

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Tuesday 19th August 2014 11.30a.m, Kauri Room, Walton Plaza

Minutes of meeting held at the Whangarei District Council Offices, Walton Plaza, Kauri Room on Tuesday 19th August 2014 11.30a.m.

Facilitator	Councillor Crichton Christie
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
Present	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Cr Susie Bretherton, Andrew Carvell, Adam Twose, Simon Weston, Zana Hamilton (scribe), Tess Dacre (NRC), Hona Edwards (iwi), Peter Houba (Opus), Chris Frost (Opus), Tim Brandenburg (Fonterra), Phillipa Fourie (Fonterra), Ray Hindrup, Simon Donnelley, Ken Finlayson, Jack Ilich, Andrew Ilich, Evan Smeath, Robert Olsen, Robin Olsen, Luke Beehre, Rosemary Lister
Apologies	Mark Simpson, Andy Keith, Te Raa Nehua, Wendy Holland, Allan Halliday, Geoff Crawford, Bruce Howse
Recording	WA450087.wma

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

Item	Description	Action
Apologies	Accepted	Andrew Moved Cr Bretherton Second
Minutes	Last Meeting Minutes. Accepted	Andrew Moved Cr Bretherton Second
Terms of Reference	To continue with policy from May 2012. One invited representative from each pocket, upper catchment, NRC, Iwi/Hapu and Fonterra. All but one of the positions is filled. Hona Edwards advised that Allan Halliday and himself would be the reps for Iwi/Hapu. Request was made for Adam to send Rosemary and Hona a copy of the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. Simon Donnelley to speak to Steven Brown about being a rep for Junction pocket.	Adam Twose Hona Edwards Adam Twose Simon Donnelley
Operations/Maintenance	Hydrotech Storm readiness procedure was implemented 10/11 th July. Damage to Northpower electricity network resulted in the pumping stations being out of power for 2-3 days. Took about 20 days to clear the water with loss of pasture to all pockets. Pump Availability Mckewan in Tanekaha had temporary blips while Pump B in Ngararatunua and Pump C in Okarika where still out for rewind. Re-wind Update Goal is to have all stations operation with one spare small pump and one spare 240HP. The two small pleuger rewinds have been wired and ready for connection tests next Monday. Spare 240HP Pleuger repair has been completed and is in SAWW storage. Struggling to source a spare prop. Pump Run Hours Pump D at Te Mata had reduced pump hours due to blockage and Pump E at Okarika due to loss of the contactor.	Adam Twose Adam Twose Adam Twose

	<p>Te Mata Pump Blockage Power trip caused the pump to stop which caused temporary back flush that pushed the screen off. Hydrotech to fit all screens to prevent these coming off again. Broken winch rope raises issue of access into pump stations.</p> <p>Access to Stations Change in H&S Legislation requires us to demonstrate competency and training for all those who operate council assets. Three options: 1. Lock-down – Hydrotech personnel only 2. Partial lock-down – Harder to access stations 3. No lock-down – Train all.</p> <p>Discussion: New legislation will bring in huge fines – Simon W Will need the right procedure for a partial lockdown as people will be testing the limits and making WDC responsible – Simon W Ray Hindrup asked how many incidents and injuries to do with pump stations on the scheme had their been. Cr Christies responded; Not many if any. Simon W added that their will be huge fines and court cases for the individual as well as WDC which is the main issue. Evan Smeath added that Te Mata, Junction and Otonga pockets are the most affected by this. If Council set up a procedure we could do a partial lockdown – Andrew C Ray Hindrup advised that we need a hazard identification list, Operators have a certificate stating they are trained to enter pump stations and show that WDC has put in safe practices and training. A total lockdown would mean when grates block up farmers would not be authorised to do any work and wouldn't be able to clean the screens. Concerns of when grates block up several times a day – if only hydrotech can access to clean these it will not get done in the timeframes farmers could be cleaning them.</p> <p>Option two of a partial lockdown was chosen as a whole group. Now need to find the farmers who will be trained. Rosemary asked that we be specific as we need to determine if it will be for all pockets or only certain pockets.</p> <p>Adam is to develop an SOP and hazards training procedure for access to stations. This is to be completed and brought along to the next meeting.</p> <p>Junction Cut Re-instatement was undertaken by Hydrotech and overseen by Kennedy and Associates. WDC is looking to recover the costs for this. A lot of scouring was noticed while completing the re-instatement. Hydrotech has been asked to undertake the repairs of the scouring.</p> <p>Te Mata Cuts Re-instatement was undertaken a week after the first storm. It was not undertaken by Council contractors. Kennedy & Associates inspected the works done with a spear test which showed that the re-instatement was not done to the level that Hydrotech would have done it. Therefore Hydrotech now have to re-instate the stopbank again. Ray Hindrup requested that WDC show the working group the accounts and receipts for this work.</p> <p>Questions were asked about why the cut re-instatements were not invoiced directly however this discussion was shut down pending legal action and WDC are not willing to discuss this at this point.</p>	<p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Rosemary Lister</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Andrew Carvell</p>
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	<p>Spillways Maintenance Mowing the grass and insuring grass is in the right places. For Hydrotech to do this it will cost \$1000.00 every six weeks. Questions were asked about whether the mowing would go down the sides of the stopbanks and the answer was yes. As this is a critical aspect the Farmers believed that Hydrotech should undertake this work. Therefore it was decided as a group that Hydrotech undertake the Spillways Maintenance.</p>	Adam Twose
<p>Finances</p>	<p>Hydrotech Report Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finances included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$2,638.22 for weekly pump station inspections. o \$4,938.74 for maintenance of Okarika Pump, Tyre blockage on Pump D at Te Mata, Securing intake screen and Junction pocket stopbank re-instatement. o \$5,637.73 for flood attendance. <p>Inspections cost is a basic fee which doesn't include call outs at all. We have an arranged rate for time spent on flood events</p>	Adam Twose
<p>14/15 Drain Cleaning</p>	<p>Drain Clearing Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drain clearing packs handed out which included covering letter, cover map of pocket, double sided individual drain maps and assessment forms. - Pocket reps to have these back by the 31st August. - September Adam will have a proposal ready. - Instructions will be given to Hydrotech mid October. - End of February all clearing should be finished. - Farmers to note any issues on the forms. The more information the better. All agreed that no news is good news when deciding which drains need clearing. - 80km's of drains in the Hikurangi drainage district have the consent. <p>Adam will collect and have a look at these by the end of August. Next meeting we will have a proposal. Adam to help Rosemary in regards to the Mountain pocket drains and the drains on the outside of the pocket.</p>	Adam Twose
<p>Buildings Maintenance</p>	<p>Some buildings are in a poor state. No water supply to some buildings and bird proofing is in a poor state.</p> <p>Upgrades to Stations The changes in H&S Legislation require us to upgrade the stations. We have two options; Complete an upgrade of 1 or 2 stations a year or focus on the worst issues in each station. Looking at a cost of 15-20k per station. Bird proofing is going to require scaffolding. Ideas for bird proofing from the inside to eliminate the cost of scaffolding. Removing guttering. Suggestions of getting rid of water systems however Cr Christie expressed concerns about why those systems where there in regards to pumps needing water to run. Suggestions were made about having a working bee to save on costs. Decision to bring back a list of tasks and prices to the next meeting was made. Need a H&S list and a list of tasks/work programme.</p>	Adam Twose

<p>Asset Management Plans</p>	<p>Statutory obligation. Allowed 200k every five years to do any stopbank upgrades. Level sensor renewals approx every ten years. Pump station renewals – drainage gates and structures. 100k every three years. First three years is where most money is spent. Open for any other ideas or alternative ideas. Put draft plans together as staff but council has the final decision of what money goes into the long term plan. Includes flood management. Draft is due at the end of December. May next year will be public submissions. Rates are calculated on costs to run the scheme and capex. The more projects the higher the rates. Once the AMP goes through its three years before any changes can be made. Staff doing this now and councillors look at it around February next year and it should be passed by June next year. Staff are doing a lot of LTP workshops and background work. Draft LTP goes out to everybody in the district. Everybody in the district has an opportunity to make a submission. Feedback on capital programme – take out 900k for gravity gates. - The funding for Hikurangi Plains Water needs to be included in the LTP unless farmers are going to pay for this themselves. An Addition 5k per year has been set aside for new H&S Legislation. Environmental management 10k a year. Some money to operate gravity gates if this was going to go through.</p>	<p>Andrew Carvell</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Ray Hindrup Simon Weston</p> <p>Andrew Carvell</p>
<p>Hikurangi Plains Water - OPUS presentation</p>	<p>Adam received two emails with suggestions. If anyone has anymore suggestions please send them through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lowering the bed of the river - Increase discharge capacity at the bottom of the scheme - Stage 2 of Swamp - Bigger pumps - Larger Floodgates - Retention Dams <p>Clean out below Louis Bridge – Consent – What’s the status on the consent for this. Would need to get consent to do this. Original scheme starts at Purua Bridge so this is not covered. Can get the Maintenance of Louis Bridge done through the operations budget. Main Road to Purua Bridge. Bermland Maintenance should be done regularly. Basic house keeping needs to be done first. We need to realise that one thing is not going to fix the problems like we want it to it will take fixing at least two or three things to make a difference.</p> <p>Next meeting bring the pricing for stream side clearing for Purua Bridge. We need to find out who is responsible for maintenance below Purua Bridge as this area has not been maintained very well. Trees have fallen across the river obstructing water flow. This is the least cost for the most improvement. It is the owners responsibility of the freeflow of water.</p>	<p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Andrew Ilich Cr Christies Andrew Carvell</p> <p>Ray Hindrup</p> <p>Simon Weston/Adam Twose Andrew Ilich Ray Hindrup Tess Dacre</p>

	<p>Three year cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No is the time to think about it - Cant look at this in isolation - 70-100k as desktop study to see where we move from there - Appears that there is possibly some subsidy money - May need to spend the first 100k first to go to the government with the scheme to get the funding. <p>Cr Christie requested guidance from the group of which options to take;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to look at the top to the bottom of the scheme. - Do some more work on the gravity gates - Look at the maintenance side down to Purua Bridge - Look at who is responsible below Purua Bridge <p>The group needs to decide about the Hikurangi Plains Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue of how we are going to improve the scheme - The goal has got to be sorted amongst the working group committee. - Figures Ray has done appears that this is not practical for the money it will cost. - The tough questions we have to ask ourselves is we need at least 200 000 hectares above the scheme to stop the flood we just had. - Need to get a scheme that is actually affordable. - We need some terms of reference of what this will involve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Objectives o Positions that will be viable o Figure out the benefits - Should form a subgroup to put something together to present to the next committee meeting. - Ray believes that we need to include all Councils. - Staff can put something together but key stakeholders should gather the information as they are most affected. <p>Suggestion to have a special meeting/workshop to develop the terms of reference moving forward was made.</p>	<p>Peter Houba</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Evan Smeath Simon Weston</p> <p>Ray Hindrup</p> <p>Simon Weston</p>
Distribution List	<p>For future notifications of any issues the group decided to only send these out to the pocket reps who will pass on to others within the pockets.</p>	<p>Adam Twose</p>
Resources	<p>WDC are not fully recovering the costs and this needs to be recognised. We need to see how we would work around this. We could add an additional cost into opex to recover the costs.</p>	<p>Andrew Carvell</p>
DOC/Fonterra Partnership – Tim Brandenburg	<p>Tim supplied some handouts with regards to the work they are doing on the Hikurangi Swamp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood plain is the area of focus. - Have an event this Friday at the Jordan Valley Farm Hall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Water quality monitoring o Water quality o Biodiversity o Silt o Turbidity o Proposal to shore up the water quality monitoring – Report - 10th October will be a community open day. Invitations coming out through the media. - Informing people of what we have lined up in the programme and welcoming their comments. 	<p>Tim Brandenburg</p>

	<p>Activities will be provided for children. Have had recent discussions about how we may be able to help out and assist with getting down the path way a little bit further in regards to the Swamp. We are interested in how we may be able to help the process out. DOC/Fonterra programme has tight funding although engagement with the community and working out the issues with the wider community is part of the programme which we may be able to help out with. However we don't want to be leading that process. Could potentially help out with funding to assist with facilitation that adds structure. Group could ask for funding and the DOC/Fonterra Partnership would consider it. Invitation to the Terms of Reference meeting to be sent to Tim.</p>	
AOB	<p>Evans Rates Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the Finance Department - Hasn't been developed any further. - Very crucial – Evan - Discussion should come back to the group about this – Cr Bretherton. - Everyone should be given a copy of the draining legislation – Ray. - Come back next month with this issue. 	<p>Evan Smeath Cr Bretherton Ray Hindrup Cr Christie</p>

Meeting closed at 1.00p.m

Next Meeting: TBA