

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Wednesday 23rd July 3.00 p.m, Kauri Room, Walton Plaza

Minutes of meeting held at the Whangarei District Council Offices, Walton Plaza, Kauri Room on Wednesday 23rd July 3.00 p.m.

Facilitator	Councillor Crichton Christie
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
Present	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Cr Susie Bretherton, Cr Greg Martin, Andrew Carvell, Adam Twose, Simon Weston, Paul Bonetti, Tess Dacre, Bruce Howse, Ray Hindrup, Simon Donnelley, Neville Thorne, Ken Finlayson, Jack Illich, Andrew Illich, Evan Smeath, Robert Olsen, Geoff Crawford, Barry Thorne, Cara Lindsay, Peter Houba (Opus), Chris Frost (Opus),
Apologies	Mark Simpson, Andy Keith, Te Raa Nehua, Wendy Holland

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 Cr Christie
Minutes	Last Meeting Minutes. Accepted	Moved/Second
Terms of Reference	To continue with policy from May 2012. One invited representative from each pocket, upper catchment, NRC, Iwi/Hapu and Fonterra. Still awaiting nominees for each pocket. Form handed out to get signatures and contact details.	Adam Twose
July Storm	8 th – 12 th July. Maximum rainfall in a single place was 550mm. NRC and WDC worked together to fund the helicopter to assess the situation and take pictures of the flooded areas. Discussions about cutting stopbanks to release water flows continued between WDC and NRC. However there was extensive flooding downstream as well, therefore it was decided not to allow the cutting of stopbanks. Pump Operation: Hydrotech undertook a storm readiness procedure on 10 th and 11 th July and were on site for the majority of the rainfall event. Pumps were isolated when the spillways were spilling and restarted once the river levels dropped over the course of the 13 th and 14 th July. Pump C at Okarika and Pump B at Ngararatunua were out for maintenance. No evidence of fish harm at stations. Spillway Levels: Spillways operated on all pockets between late morning on the 10 th July and midnight on the 12 th and 13 th July. Although Junction and Tanekaha continued spilling from the pocket back into the river. The storm highlighted the need for stopbank re-adjustments. McKays have now locked down the settings on graphs so they cannot be adjusted following confusion during the July storm.	Adam Twose Adam Twose Adam Twose

	<p>Sensor data shows us that the July storm was substantially larger than the June storm.</p> <p>Distribution Model: Merv Rusk's data shows a five year storm event overspill is about 6 million m³ however the July storm was 64 million m³. However this data is not validated and is used as information only.</p> <p>Stopbank Cuts: WDC and NRC received several requests to cut the stopbanks however there was great concern about the affects this would have downstream. CEO's from both WDC and NRC met regarding the matter and NRC could not authorise the cuts based on the unknown knowledge of the impacts downstream. WDC could not authorise due to the same reasons and that it is not consented. This resulted in a helicopter being sent up to evaluate the flooding situation on the swamp as well as downstream. Emails were sent out in relation to the cuts. However both Junction and Te Mata pockets were cut without authority.</p> <p>Consents for Cuts/Floodgates: WDC has written to NRC advising it may apply for a variation to authorize cuts in the future. WDC, NRC, DoC and Fonterra have discussed sampling in general. NRC is looking at DO measurements after the events. Until authorisation is provided WDC's position remains unchanged - No cuts will be authorised unless consented. Don't want any detrimental affects on any of the parties downstream. Consenting process will require a lot of work to ensure there is no affect downstream.</p> <p>NRC is within reason to decline the cutting of stopbanks. WDC is trying to make sure we are being fair. Spoke to both NRC chairman and others and the conclusion was that we couldn't do it. Will have to get resource consent.</p> <p>No one has enough information to make a decision in a short timeframe. You will need to apply for resource consent. It is illegal to cut stopbanks.</p> <p>Resource consent likely to take 6-12months and in excess of \$50,000 to obtain.</p> <p>Questions were asked about the point of applying for a resource consent if it's likely to be rejected.</p> <p>Making the cuts without a resource consent is breaking the law.</p> <p>WDC will not break the law</p> <p>Farmers will be paying for the cuts Scheme will be paying for the consent and the helicopter. Anything related to the scheme is paid by the scheme.</p> <p>The only consent you will get is the consent that will not affect others. We need to work as one scheme. So what happens to one person in the scheme happens to everyone. Analysis needs to be done on the cuts and compare benefits for the wider scheme. In some floods stopbank cuts would be beneficial however this storm the cuts would not have been beneficial.</p>	<p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Cr Christies</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Andrew Carvell</p> <p>Tess Dacre Cr Christie</p> <p>S Weston</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Andrew Carvell</p>
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	<p>There must have been a point during the storm that the stopbanks could have been cut.</p> <p>Evan Smeath said he was part of a group of farmers who got together and discussed whether to cut the stopbanks. The pocket then unanimously voted to cut the stopbanks.</p> <p>Next meeting discuss what we can do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis - Ball park figures - Flood gates <p>All want water off our land. To benefit equally we need a resource consent. Need to do the research to benefit everyone. However need to keep in mind that only so much water can get through the bottom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental issues. - Ngararatunua, Okarika and Mountain have no gravity feed. - 50 million m³ would require 25 days of pumping. 	<p>Barry Thorne</p> <p>Evan Smeath</p> <p>Cr Christie</p>
<p>Operations/Maintenance</p>	<p>Resources: WDC staff resources are stretched particularly during major events when scheme beneficiaries are seeking greater input from staff. The time spent on scheme issues by WDC staff has increased. To continue to provide this level of involvement an additional resource will be needed which will come at a cost to the scheme. Question to group - Should we employ dedicated Hikurangi Scheme staff? Too much pressure is being put on current staff. Scheme pays an annual cost of \$50,000 for staff costs. WDC can provide the extra information and time but it will cost the scheme.</p> <p>Simon D suggested having a set price for meeting and then charge the individual for any extra information requested.</p> <p>Information is freely available online. The information farmers are asking for is readily available on Councils websites.</p> <p>Pump Rewinds Update: Ngararatunua and Okarika small pumps were sent for rewind at the end of April. The rewind for these is not straightforward. Rewinding of these pumps is to start now and are expecting one pump to be ready for testing in two weeks and the other being ready shortly after.</p> <p>Spare 240 HP Pleuger retail will be completed Friday. Ames will be on site to reassemble on Friday or Monday. The prop has to be sourced from Germany. Once fixed the spare 240 HP Pleuger will be stored on site to avoid theft and vandalism.</p> <p>Comments on sourcing new pumps rather than doing rewinds was made, as well as comments of using more pumps however more pumps cannot be put in due to the conditions of the resource consent.</p> <p>Power Usage: Power Usage matches energy costs from previous years.</p> <p>Grazing on Bermland: A lot of media attention regarding stock near waterways. Responding to this attention is very time consuming and since WDC staff do not have a presence on the scheme the option of putting this on to the pocket reps was made. General agreement that this is way to go.</p>	<p>Andrew Carvell</p> <p>Simon Donnelley</p> <p>Ray Hindrup</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Adam Twose</p> <p>Andrew Carvell</p>

<p>Hikurangi Plains Water - OPUS presentation</p>	<p>Water program – to manage the water coming into the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upper Attenuation - On farm Attenuation - Flood protection and storage. 	Peter Houba
	<p>Stage 1: Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where we are at currently. - Phase 1: Hydrology costing approximately \$20,000 +GST. - Phase 2: Workshop and Concept Development costing approximately \$30,000 + GST. Workshop would enable us to get some options on the table. - Phase 3: Conceptual Design and Cost Benefit Analysis costing approximately \$20,000 to \$50,000 + GST. 	Peter Houba
	<p>Need a plan of what we propose to do.</p>	
	<p>Similar investigations have been carried out including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peach orchard dam investigation and report. - Otonga pocket as a retention dam – however misinformation was given to council which resulted in nothing progressing with this. 	Ray Hindrup
	<p>We should be looking into Ben Smiths property and the beforehand costs and flooding figures. Ray Hindrup found it alarming that Opus had not sited these reports.</p>	
	<p>Questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many hectares are we looking to flood to have a good enough impact. - Have we looked into the soils and whether or not they will benefit from irrigation. - We will need atleast 1000 hectares at two metre ponding to save us from a 1 in 15 year flood. 	Ray Hindrup
	<p>Slowing the water down is the key issue. Need to look into the implications of getting water from the damns to the land. Situation of the dams is important.</p>	
	<p>Hydrology is not just about the flooding but the water monitoring as well and none of this will happen without consents.</p>	
	<p>Will have to work with Kaipara. If everyone could look at the proposal and think about what other options are available before committing the money to this proposal. This is a \$50-100 million investment and will cost \$100,000 to kick-start the proposal.</p>	Chris Frost
	<p>Farmers requesting more information around governance – where does this fit in with WDC?</p>	Cr Christie
<p>Funding issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neville argues that it is an environmental issue and the Working Group and WDC should not be responsible for funding. - Geoff has concerns about the cost and being run off the swamp due to costs. 	Andrew Illich Geoff Crawford	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doc/Fonterra partnership could supply some funding for this proposal. - Peter suggested getting someone in Wellington on your side in order to get government funding. - Mark Simpson to talk to central government about funding. - Ray had concerns that we would be spending money on investigations the scheme and WDC have already done. - Evan said funding shouldn't be the concern as this can be sorted <p>Simon Weston would like all farmers to give feedback about the scheme in regards to any other options and ideas about how to get funding approval moving forward. All feedback to be sent through to Adam Twose at adam.twose@wdc.govt.nz</p>	Simon Weston
AOB	<p>Existing terms of reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simon Weston is the spokesperson for the professional side. - Cr Christie is the spokesperson for the Working group. <p>Wilson's Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns of water exiting. - Consent - Put options in email to Adam <p>Te Mata Pump Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soft Start - Issues of click back when power goes out. - Was dropping voltage and tripping during July storm. - Andrew Carvell to follow-up with Hydrotech <p>Note: Some discussion occurred during this meeting which was cut short by the chairman and not included in the minutes.</p>	<p>Andrew Illich</p> <p>Evan Smeath / Andrew Carvell</p>

Meeting closed at 5.00pm

Next Meeting: 19th August 2014 11.30a.m