

MEETING NOTES OF THE RCA FORUM STORMWATER GROUP
at
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ROOM 2

9.15 am Thursday 17 July 2008

Present:

Graeme Tong	Palmerston North City Council	<u>Convenor</u>
Dale Nicholls	Transit NZ Operations, Napier	
Russell Hawkes	Southland District Council	
Nicci Wood	Wellington City Council	
Balt Gregorius	Land Transport NZ	
Wayne Newman		Secretary

Attending:

Wendy Gaisford	Ministry of Transport
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Apologies:

Carl Reller	Transit NZ, National Office
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Absent:

Bruce Geden	Greater Wellington Regional Council
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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome and apologies	Apologies were received and noted.	[Russell/Nicci]
2. Meeting Notes/Matters Arising	The notes of the meeting on 3 April 2008 were taken as read. <u>Agreed</u> that the notes are a true record.	[Nicci/Balt]

<p>3. Forecast activities, targets and budget.</p>	<p>Wayne reported that progress on the Sensitive Receiving Environment Assessment Tool and the web-site content had precluded work on other activities during the April-June quarter, so that there was a deferred start on some priority activities for this year.</p> <p>Graeme reported that the receipt of the MWH invoice for work on SREAT and the early start on work on FAQ's had meant that the group had spent about double its budget for the first quarter.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> to check if expenditure on SREAT development was accrued to 2007/08.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> reports.</p>	<p>[Balt/Dale]</p>
<p>4. Progress on new national guidelines on stormwater.</p>	<p>Wendy reported on progress made by MoT and MfE in developing national guidelines on stormwater in place of a National Policy Statement (NPS). The NPS reference group convened in 2007 had recommended against a NPS and cabinet decided on 19 April 2008 not to proceed with an NPS. The MoT was now investigating creating a new reference group or reconvening the NPS reference group to progress development of guidelines, to focus on sensitivity of receiving environments, thresholds, best practice and existing Regional Council rules.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> excessive duplication with activities of RCAF and SWG. SWG members on the reference group believe that it has completed its task. RCAF and SWG have credibility with practitioners and are now developing non-prescriptive, best-practice guidelines.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> to pursue stronger liaison with MoT and MfE and active involvement of MoT and MfE in the group.</p>	<p>[Russell/Balt]</p> <p>Wayne</p>
<p>5. Update on Stormwater treatment standard and sensitive receiving environments research field work</p>	<p>A Stormwater Treatment Standard for Road Infrastructure for state highways (expected to be in place in June 2008 at the April meeting) has been drafted, but has not yet been released for discussion.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> use of term "standard" and suspicion among practitioners of a tendency for standards appropriate to state highways to become standards required for local roads.</p>	

	<p><u>Noted</u> the expressed preference of practitioners has been for guidelines developed for local roads.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> that SWG must see, examine and comment on the draft Stormwater Treatment Standard for state highways as a priority.</p>	<p>[Graeme/Russell]</p> <p>Wayne</p>
6. RCA Forum web-site	<p>Wayne reported on a survey of use made of the web-site. Since its inception in April 2007 total monthly visits to the site have increased from 180 to 1223 in June 2008. A survey of use over a ten month period showed increasing use of the SWG website.</p> <p>Proposed draft FAQ sections for the web-site were reviewed. Initial reaction from a trial circulation was positive. Balance between too much and too little detail was probably appropriate for the needs of target users.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> increasing use of the RCA Forum web-site and visits to SWG pages.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> that greater awareness of the web-site will increase the pressure on SWG to put case studies, guidelines and information on device effectiveness on the site quickly.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> to place proposed FAQ pages on the web-site as a work in progress, with first series to be operating before next Forum meeting.</p>	<p>[Dale/Russell]</p> <p>Wayne</p>
7. New products, devices, issues	<p>Russell proposed that information on devices should be sought from suppliers to obtain information on the performance of products and devices.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> that this is a priority project for this year that was deferred in first quarter. Any comment on a device would not be an endorsement and no sponsorship would be accepted that diminished the credibility of SWG as independent source of guidance.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> to progress liaison with suppliers through contacts made during the workshop series to identify examples of products within generic treatment categories.</p>	<p>[Balt/Dale]</p> <p>Wayne</p>

8. Updated NZ Transport Strategy and sustainable transport	<p><u>Noted</u> the shift in targets and influence from local to regional, and the issue of resources needed by regional councils to administer increased responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> that SWG should not change or widen its present terms of reference when it has just begun the second year of a three-year programme.</p>	[Graeme/Russell]
9. General Business	No item of general business was raised.	
10. Next Meeting	<u>Agreed</u> to meet again at 9:15 on 30 September 2008. Venue to be confirmed.	Wayne