**

Mr Robinson confirmed that he will write to the two councils asking them to consider the recommendation.

**4 PUBLIC FORUM**  
Nil

**5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Nil

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Cr Maling/Cr Skinner  
NRSBU17-12-3**

**That the minutes of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 15 September 2017, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Cr Maling vacated the chair and Mr Robinson presided over the meeting while the Committee discussed the need to appoint a new Chairperson.

**Moved Cr Walker/Cr Skinner**

## **NRSBU17-12-4**

**That Councillor Kit Maling is appointed as Chairperson of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit Committee.**

### **CARRIED**

Cr Maling assumed the Chair.

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **7 REPORTS**

### **7.1 Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit General Manager's Report**

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

He noted that there had been three health and safety incidents reported during this period.

#### **Aberrational Discharge Consent**

Mr Robinson used a diagram on the whiteboard to explain the aberrational discharge consent issues and noted that the Nelson City Council officer's report recommended a consent for only five years. The NRSBU has a legal and technical/science team to present evidence at the commissioner hearing on 12 December 2017 and to push the case for a 20-year consent.

Mr Robinson reported that 39 submissions had been received and a number of people have indicated that they wish to speak at the hearing.

In response to a request from Councillor Walker, Mr Robinson confirmed that he will ask the planning staff to forward information on the submissions to the committee members.

#### **Bell Island Discharge Consent Renewal**

Mr Robinson thanked Mr Thiart for his work on preparing the resource consent documentation.

In response to a question, Mr Kirby confirmed that iwi had been consulted with on the draft resource consent application and they had provided a cultural impact assessment which was very helpful in preparing the consent application.

Mr Robinson spoke about recent discussions with Greenacres Golf Club and the option of the NRSBU supplying treated water for watering their golf course. Greenacres Board representatives were advised that they would be responsible for any resource consent or further water treatment if this option did go ahead.

Cr Walker spoke about the Modellers Pond at Tahunanui and the option that treated water from the NRSBU could be used to provide water to that amenity as well as an option to supply treated water to the Nelson Golf Club.

#### **Operations and Maintenance**

In response to a question, Mr Thiart explained the difference in volumes of sludge between the

three ponds. He also noted that the mixers are coming to the end of their life and these will need to be reviewed by the Committee when it meets to discuss the asset management plan in March 2018.

Mr Wilson noted that the mixers have definitely worked well in all types of conditions and are providing real benefits.

### **Business Plan**

Mr Robinson used the whiteboard to explain the details around the regional pipeline upgrades scheduled for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. He noted that Tasman District Council is also doing some work on pipeline upgrades to meet population growth in the same area as the NRSBU is planning. There is an opportunity for the NRSBU to work with Tasman in maximising opportunities for both parties. Staff will be discussing these options with Nelson Pine Industries and also iwi in terms of locating the pipeline.

This proposal will be converted into a project brief so that staff can be prepared for the resource consent application. It was also noted that early engagement with iwi is crucial for this project.

Cr Walker suggested that in light of the discussions today, the Committee should consider iwi representation on the NRSBU Committee with some urgency. It was agreed that the General Manager should have informal discussions with the two Chief Executives to progress the option of iwi representation on the NRSBU as soon as possible.

Cr Skinner noted his support for these discussions so that we can gain iwi representation as soon as possible.

### **Financial Plan**

Ms Harrison noted that interest rates had increased and this was reflected in the future capital works programme. She also noted there is an audit view that desludging should be treated as part of operational expenditure rather than capital expenditure as noted in the financial plan.

Mr Wilson noted his initial concern that this would result in an increase in the operations budget.

The committee members discussed the SCION biosolids trial site study and the benefits to Tasman District Council who use the biosolids to be sprayed on their forestry blocks. It was felt that Tasman District Council should contribute to the SCION trial as their asset directly benefits from this spraying. Mr Robinson noted that this issue will be discussed with the new Property Services Manager at Tasman District Council.

### **User Group**

Mr Robinson confirmed that a User Group meeting was held on 6 December 2017. Representatives from Tasman District Council, Nelson Pine Industries and Turners and Growers were present.

Peter Entwistle from Turners and Growers confirmed:

- Offers to purchase the business (in Nelson and Hastings) closed on 15 November 2017 and they are assessing the tenders;

- It is business as usual except that they will not operate the juice plant this season.

It was agreed that the Board will wait for an opportunity to talk to a new owner.

**Moved Walker/Cr Skinner**

**NRSBU17-12-5**

**That the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit**

- 1. receives the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit General Manager's Report; and**
- 2. approves the final payment for the mixers as per the original agreement entered into with Gurney Environmental; and**
- 3. approves the Draft Business Plan 2018/2019 to be forwarded to each Council.**

**CARRIED**

**8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

Nil

The meeting concluded at 2.33 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: