

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Thursday 22nd April 2015, held at Jordan Valley Farm

Minutes of meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 22nd April 2015

Facilitator	Councillor Crichton Christie
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
Present	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Andrew Carvell (WDC), Adam Twose (WDC), David Floyd (WDC), Tess Dacre (NRC), Penny Johnston (NRC), Simon Donnelley, Jack Ilich, Andrew Ilich, Phillip Hindrup, Rosemary Lister, Ken Finlayson, Evan Smeath, Peter Richards, Robert Olsen, Kelvin Davis, Tim Brandenburg (Fonterra)
Apologies	Cr Susie Bretherton, Simon Weston, Stephen Brown, Ray Hindrup, Donald Gillett, Glen Martin, Geoff Crawford, Luke Beehre, Alan Moscript, Hona Edwards, Murray Van der Maus (Fonterra), Bruce Howse (NRC)

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

Item	Description	Action
Apologies	Accepted	Moved/Second
Minutes	Last Meeting Minutes. Accepted	Moved/Second
Operations/Maintenance	<p>1. Monthly Overview from Hydrotech</p> <p>February Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drain clearing continued in Otonga pocket. - Willows cleared from the Mangawhero Stream. - Structural repairs undertaken at Ngararatanua <p>March Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Took out Pump E at Okarika which had leaking seals and a low electrical test. <p>2. Pump Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All pumps available with exception to Pump E at Ngararatanua and Okarika. - Pump E at Ngararatanua was temporarily out of service in February while concrete repairs were undertaken. - Pump E at Okarika swapped out for the spare because of leaking seals and low electrical test. <p>3. Power Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March came in as a negative, (financial journals) but should fix itself next month. <p>4. Pump Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No pumps run in February and March. <p>5. Buildings Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All pump stations have now been completed. - Cost came within \$200.00 of the original quote at \$9k mark. <p>6. Concrete Degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handrails. - Hydrotech will be checking the handrails in their weekly checks. - Will address the issue next financial year, unless discovery requires immediate action. 	

<p>Finances</p>	<p>Hydrotech Report Review</p> <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspections \$3,297.78 includes quarterly inspection. - Maintenance \$3,208.66 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Concrete repairs in Ngararatanua pump E bay. o Cable replacement. o Spill sensor alarming, attend and resolve. o Replaced failed walkway to floodgate. o Replaced failed winch. - Drain Clearing \$24,383.08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Willows and pine from Mangawhero Stream. o Judd, Lupton Point, Wilkinson Outlet, April properties and Wilsonville Quarry drains cleared. <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection \$2,709.25 includes some carryover from quarterly inspections. - Maintenance \$12,742.47 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Removed pump E at Okarika and installed spare. o Concrete repair on pump E bay at Ngararatanua. o Replacement fuses and Glycol for pumps. - Environmental \$546.96 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Switch off pumps during eel migration. o Bank stability assessment of Maungaharuru Stream for native planting. o Re-instate eel monitoring equipment. - Flood Attendance \$50.74. - Drain Clearing \$5,300.74 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pine removal on Mangawhero Stream. <p>Opex 2014/15 Big Hits this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity bills after the two big storms last year. - Pump Rewinds. 	
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<p>14-15 Drain Clearing</p>	<p>2014/15 Drain Clearing Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$66,199.18 was spent. - Drain clearing started in November and finished by February. - 21kms of excavator clearing was completed. - 12kms of spraying was completed. - \$11k was spent on pine and willow removal on Mangawhero Stream. - NRC confirmed that separate resource consent for soda rapids is needed. <p>Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good feedback. - Issues raised in the mountain pocket. - Te Mata stream issues that the tops of the banks were not reinstated by the contractor after damages were made. - Queries made about the Mountain stopbank and why the Tanekaha side was built up and the Mountain side was not. - Te Mata stream oxidation weed issue raised. Suggestions to use a screen while doing drain clearing was made. <p>2014/15 Drain Clearing Lessons Learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue was raised that farmers had not been notified when the contractor was working on their drains. - To move the deadline for drain requests back to the end of September from July was decided by the group. - Group is happy with the frequency of communication. - Group is happy with the minor changes and money spent in each pocket. <p>2015/16 Drain Clearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forecast \$96k plus \$4k carry over. - Proposing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$20k for Maruarua Stream rapids removal. o \$55k for excavator drain clearing. o \$2.5k for spraying. o \$22.5k for other. - Group made the choice to use \$22.5k of other on clearing the berm land and keeping the main channel clear. 	<p>Adam to look into this.</p>
<p>2014/15 Capex</p>	<p>Stopbank Adjustments Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All structural work has been completed. - Grass and hydro seeding has been undertaken this week and last week. - Built up the eroded bank on the riverside of the Tanekaha bank. - Removed stone from the Tanekaha bank to ensure compaction. - Requests have been made from other farmers for the stones that were removed but WDC decided to keep these as they belong to the scheme. - Suggestion was made to use these stones in the junction pocket. - The stopbanks and spillways are now back up to their original design level and we can now start monitoring the five flood events as per the consent requirement. - Concerns were raised about the Okarika spillway. - Five yearly checks/surveys will be done on spillways and stopbanks. - Request made for farmers to keep cattle off the stopbanks until the grass grows. - The only outstanding work is the improvement of the access tracks to Mountain and Otonga Pump Stations. - Since Clements Contracting already have a presence on site they will be used to undertake the tomo investigation and safety work of the Okarika Pump Station. - A risk assessment has been done on the tomo investigation. 	

	<p>Berm Land – Flow restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old road formation was found to have no useful material left, (confirmed by undertaking number of exploratory pits). - Upper perpendicular stopbank has been removed and the lower perpendicular stopbank is to be removed over the next couple of weeks. - Suggested overland flow path was not able to be economically incorporated as no material extraction was required within the vicinity. <p>Stopbanks Adjustment – Financial Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Original tender price \$263,695.21. - Spent to date \$183,909. - Costs to come; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Grass seeding \$15,000. o Okarika perpendicular stopbank \$1,400. o Okarika pump station investigation and safety work \$20,000. o Jordan Valley Road to Otonga stopbank access road \$17,000. - Forecasting total spend of \$237,295. <p>Council LTP is out for consultation out at the moment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public is welcome to put submissions in. - Submissions close on 24 April. 	
<p>Berm Land</p>	<p>Licenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some berm land licenses still have not been returned or have finances owing. - Evan raised issue of a one year license. He was then advised we can not do this because the licenses are renewals and not a new license. 	<p>Adam to forward Evan the minutes that state this was agreed on by the group which he missed.</p>
<p>Environmental</p>	<p>Unusual Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An unusual fauna (terrapin) was spotted at Ngararatunua. - NRC was then notified and the fauna was later removed. <p>Ox-bow Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work has begun on the second ox-bow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Area has been fenced off. o Area sprayed and willows treated. o Bund constructed. - Liaising with Land Care Trust to undertake planting. - Land Care Trust is providing 3,000 native tea trees, flax and cabbage trees. - Cr Christie is feeling uncomfortable about the planting and has concerns of restrictions to the water flow. - Adam to supervise planting and ensure the planting will not cause problems with restrictions of water flows. 	
<p>Legal</p>	<p>Stopbank Cuts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Junction stopbank cuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$22.5k fine for diverting flood waters. o \$22.5k fine for releasing sediment. o \$22.5k fine for breaching an abatement notice. - Te Mata stopbank cuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o \$22.5k for diverting flood waters. o \$22.5k for releasing sediment. - Invoices have been sent seeking recovery of costs for the stopbank reinstatements. 	

Economic	Economic Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking at what we can do to improve the scheme. - Need to look at how to collect the information and how to fund it. - Need an economic opinion of what the benefit would be. - Evan advised that the information has been previously collected by Dairy NZ – Charmaine O’Neal. - Concerns were raised of how we can afford any improvements. - Government funding is looking at water storage and irrigation - Tim Brandenburg. - Rosemary mentioned an article in the farmer’s weekly magazine which talked about dam works on the Hikurangi Swamp. 	Andrew Carvell to contact Dairy NZ about reports.
Future Objectives	Short, Medium and Long Term Objectives Update given as per slideshow for April Meeting TRIM 15/32594.	
AOB	Living Water Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing project – Vegetation issues. - Oxbow site visit this afternoon. - Representative on living water farmer engagement group to be from upper catchment. Nomination to go to Tim. - Developing 15/16 business plan. - Speaking with stakeholders. - Intention to do some work on the economics as well. - More comprehensive report on 2015/16 plan at next meeting. 	

Meeting closed at 11.41a.m

Next Meeting: 24th June Jordan Valley Farm