

Minutes: Hikurangi Swamp Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 12.30pm, Kauri Room, Walton Plaza

Minutes of meeting held at the Whangarei District Council Offices, Walton Plaza, Kauri Room on Wednesday, 6 March 2013 at 12.30pm.

Facilitator	Councillor Phil Halse
Purpose	Open forum to discuss the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Issues
Present	Cr Phil Halse (facilitator), Andrew Carvell, Conal Summers, Andy Keith, Phillip Hindrup, Simon Donnelley, Bruce Howse, Tess Dacre, Ken Finlayson, Jack Ilich
Apologies	Simon Weston, Mark Simpson

Councillor Phil Halse address the floor, opened the meeting welcoming members and staff representatives from the Whangarei District Council.

Item	Description	Action
Last Meeting	<p>Question to last meeting minutes regarding last paragraph <i>“The letter / document with these individuals named is marked as confidential, so council must ensure it is ok to release before we distribute.”</i></p> <p>Phil requested legal advise as to how this will be actioned</p> <p>Last minutes accepted</p>	<p>Moved/Second Phil Halse/Conal Summers</p>
Apologies	Accepted	<p>Moved/Second Phil Halse/Conal Summers</p>
Pending Legal Action	<p>Conal provided update regarding programme affidavits</p> <p>James Blackburn/Conal Summers to provide party historical information timeline 26 April 2013 to file to court.</p> <p>Legal action is in regards to the initial consent in 2004 put out to public – the variation of the consent was sent to original submitters not public.</p> <p>26 May 2013 is the deadline for any rebuttals to be submitted</p> <p>Both WDC & NRC working together and have budgeted \$50k for court case.</p>	
Introduction	Andy Keith - Wastewater and Stormwater Operations Supervisor was introduced to the members – with a brief outline of his position and knowledge.	
Pump Updates	<p>Mountain Pump Installation – presentation – things going smoothing. McKay currently finishing electrical works</p> <p>Hikurangi Swamp Proposal to defer further replacement of pumps by managing existing pleugers (powerpoint slide no.4)</p> <p>Pump Replacement Programme (powerpoint slide no.5)</p> <p>Overcoming problems with the Pleugers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewinding is costly and time consuming (SAAW offer an alternative to flow serve at a lower cost <p>Insitu windings that are susceptible to leakage, and faulting of the pump</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain stock of spares 	

	<p>Historically cannot be removed during a flood, meaning repairs during services are difficult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumps Northland can replace 80hp pumps underwater, some modifications needed to make easier • Question still remains about 240hp <p>Discussion</p> <p>Timeline for rewinding small pleugers is 6 weeks. Large pleugers will be done in the new financial year.</p> <p>Phil HIndrup asked how many small pleugers are affected. A big spare pleuger would be the way to go as a backup and for affordability</p>	
LTP Capital Funding	Andrew Carvell overview of current position of LTP Capital Funding (powerpoint slide no.6)	Andrew Carvell
Continuation of Presentation	<p>Stock Restriction</p> <p>Pugging Damage – Ngaratunua, Otonga & Mountain</p>	
Flood Control/Stopbanks	<p>Fonterra has made a big drive towards sustainability – fencing waterways.</p> <p>All dairy famers expected to be compliant by the end of the year</p> <p>Weed controlling is going to be a ongoing problem for NRC</p> <p>Fencing/Stopbanks – wrong time with consent being under legal review. NRC clarification on consent required</p>	
Grazing Licences	<p>Review of charges, options. Currently range from \$160 to \$240 per hectare.</p> <p>WDC pays \$40,000 in rates on grazed land and collect around \$64,000 per annum from licences.</p> <p>Andrew advised we had received requests to review charges for grazing licences.</p> <p>Conal Summers indicated that \$/ha could be reduced to cover rates payment only – a reduction of around 35%. This was supported by the group.</p> <p>Option to go out and meet with licensees. Need meeting set up.</p> <p>Some banks in a bad state. Need to incorporate management as part of fee reduction.</p> <p>Conal advised to have a look at the grazing licence – it is quite detailed and comprehensive in the management of land.</p> <p>Cr Halse asked Conal to advise of issues/concerns before the meeting so the group can come along prepared.</p>	Conal
Maintenance	<p>Contract update – Hydrotech is performing well</p> <p>Drains programme – new rates of drain cleaning sent out. Still clarifying details – Group happy with programme line-up</p>	
Resource Consent	<p>Fish passage at stations – working to improve elvers passage upstream by using bunds created with cement/sand filled sacks</p> <p>Environmental swing towards Hikurangi Swamp</p>	Conal

AOB	<p>Email from Ben Smith regarding potholes – to be repaired at this cost.</p> <p>Simon Donnelly – what are the consequences if rivers aren't fenced? Revoking of licenses – if council complete works do the ratepayers pay.</p> <p>Andy Keith – work needs to be done regarding willows – this work is required to be done by helicopter. Andy to supply costs for works to next meeting</p>	Andy Keith
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Meeting closed at 2pm

Next Meeting: TBA

PJ Hindrup
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HIKURANGI 0150

23 October 2012

Attention: Mayor/Councillors/Mark Simpson/Simon Weston
Whangarei District Council
Private Bag 9023
WHANGAREI 0140

HIKURANGI SWAMP MAJOR SCHEME

At the last working committee meeting of the Scheme on 16 October 2012 when a signed declaration of any legal challenge to NRC, WDC and the Resource Consent of the Scheme was required, Cr Halse was adamant that any cost to WDC of defending this pending action would be paid for by the ring fenced HSMS ratepayers.

We seek immediate clarification of this point.

As the WDC well knows this action is being initiated by the following farmers, Ben & Sharon Smith, Clim & Dianna Lammers, Neville & Anne Thorne, Pedro McHardy, Wayne & Karlene Sampson, Martyn & Anne Smith, Robert Olsen, Gus & Cara Lindsay, Jack Ilich, Judy Imeson, Graham Shaw and Noel Rockell, who wish to return the Scheme to the illegal status that existed before the Resource Consent was granted. This illegal operation of the Scheme existed from 1987 to 2011 and is well document. We are adamant that this group of ratepayers should carry the costs and consequences of their actions.

The vast majority of ratepayers on the HSMS are totally opposed to this pending action. They are in full support of the WDC as it carries out the conditions of the Resource Consent and the operation of the Scheme.

It is our view that any costs incurred by WDC in defending this action should be recovered entirely from those people who are initiating the action.

If this is not the case then WDC should call a public meeting of all the HSMS ratepayers with a publicised agenda with just this item up for discussion.

Before WDC spends any ratepayers money on this action. I trust we will have received written clarification of who is going to pay for it.

Yours faithfully

Phillip Hindrup