

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Thursday 18th February 2015, held at Jordan Valley Farm

Minutes of meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 18th February 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), Jack Ilich, Rosemary Lister, Ray Hindrup, Simon Donelley, Evan Smeath(end), Jeannie Pontai, Jen Ashby
Apologies	Simon Weston, Alan Halliday, Andrew Ilich, Bruce Howse, Tess Dacre, Tim Brandenburg

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. Issues raised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drain clearing in the mountain pocket. - Stopbank at Tanekaha. - Te Mata work with contractor. Issues discussed later in the meeting.	Moved/Second
Operations/Maintenance	<u>Monthly Overview from Hydrotech</u> April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Settled weather with little rainfall. - 25ml rain over Anzac, stopbank work completed. - Okarika Tomo investigation completed. May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Couple of stormy periods raising levels but with no flooding. - Pump station isolated but closely monitored during rain to reduce eel fatalities. - Second ox-bow at Okarika planted. - Ray raised the issue that the most efficient pumping is on the rise of the river and fall of the river. Need to get the timing of the pumping right. - Note that HydroTech is on 24 hour standby. June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drier than average month. - Minor river rises during rainfall events but no flooding. - Pump stations operated but only for a short duration. 	Rosemary/Adam

	<p>Pump Station Maintenance</p> <p>Pump Availability over April, May & June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% pump availability. - Spare pump available. - Pump E at Okarika is switched out but available as a spare. <p>Power Usage and Pump Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to drier than average months power usage is down. - Pumps didn't run during April. - Only Te Mata pumps ran during May. 45 hours pump A & 4 hours pump B. - During June all pumps at Junction, Te Mata, Tanekaha, Mountain and Otonga ran. Ngararatonua and Okarika not run. <p>Otonga Power Station - Concrete Degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handrail had become a Health & Safety issue. - Concrete and supports broken. - Repairs made to handrail and fresh concrete laid. - Winch replaced and remounted. 	
<p>Finances</p>	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection \$2,638.22. - Maintenance \$360.81. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Okarika Pump E removal and installation of spare. - Drain Clearing \$695.00. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pine removal from Mangawhero Stream. <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection \$3,297.78. - Maintenance \$458.59. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rubbish disposal charges, rat bait & Otonga Pump Station contractor replacement (temporary switched out for permanent). - Drain Clearing \$1,870.37. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pine removal from Mangawhero Stream. <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection \$2,638.22. - Maintenance \$9,551.92 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate and replace damaged electric fence at Okarika Pump Station. o Mow Spillways. o Replace missing chain on handrails. o Replace main switch following phase fault at Otonga Pump Station. - Flood Attendance \$558.21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Five separate visits followed by weed clearing. - Drain Clearing \$2,847.25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Excavate Bell Drain (1220m) <p>Opex 14/15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Budget at YTD point. - YTD \$431,835 and Budget is \$481,956. <p>Opex 15/16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In long term plan process. - Budget is \$481,956. 	

<p>Environmental</p>	<p><u>Ox-Bow Restorations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work has now been completed on second ox-bow restoration. - Area fenced off by lease holder. - WDC have sprayed willow. - CBEC to do the replanting. - Bund constructed and water level has risen. - 3000 plants currently planted. - Small reduction of lease area resulting in renegotiation of licence. - Working with Fish & Game to fence off and eradicate weeds from WDC land (1.2 to 2 ha) adjacent to Wairua Reserve. - 0.8ha of land is crown. - Initial cost is of 50/50 split with Fish & Game with Fish & Game responsible for upkeep of land thereafter in return for access to their users. <p><u>Otakairangi Wetland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DoC indicated wetland level has dropped, associated with drain. - WDC to discuss with DoC / Living Water how this is to be addressed. <p><u>Living Waters Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15/16 Business planning well underway with approval by mid August. - Three year strategy and annual plan draft going to Steering Committee for feedback and approval w/e 24th July. - Mangaharuru Update, contouring stream bank to create two tiered profile as recommended, Fiona Gordon at DoC is working towards consent. Signs from NRC are positive. - Steve Brown's fencing and planting is complete and worth a look, will improve with plant growth in a years time. 	
<p>Economic</p>	<p><u>Economic Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultant to collect cost of floods. - Looking at funding options with NRC and Fonterra. - Ongoing. 	<p>Adam</p>
<p>Future Objectives</p>	<p><u>Short Term Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource consent terms met, flood monitoring can now begin. - Note that stopbank adjustments only cost \$267k which has allowed for the remaining works to be completed and savings to be made. - Saving of \$70,000 against estimated cost to carry over. - Three perpendicular stopbanks removed, aerial survey required. - \$20,000 assigned to address Berm Land tree issue. Suggested use to immediate south west of Otonga Power Station. Adam to bring costs for this to the next meeting. - Trade off of ox-bow from Berm Land with private land to aid smooth flow and maintenance of environmental balance planned for this year. - Andrew and Adam to lock down date which scheme becomes debt free by next meeting in October. <p><u>Medium Term Objectives (1 – 5 years)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spillway monitoring completed, assess date from next five compatible flood events. - Encourage reporting from farmers, preferably with pictures, where stopbanks overtop and assess data from next five compatible flood events. - Funds assigned within \$20,000 Berm Land monies to get scheme running as originally intended. To determine where to spend the \$20,000. <p><u>Long term Objectives (5+ years)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic analysis data currently being collected for feasibility study. - Possible change in land use, increase flood protection and obtain Hydrologists interpretation of future hydrographs. 	<p>Adam</p> <p>Adam/Andrew</p>

AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adam suggested money to be allocated to provide refreshments for meetings instead of one person providing each time.- Cr. Christie addressed the issue of settlement of the swamp as this is a serious issue for the integrity of the scheme.- Solutions need to be considered, as land is moving towards the same level as the drains.- Evan Smeath raised an issue of unpaid rates and where are the 10 questions? Andrew Carvell is to action this.	Cr. Christie Andrew
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Meeting closed at 11:11am

Next Meeting: Mid-October (Cr. Christie requests a date which will not clash with council meeting)