

## Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016, held at Jordan Valley Farm

*Minutes of meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016*

<b>Facilitator</b>	Councillor Crichton Christie
<b>Purpose</b>	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
<b>Present</b>	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Adam Twose (WDC), Mellissa Twose (Scribe), Philip Hindrup, Rosemary Lister, Andrew Ilich, Jack Ilich, Ken Finlayson, Simon Donelley, Tess Dacre (NRC), Geoff Crawford, Stephen Brown, Neil Crowson.
<b>Apologies</b>	Andrew Carvell (WDC), Simon Weston (WDC), Bruce Howse, Tim Brandenburg,

Councillor Christie addressed the floor, opened the meeting welcoming members and staff representatives from the Whangarei District Council.

Item	Description	Action
<b>Apologies</b>	Accepted	Moved/Second
<b>Minutes</b>	Last Meeting Minutes. Issues raised - None. All true and correct.	Moved/Second
<b>Operations/Maintenance</b>	<p><b><u>Monthly Overview from Hydrotech</u></b>                      October                      - Settled weather with minimal rainfall                      - Number of Pleuger bay pumped out and pumps were inspected mechanically and structurally</p> <p>November                      - Work identified in quarterly inspections were undertaken                      - Repairs to Ngararatunua Pump Bay A wall                      - No rainfall so minimal pump operation</p> <p>December                      - Mountain, Otonga and Te Mata station pumps were lifted out to inspect, all is well                      - No notable rainfall events                      - Minor health and safety jobs are being undertaken due to the current low spend on electricity and flood attendance</p> <p><b><u>Pump Availability</u></b>                      - See presentation</p> <p><b><u>Power Usage</u></b>                      - See Presentation</p> <p><b><u>Pump Operation</u></b>                      - October, November and December had zero pump hours run</p> <p><b><u>New Signage</u></b>                      - New signs have been put up on Okarika stopbank access gate, requesting they be kept closed at all times</p> <p><b><u>Maintenance Activities</u></b>                      - Flygt pump's bracket at Te Mata has been removed, cleaned and painted before being returned in place                      - Vortex board bracket replaced and anti-turbulence vanes inspected to assess level of repair at Junction Pocket                      - Pump Bay A has had concrete repairs, bracket replacement and vane and impeller wear assessment at Ngararatunua</p>	

<p><b>Finances</b></p>	<p><b><u>October</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspection \$2,638.22.</li> <li>- Maintenance \$245.61.</li> <li>- Drain Clearing \$2,320.00.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>November</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspection \$2,638.22.</li> <li>- Maintenance \$3,341.67.</li> <li>- Drain Clearing \$34,019.19 (incl road formation)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>December</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspection \$2,638.22.</li> <li>- Maintenance \$4,995.81</li> <li>- Drain Clearing \$14,203.80</li> </ul> <p><b><u>January</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspection \$2,638.22</li> <li>- Maintenance \$4,502.15</li> <li>- Environmental \$171.49</li> <li>- Flood Attendance \$483.61</li> <li>- Drain Clearing \$6,014.04</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Opex 15/16</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget is \$481,956.</li> <li>- Current Forecast is \$454,401</li> <li>- Forecasts are cautionary based on possibility of pump failures and significant rain events, good chance of operational under-spend this year</li> <li>- Long term plan to be out of debt by 2025</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Environmental</b></p>	<p><b><u>Bermland Ox-Bow Restorations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern over the amount of Manuka planted, preference to remove some of the planted Manuka.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Pocket Ox-bow Restoration</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7Ha of owned land has been retired from grazing.</li> <li>- Handover date agreed with lease holder to be during March 2016-02-11 Fencing completed on northern ox-bow and southern ox-bow fencing is being repaired.</li> <li>- Living water have funded an ecological survey and a 10 year restoration plan with activities including pest control, ephemeral wetland creation and planting</li> <li>- Plan will be worked and funded with Living Water, DoC, Fish &amp; Game and Iwi</li> <li>- Plan will be emailed out by Adam Twose</li> <li>- Worry expressed towards the maintenance of the fenced off areas. Mulching has been suggested and spraying for areas with fast tea-tree and privet growth</li> <li>- Spot spraying suggested as an annual occurrence</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Eel Monitoring Program</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study of migrating eels and deterrent options explained to working group</li> <li>- Scheme will be funding approx. \$18k towards the study</li> </ul>	
<p><b>15-16 Drain Clearing</b></p>	<p><b><u>Drain Clearing Progress</u></b></p> <p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Te-Mata</li> </ul> <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Te Mata Pocket</li> </ul> <p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Te Mata</li> <li>- Otonga Pocket</li> <li>- Okarika Pocket</li> <li>- Mountain Pocket</li> </ul> <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Okarika Pocket</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Drain Clearing Progress Remaining</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some of McKenzie drain was not done, to follow up</li> <li>- Long reach currently operating, due to be completed by end of February</li> <li>- Jack's Swale to be done this year before winter – Hydrotech to be instructed (written instruction issued to HydroTech on 12/02/2016)</li> </ul>	<p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p>

<b>Level Of Protection</b>	<p><b><u>Option for Enhanced Protection</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review from 1998 has been located and will be emailed out.</li> <li>- Report found one location in upper catchment suitable for a detention dam, however, benefits were not fully defined as it would be in only one of multiple upper catchments.</li> <li>- Otanga proposal has more benefits and is deemed to be more feasible</li> </ul>	
<b>Compliance with Consent</b>	WDC and NRC both confirm that the scheme is fully compliant with consents. Confirmation to be emailed to attendees	Adam Twose
<b>Living Water</b>	<p><b><u>Living Water Update</u></b></p> <p>See presentation for update from Tim Brandenburg</p>	
<b>AOB</b>	<p><b><u>Short/Long Term Objectives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To revisit in next meeting</li> <li>- Proposal to spray drains as a more cost effective approach to digging. For discussion in next meeting</li> <li>- Due to contractual obligations, all work is to go through Hydrotech</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Northland Inc Funding</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarification to be sought from Northland Inc. about funding of benefits other than irrigation</li> </ul>	Cr. Christie

**Meeting closed at 11:20am**

**Next Meeting: Mid June**