

## Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10.00 a.m, Kauri Room, Walton Plaza

*Minutes of meeting held at the Whangarei District Council Offices, Walton Plaza, Kauri Room on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.00a.m*

<b>Facilitator</b>	Councillor Crichton Christie
<b>Purpose</b>	Open forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
<b>Present</b>	Cr Crichton Christie (facilitator), Andrew Carvell, Andy Keith, Phillip Hindrup, Simon Donnelley, Neville Thorne, Evan Smeath, Cr Susie Bretherton Adam Twose
<b>Apologies</b>	Mark Simpson, Conal Summers, Te Raa Nehua, Simon Weston, Ken Finlayson, Jack Illich, Andrew Illich, Tess Dacre, Wendy Holland

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

Item	Description	Action
<b>Apologies</b>	Accepted	Moved/Second Cr Christie
<b>Finances</b>	Using Accellion to share files and the Hydrotech monthly report. Currently \$110 000 under budget for this financial year. Electricity Supply Costs are extremely low compared to previous years.	Adam
<b>Grazing Licences</b>	There have been no changes to the charges for Grazing Licenses.  Renewals were at the end of April.  Concerns about the Okarika grazing license however Andrew understands that the license is still held.  Licenses have been renewed for a five year period. Lawyers said we cannot change it to one year however we can change things with due notice.	Andrew   Neville  Andrew
<b>Operations/Maintenance</b>	<b>Drains:</b> Cleaning programme is nearly finished. Maruarua cleared itself during cyclone Luci so Upper Crawford has been recommended. Issues were raised around how much Hydrotech's paying their subcontractor compared to what WDC are paying Hydrotech. Reoccurring concerns over which drains to clean and who cleans them. Part of the problem is that we aren't cleaning enough drains.  <b>Electrical Work:</b> After the electrical audit was done there is a substantial amount of work that needs to be done at each Pump Station. The cost of this work is already built into the budget so there will be no additional costs.	Adam/Andy   Neville  Andrew

	<p><b><u>Te Mata Electrical Switchboard:</u></b>  Went live just before April; however we haven't taken this over yet.  Have lifted the box to stop it going under water in the event of a storm.  Insurance will pay on invoice.  This work was very successful.</p> <p><b><u>Pump Availability:</u></b>  Ngaratunua and Okarika pumps are currently being rewound and have completed the thermography and core testing.</p> <p>Neville wants vertical flow pumps to replace the existing pumps the next time they go down. Need to apply for government funding to purchase the new pumps. Evan suggests going through the farmers working group in order to apply for funding as he believes we would be more likely to get it through the farmers than through WDC.  Need to put a proposal together with all the specifications and pumps outlined.</p> <p>Crichton to sit down with Evan in the next fortnight to go over the issues which have been raised including the pump replacements.</p> <p>Rates still haven't been paid up. \$90 000 not paid by Evans group and a total of \$190 000 unpaid outside the group. Issues were raised concerning whether Evan and Neville should have a say if they haven't paid their rates.</p> <p>Crichton has requested that the Mayor raise the rates issue outside our boundary.</p> <p>Leaving the rates issue until Crichton has had his meeting with Evan. Evan has guaranteed that his group will pay all outstanding rates once the problems have been resolved.</p> <p><b><u>Okarika Station Moir Tell Tales:</u></b>  We are currently monitoring these and checking monthly. Checking how much movement there is in the station itself. Hydrotech are monitoring this as part of there monthly checks.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew</p> <p>Neville</p> <p>Evan</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Evan</p> <p>Simon</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Adam</p>
<p><b>Drain Cleaning</b></p>	<p><b><u>14-15 Drain Cleaning Proposal</u></b></p> <p>Planning a review of all drains in the scheme.  Budgeting \$70 000 of next years drain cleaning.  We are collecting \$64 000 from the drainage district budget and this needs to be used only for drains as it has previously been used in the major scheme.</p> <p>This year a lot of the budget has gone on electrical work and the focus for next year will be drains.  Key Message is that the targeted rate for drainage needs to be spent on drains.</p> <p>Ideal time to clean the drains is Jan, Feb and March.  Need to establish a timeline plan.</p> <p>Each pockets drains need to be done annually.  WDC need feedback from the representative from each pocket.</p> <p>Adam to bring all drainage plans for the seven pockets to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Adam</p> <p>Andrew</p> <p>Neville</p> <p>Phillip</p> <p>Evan</p>

	<p>Farmers need to determine which drains they want sprayed and which dug out.</p> <p>Issues with the Fonterra/DoC projects as we don't want to be digging out the plants they have planted a few years down the track. Adam is currently working with Tim on these issues. Suggestions of DoC only planting on one side of the drain.</p>	<p>Neville</p> <p>Adam</p>
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	<p><b><u>Okarika Ox-bow re-establishment:</u></b></p> <p>Looking at re-establishing some habitat. Landcare trust is giving us 3500 plants which will be planted in June or July. NRC will be funding the fencing materials, Ngati Hau are proposing to plant and manage the ox bow and WDC will be spraying the area and building a small bund and fence.</p> <p>Location of the ox-bow is Rushbrook Rd. Concerns were raised about how public will gain access as Ngati Hau are already having trouble gaining access.</p> <p><b><u>Eel Update:</u></b></p> <p>Niwa have now tagged eels and readers have been put into monitor movements. We will be meeting next week with groups working with eel re-establishment to discuss the next steps.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Neville/Evan</p> <p>Andrew</p>
<b>Long Term Considerations</b>	<p>May be getting longer dry spells and more intense rainfall. Stopbanks aren't going to work in a number of storms – We need to get the stopbanks done.</p> <p>Option to look further into retention dams. However this idea poses significant cost and challenges if implemented. Three main issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water quantity – either too much or not enough.</li> <li>- Water quality – needs to get better.</li> <li>- Water use – need to maintain in lower reaches.</li> </ul> <p>Major issue is that the upper catchment is sending water down too quickly. How are we going to find the money to do this – suggestions of putting together with the pump replacement proposal and apply for government funding? Evan and NRC have gone over these issues last Tuesday but haven't come up with a solution at this stage. Climate change needs to be considered in these decisions. Crichton's main goals are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce Debt</li> <li>- Get topping on stopbanks done and,</li> <li>- Drains</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Suggestions:</u></b></p> <p>Uniform water charge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone benefits not just the farmers.</li> <li>- Susie would want to promote this to rate payers.</li> <li>- Crichton not completely sold yet.</li> </ul>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew</p> <p>Evan</p> <p>Evan</p> <p>Evan</p> <p>Cr Christie</p> <p>Evan</p>

