

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 SISTER RIVER AGREEMENT

The following letter was received from Frank Burt, Baldwin County Commission, USA, regarding the Styx River in Baldwin County, Alabama, USA and the Styx River, Christchurch Sister River Agreement (Sister River Agreements will be tabled at the meeting):

“On 25 May 2000, the Baldwin County Commission, during their reconvened 16 May 2000, regular meeting, voted to adopt Resolution # 2000-42 of the Baldwin County Commission which authorises our entry into a “Sister River Agreement” with the City of Christchurch, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand; Water Services Unit of the Christchurch City Council, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand; Guardians of the Styx River, Inc, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand; Baldwin County Historic Development Commission, Baldwin County, Alabama, United States of America; Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand; Shirley/Papanui Community Board, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand and Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand; to promote, through the sharing of our varied knowledge and exchange of ideas, the ecological, historical and cultural significance of both the Styx River in South Island, New Zealand and the Styx River in Baldwin County, Alabama, United States of America.

Mrs Chairperson, this “Sister River Agreement” is the first of any similarly styled “Agreement” (ie “Sister City Agreement” or other) offered to any other local, national or international government by the Baldwin County Commission. We are very proud to have your governmental unit, in association with those other New Zealand governmental units, extend to us the opportunity to join in our common purpose to promote both our “Styx” Rivers so that one day our posterity can enjoy the natural beauty they brought to our lives.

All of the New Zealand governmental units reflected in the attached “Sister River Agreement” have, quite obviously, made great strides in the protection and promotion of the Styx River in Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand, that the citizens of Baldwin County, Alabama, United States of America, can learn from and emulate.

We owe significant gratitude to the Guardians of the Styx River Inc, their Chairman, Mr John Knox, and their Treasurer, Mr Warwick McFadden, for their proactive interest in contacting this Alabama County Government to discuss the concept which led to the finalised “Sister River Agreement.”

Mr McFadden will be contacting you to convey this correspondence and to have you sign eight (8) original copies of the “Sister River Agreement,” one (1) for your governmental unit to retain and two (2) for Mr McFadden to convey back to us (one for the Baldwin County Commission and one for the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission).

Upon receipt from Mr McFadden, we will have our signed original copy of the “Sister River Agreement” framed for display in the Baldwin County Administration Building, at the County Seat, in Bay Minette, Alabama.

Please know that we here in Baldwin County, Alabama, wish to strengthen our ties even after formalising this “Sister River Agreement” by staying in contact. Should you so desire, your primary contacts here will be the following:

- 1. Honourable Frank Burt, Jr Chairman
Baldwin County Commission*
- 2. Mr Kevin Cowper
County Planner/Director, Planning and Zoning
Baldwin County Commission*
- 3. Mr David A Brewer
Assistant to the Commission
Baldwin County Commission*

Please take care and, as always, it remains a pleasure.”

On 7 September 2000 at the Christchurch City Council the Sister River Agreement was signed by representatives of the Christchurch City Council, Guardians of the Styx River Inc and the Community Boards.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the Board endorse the Sister River Agreement and receive the documents with pleasure.