

# Hikurangi Swamp Scheme

WDC/Ratepayer Meeting

31 August 2011

# AGENDA

- Minutes of last meeting
- Draft Terms of Reference for Liaison Committee
- Any other business
  - Stopbank Adjustments
  - Alternative Management Options

# Minutes of last meeting

- Any issues?

# Introduction

- A meeting with WDC was held on 10/08/2011 with the following pocket representatives:
  - Cara Lindsay, Ray Hindrup, Pedro McHardy, Jack Ilich, Ken Finlayson, Richard Bleakley, Even Smeath, Kelly Ludlow, Neville Thorn, Ben Smith, Martyn Smith, Simon Donelley, Tony Davies-Colley (NRC), Gus Lindsay, Luke Beehre
- The following Terms of Reference were proposed at this meeting:

# Draft Terms of Reference

*Sent to Jason Woolley for distribution 12/08/2011 following pocket reps meeting 10/08/11*

1. The Hikurangi Swamp Farmers Liaison Committee shall consist of:
  - One representative from each pocket: Junction, Te Mata, Otonga, Mountain, Tanekaha, Ngararatunua, and Okarika;
  - One representative from each catchment upstream of SH1: Whakapara and Waiotu
  - An iwi/hapu representative;

Any pocket, catchment or Iwi/hapu can elect not to have a representative on the committee.

# Draft Terms of Reference

2. The purpose of the committee is to provide a mechanism for scheme stakeholders to have input into management of the Hikurangi Swamp Drainage Scheme and provide direction to the Whangarei District Council, which is the Scheme operator and administrator. It is there to assist the interface between the Council and Farmers.

# Draft Terms of Reference

3. Each representative has one vote on the committee. A representative can elect not to vote on any issue.
4. The farmer liaison committee shall be chaired by an independent person who may also chair public meetings of ratepayers and therefore may link the liaison committee to the Council and to all ratepayers. The chair shall be approved by WDC and majority of committee members and will not have voting entitlement

# Draft Terms of Reference

5. The farmer liaison committee including the independent chair will meet on a monthly basis or as agreed by the committee. If requested by the committee a representative of Council may also attend;



# Draft Terms of Reference

6. That the committee forms recommendations by majority decision of the farmer liaison committee with regards to expenditure and long term planning on the Scheme. Council, or its delegated representative, will have final decision on expenditure, income or any other matter related to the scheme, taking into consideration the committee recommendations.

# Draft Terms of Reference

7. That all ratepayers (not just the farmer liaison committee) have visibility of expenditure on the scheme and works related to the Scheme - we suggest by way of posting, on the relevant section of Council's website, of relevant invoices, details of contracts for works or services, details of the current Scheme Management Plan plus details of any proposed changes to the Scheme Management Plan.

The Council, or its delegated representative, may elect not to disclose expenditure or works details where disclosure could place Council in breach of regulations governing release of information. The Council, or its delegated representative, shall provide explanation to the committee if details are withheld.

# Draft Terms of Reference

8. Where the Council chooses to progress contrary to the majority decision of the farmer liaison committee the Council, or its delegated representative, shall report the matter to a public meeting of ratepayers by asking the independent chair to list it as an agenda item at the next public meeting. Included with the agenda will be a short explanation of why the Council wants the farmer liaison committee to reconsider its decision.

# Draft Terms of Reference

9. Public meetings shall continue until such time that they are deemed unnecessary;
10. These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed on at least an annual basis;
11. While Council will endeavor to inform the farmers committee of its actions and expenditure, it may act in any manner it considers necessary to meet its obligations.

# Draft Terms of Reference

Discussion

# Any Other Business

- Stopbank Adjustments
  - Estimate last year at \$365K using McKenzie Contracting rates based on remedial works to all low areas
  - Potential for reduction in this by prioritising worst sites , staging and negotiating reduced rates (tolerances less crucial) under current contract or retendering.
  - Means NRC would need to approve change to management plan
  - WDC seek input from Liaison Committee regarding preferred way forward

# Management Options

- Following WDC alternative management/ rating proposal at last meeting giving pockets more control over operations, seek input from a Liaison Committee with regards to the following operational aspects:
  - Weed removal at pump station
  - Drain cleaning and spraying
  - Pump operation (potential for power saving)
  - Pump replacement