



SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

23 November 2012

- Present:** Mayor Adrienne Staples (Chairperson), Councillors Margaret Craig, Dean Davies, Mike Gray, Brian Jephson, Julie Riddell, Viv Napier, Solitaire Robertson, Keith Sexton and Cr Stevens.
- In attendance:** Paul Crimp (Group Manager Corporate Support), Mark Allingham (Group Manager Infrastructure and Services), Glenn Bunny (Group Manager Planning and Environment)
- Conduct of Business:** The meeting was held in the South Wairarapa District Council Chambers at 19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough and was conducted in public between 3:00pm and 3:35pm.

A Preliminary Matters

A1. Apologies

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2012/211) to receive apologies from Dr Jack Dowds.
(*Moved Cr Napier/Seconded Cr Stevens*) Carried

A2. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

A3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

B Decision Papers

B1. Wairarapa Governance Structure

The Group Manager Corporate Support tabled the report 'Wairarapa's Future Local Government Reform in Wairarapa' and the recommendations from the Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party. Mayor Staples summarised the 21 November 2013 Local Government zone 4 meeting where member councils gave indicative support, or otherwise, for the joint Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council governance proposal.

It was noted that the report tabled is not the option to go to the Local Government Commissioner, but it will be the basis for public consultation

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Mayor Staples noted that the Local Government Commission:

- Must consider all proposals put forward.
- Would consider funding ability of ratepayers for any proposal put forward.
- Would consider proposals against experience of other local authorities using a similar model.
- Could order a transition authority until a permanent structure is able to be implemented should a permanent structure not be ready for implementation prior to the 2013 elections.

Wairarapa Unitary Authority - Disadvantages Noted:

- Funding ability of ratepayers for a Wairarapa unitary authority.

Wairarapa Unitary Authority - Advantages Noted:

- Wairarapa support for local governance.
- Regional council responsibilities governed from a rural perspective.
- Easier to make governance structure changes from this position.
- Some shared services with Wellington would continue e.g. transport.

Wellington Supercity – Disadvantages Noted:

- Once selected, hard to retract.

COUNCIL RESOLVED (DC2012/212):

1. To receive the information.
2. To accept the following recommendations from the Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party.

(Moved Cr Jephson/Seconded Cr Riddell)

Carried

Recommendations from the Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party

1. That Council notes that:
 - a. there are currently only two options for the future governance of Wairarapa:
 - i. a single Wairarapa unitary authority, or;
 - ii. being part of a larger Wellington super-city style, unitary authority.
 - b. the Greater Wellington Regional Council will be dis-established under both options.
 - c. the status quo is not an option for the future governance of Wairarapa.
 - d. an amalgamated Wairarapa district council is not an option for the future governance of Wairarapa.
2. That Council endorses the preferred option of a Wairarapa unitary authority for public consultation with appropriate arrangements with Wellington metropolitan councils for functions of mutual and strategic benefit.

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3. That Council notes that each of the three Wairarapa councils will need to adopt the preferred option before a Wairarapa consultation can begin.
4. That consultation with the Wairarapa public on this preferred option begins as soon as this can be arranged accepting that further work and discussion with other councils is still proceeding and that there are many questions that cannot be answered because the answers depend upon decisions by future governance entities that do not presently exist.
5. That Council notes that the preferred Wairarapa unitary authority would encompass the area bounded by the current boundaries of South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton District Councils, extended to include the corresponding coastal boundary of a regional authority.
6. That regional council services to the area of Tararua District Council currently in the Wellington region north-east of the Masterton District Council boundary be provided by the proposed Wairarapa unitary authority.
7. That the representation structure for the proposed Wairarapa council be:

Governance Issue	Proposed Structure
Governance type	Wairarapa unitary authority
Number of councillors	12 (plus mayor)
Basis of representation	Ward based
Number of wards	Seven wards including an expanded urban ward for Carterton and two rural wards. The remaining wards to approximate their respective current ward boundaries
Number of councillors elected at large	Nil
Community boards	Five community boards comprising retention of the three community boards at Martinborough, Featherston and Greytown, plus an additional community board for each of Carterton and Masterton. Community board boundaries are to coincide with ward boundaries.
Ward committees	Not considered necessary given the proposed community board structure.
Rural advisory committee	Recommend a rural advisory committee given the preference for a unitary authority and that the 2 rural wards sit outside the proposed Masterton community board.
Maori participation in Council decision making	Recommend that a structure be set up as a mechanism for regular consultation with Maori on matters of mutual interest, with the form and function to be decided following consultation with local iwi

8. That Council endorses the continuing efforts of the Working Party to work collaboratively with the Wellington metropolitan council/s in establishing agreements for the provision and funding of regional services (e.g. public transport services).

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9. That the Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party be authorised to continue to explore opportunities for preparing a combined proposal with Wellington metropolitan councils in support of a reorganisation application to the Local Government Commission.
10. That the Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party be authorised to coordinate and process consultation on the preferred option on behalf of the three Wairarapa councils.
11. That in the meantime, Council actively engages with its ratepayers and residents on the content of the attached draft report.

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Mayor)

.....(Date)

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