

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Thursday 4th December 2014, held at Jordan Valley Farm

Minutes of meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 4th December 2014

Facilitator	Councillor Crichton Christie
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
Present	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Andrew Carvell (WDC), Adam Twose (WDC), Tess Dacre (NRC), Simon Donnelley, Jack Ilich, Andrew Ilich, Stephen Brown, Phillip Hindrup, Rosemary Lister, Evan Smeath (Late), Robert Olsen (Late), Geoff Crawford (Late), Tim Brandenburg (Fonterra)
Apologies	Cr Susie Bretherton, Mark Simpson, Simon Weston, Andy Keith, Te Raa Nehua, Wendy Holland, Kelvin Davis, Ray Hindrup, Ken Finlayson, Luke Beehre, Hona Edwards, Bruce Howse

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>Hydrotech Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pumps were running for the first week of September from the storm at the end of August. - Loss of the main switch at Otonga – only down for one day - Maintenance and routine inspections have been done. - Rat damaged cables have been replaced at Otonga and the contactor has been replaced at Ngararatunua. - Checks have been done for installing the rewound Pleugers. - Ngararatunua has been installed and Otonga should be installed by the end of the week. <p>Spare Pumps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large spare Pleuger is in SAAW's storage. - Testing on the small Pleuger is complete and the wire should be arriving from Germany. <p>Power Usage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs were high over winter. - Hopeful of savings over summer. - Significant pump hours were run in September. <p>Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Inspection \$2,638.23 o Maintenance \$1,393.76 screen fastening installation, wiring diagram for Te Mata switchboard, Otonga power failure attendance and replace power cable to pump. o Flood Attendance \$2,565.11 - October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Inspections \$2,638.23 o Maintenance \$8,146.49 annual inspections, replace warped floodgate, install new fixing bolts, replace floodgate winch wire, pump removal to replace worn seals, replace rodent damaged cables. o Flood Attendance \$1,032.28 clearing of wood and debris. 	

Finances	<p>Overview of Opex finances was shown for 2014/15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aiming to come in within budget. <p>Draft Capex budget shown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 600k over ten years funded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Level sensor renewals year 7 o 300k over ten years for minor renewals o Stopbank/control works - Not funded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No new pumps – maintain existing pumps o No gravity discharge gates. <p>Looking at 8-12 years to pay off debt.</p> <p>Annual Report show the performance of the swamp scheme and the costs associated with the scheme.</p> <p>Cr Christie wanted to clarify that the rumour of council owing farmers \$1.35mil from depreciation is not true and depreciation has not been collected as per farmer’s decision.</p> <p>Annual Report is available to view on the WDC website.</p>	
Drain Clearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ngararatunua is completed. - In Okarika currently. - Working clockwise around the swamp - Completion is forecasted for the end of February - Still awaiting dates for the helicopter spraying - Of the 70k for drain clearing we are spending 67k which includes 10k for soda block rapids removal on Maruaa Stream issue and 5k for willow tree removal and bank repairs in the Mountain pocket. - Hydrotech have warned us that there may be some bank slips that will require additional work (hence \$3k kept in reserve). - Issue was raised around the Tanekaha lagoon weeds 	
Buildings Maintenance	<p>Mike has been working on the buildings maintenance. Ngararatunua and Okarika have now been completed. All stations should be done by the end of the financial year.</p>	
Stopbank Adjustments	<p>Forecast completion is the end of April Farmers advised to talk directly to council about any issues and not the contractor. Farmers to email David Floyd at david.floyd@wdc.govt.nz Tanekaha has a hole behind floodgate on riverside of the bank, (HydroTech aware of and working with sub-contractor to resolve)</p>	<p>Farmers to let David Floyd know of any issues.</p>
Access to pump stations	<p>Handout of Access to Pump Stations Manual was given out. Issue was raised about lighting outside the Otonga pumpstation – Adam to get a quote of sensor lighting. Flowchart of steps to follow was requested. Queries were made about whether switches are labelled. Farmers to follow manual and feedback to Adam about how easy it is to understand.</p>	<p>Adam to get a quote.</p> <p>Farmers to give Adam feedback.</p>
Grazing Licenses	<p>A number of farmers have not signed their grazing licenses Queries have been made about the fertilizer rates. Andrew asked if the rates were reasonable and it was decided that they are. Andrew to get a list of people having issues with licenses to give to the pocket reps so they can chase them up. Fencing issue was raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestion to have annual audits/checks of the bermlands was made. - Best time for this would be October or November. <p>Discussion of environmental impacts around fencing and cattle in water was brought up, particularly the media attention generated by Millan Ruka. Tim suggested working along side Millan would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Andrew to give pocket reps a list of farmers who haven’t signed grazing licenses.</p>

Living Water Update	<p>Riparian planting along Maungaharuru stream. Tim, Wendy and Adam had a meeting regarding this. Tim seeking support from the working group for this project Happy for feedback to be given at the next meeting. Geoff only agrees with this as a trial and not a precedence. Concerns were raised with water overflowing into the Mountain pocket. Andrew Ilich requested that a motion be put forward to have a representative from this committee on the farmer engagement group.</p>	
Environmental	<p>Possible wetland rejuvenation locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consent requirement. - Re-instate one wetland a year. - Okarika was done this year. - Junction possibility. - Andrew's property possibility. <p>Pump levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue of levels at which the pumps turn on which will reduce the number of eels being killed. - Could be related to the timing of pumps being turned on. <p>Fish Passes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterfall. - Fish ladders. - Enhance environmental affects. 	
AOB	<p>A letter has been sent to MPI. We are now awaiting a response. Lewis Bridge to Purua Bridge issue was questioned. It was confirmed that Ray and NRC have investigated this and the river has cleared itself.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12.25p.m

Next Meeting: Mid-February (Venue also to be confirmed)