

Minutes: Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Working Group Meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Friday 26th June 2020

Minutes of meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Friday 26th June 2020

Facilitator	Andrew Carvell
Scribe	Annick Le Lagadec
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Issues
Present	Andrew Carvell, Hai Nguyen, Annick Le Lagadec, Simon Charles, Chantez Connor, Alison Puchaux, Phillip Hindrup, Phillip Halse, Wayne Sampson, Justine Rowe, Geoff Crawford, Philip Bayly, Evan Smeath, Barry Thorne, Steven Brown, Simon Donnelly, Ken Finlayson, Sean Clayton (NRC), Ali McHugh (NRC)
Apologies	Todd Imarson

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

Item	Description	Action
Apologies	As Above	
Previous Minutes	<p>Previous minutes were not accepted as true</p> <p>Changes to be made to minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philip Bayly was present in previous meeting - Track action numbers against the actions (record who is responsible and timeframe, time of completion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Summarize at bottom for meetings going forward - The steel access bridge to Mountain Pump station repair completion needs to be marked as completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hai to find how much the bridge repair costed - Simon Charles to share Hydrotech's finance report to the farmers - Provide a summary of costs and inform them of changes prior to actioning - Rushbrook Road, one billion trees were going to provide the trees only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Geoff assumed it was under the government scheme, it was not recorded in the minutes o 'Forward Whangarei to organise planting' don't know who they are? o Scheme to pay 80,000 was not mentioned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The decision was reached to spend \$76,000 ▪ There was a misunderstanding - Hai to revisit environmental plan and investigate further funding options - Budget and LTP, Justine and others have asked for a breakdown on the swamp overheads costs - Otaikarangi Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Geoff is unhappy with the raised ground currently around 1.2m raised o WDC to follow up with getting a DOC presence at meetings - Wayne mentioned there used to be a wall 7 years ago to hold out the water, but it blew out, Council members informed Wayne 	<p>1 Hai</p> <p>2 Simon C</p> <p>3 Hai</p> <p>4 WDC</p>

	<p>that they would reinstate the wall but never have. Which is why Geoff and Wayne's farms flood badly. In the original scheme there was supposed to be a bank put in there but this was never done. In the original scheme the water was meant to be held up there for a period of time and let go slowly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If something like that needed to happen, who would be doing this? ○ WDC would need to submit a resource consent ○ If the wall was there already, why do we need to submit a resource consent if it was there already? ○ Would need proof that it was there <p>- Stream ran dry this summer, first time it has happened</p> <p>Pocket reps got together at the end of May Talked about the drought and additional costs 0% targeted rate for Major Swamp Scheme was approved for this coming year Very important to have all the pocket signatures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers would like to be part of the LTP process to be informed <p>History of the flood scheme (Geoff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Key Aim and Philosophy of the Scheme was that the main swamp land becomes free from floods lasting longer than 3 days up to a return frequency of 5 years <p>Interpretation and qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCC Interim Report of September 1978 stated <i>"The design concept of flood frequency has proved difficult to express in layman's terms and as a given in various reports has caused confusion. It can, however, in terms of the original design concepts, be expressed as "the removal of floodwaters from inundated land so that re-grassing is not required, on average, more frequently than once in five years."</i> <i>"Scheme design was based on damage producing floods rather than less harmful but more frequent winter floods."</i> <p><i>"The scheme has been designed so that expected benefits are equal in all 7 pockets in the swamp and in the areas above SH 1" And "during major floods banks will be overtopped and consequences should be born equally by all (scheme) ratepayers"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Scheme design was based on damage producing summer? floods rather than less harmful but more frequent winter floods - The essential philosophy for the scheme is fairness to <u>all landowners</u>. Which is reflected in the consent <p>The Scheme started in 1969 for \$1.64 million and took 7 years to build With a subsidy of 3:1 required \$470,000 of farmer input an anticipated rate of \$ 8.40 /ha The final cost was 4.5 million in 1979 of which the catchment ratepayers paid just over one quarter of \$ 1.17 million. The remainder was a government subsidy</p> <p>A special meeting was held in December 1975 at the Hikurangi Hall with the 30 rate payers objecting to the cost escalation of the scheme from 1968. \$1.64 million was revised in June 1974 to \$3.46 million and revised again at completion 1977 to \$4.26 million and reported at \$4.51 million 1979.</p>	
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	<p>To pay the extra, a 20-year loan was taken out of \$510,000 at \$ 6.25 % repaid 1995</p> <p>The economics of the scheme as originally proposed a return of 21.5 % per annum</p> <p>Local government was reorganised in the late 1980's and then labour went and both Whangarei Country Council and Northland Catchment Commission went out of business.</p> <p>Administration of the Hikurangi Swamp scheme was taken over for one year by NRC then quickly passed it on the WDC. It was handed over to WDC on April fool's day 1990.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geoff would like to find out if WDC owns the scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Farmers paid 1/3rd for it, Council paid 2/3rds o But farmers are the government - It was \$4.5 million now 41 million <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Who claimed for depreciation? o Who agreed the interest and at what rate? - It's understood from Farmers at the meeting that it was talked about Mark Simpson and Phil Hase. Was discussed that farmer would have to pay interest but was not voted on or passed - No ownership of the scheme was passed to WDC <p>The rate Income for general rates should cover the admin from the WDC as the land has increased in value now that it's not so flood prone.</p> <p>The land tax is at 5,600 ha at \$ 200 ha \$ 1,2 million Levy rates are \$ 1.2 million from farmers and surrounding areas As Farmers we are council and government paying taxes</p> <p>Geoff would like the group to figure out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who are the owners? - What we can afford? - and to plan a property strategy going forward <p>Andrew's Response</p> <p>When the catchment commission act came into place There was a document that was set out the delegated the functions to various parties</p> <p>The Hikurangi scheme was included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDC to find the document <p>The ability for government to recover the rates was denied by the Gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDC to find the documents - WDC owns the land <p>Up until 1989 to 2009 there was no adjustment to the rates In 2006 a lot of the pumps started failing</p> <p>Phil B: Does the council pay income tax? Does WDC calculates the depreciation...?</p> <p>Evan S: Junction, Te Mata and something (Okarika?) would work excellently with box culverts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to get evidence to say that doing this will not worsen it <p>Barry T: Box culverts are not going to have a huge effect on the river</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDC to find out what evidence is needed for the box culvert <p>Philip Bayly feels that should be run as a business and look at the ownership and responsibility</p>	<p>5 WDC</p> <p>6 WDC</p> <p>7 WDC</p> <p>8 WDC</p>
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	<p>Geoff requested that documents be shown of the ownership of the scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WDC to find documents regarding ownership of the scheme <p>The modelling and quotation for projects that received the famers consent should be what is installed. It has been paid for, that is what should be installed.</p> <p>We need to explore how the process may have changed and how to better manage it The Four reps need to be organized (WDC, NRC, Hapu and Farmers)</p> <p>WDC to Research the rates and costs</p> <p>Philip H: The scheme was initiated by government and a lot of the documents were not released as they were confidential Until the government announces the confidential details, it is hard to get involved Geoff: Should we wait until we see the direction?</p> <p>Motion to nominate the representatives of each group of the scheme By the end of July, each group will have a representative.</p>	<p>9 WDC, NRC, Chantez, Geoff</p> <p>10 WDC</p>
<p>Grazing Licences and use of WDC land</p>	<p>Grazing license</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LIO3696: land site: 0.6 ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Current Licensee: Jennifer Marian Vuglar o Wants to transfer to Sue Ellen Vuglar o Needs to send the contract to WDC by 30 June 2020 o Visited on 12 June - Would WDC be able to conduct another survey to ensure that the land size is accurate? - Evan Smeath mentioned that the area is bigger than what was shown on the presentation 	<p>11 WDC</p>
<p>Operations Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pumps did not turn on 31st May 1st June during first flooding event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A ratepayer asked Geoff why the mountain pump was not turned on Wednesday until midnight o Simon C answered that they were all turned on by half past 8 that evening o Hydrotech had gone around and decided which had been delayed o Simon to raise with Hydrotech o They are switched off for the majority of the year, then they are turned on manually o Hai to follow up if mountain pump station was turned on or not <p><i>“In recent years it has become common practice for WDC to delay the start of the pumps during the first big rain event of late summer/autumn to give the Eels as much of an opportunity to migrate through the floodgates as possible. This practice to delay the pump start had not been very well communicated with the Swamp Working Group members. This in part due to the fact that the first scheduled meeting of 2020 did not happen due to Covid-19”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justine feels that the last point referring to Covid-19 was a cop out. Because communication is crucial, and everyone has phones and emails. 	<p>12 Simon</p> <p>13 Hai</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maybe an alert system needs to be put in place so that everyone is notified - What happened to the investment that the farmers put in the pump for the communication? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was finalized and completed to proof of concept ○ There will be considerable software charges and it has been terminated due to the charges- if anyone would like it to roll it out further there is other software's that can be used - Are everyone's probes at the right height? Phil Hindrup' s probes are working and seem to automatically kick in. It was adjusted before covid and they are turning on for the right time and are turning off for the right time - The probes might need adjusting - Is there a point where you can have the water higher than the streams without causing an impact? - Chantez feels that if proper fish passages are installed, there will be less troubles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chantez mentioned that they didn't have flooding in March, April or May. ○ If they do get flooding in those months that's when the fish run. ○ We need to give the eels a little time before we run the pumps ○ From manawhenua, they did not receive the email to make sure the pumps were turned off Manawhenua conducted an Eel survey during lockdown and concluded that the Eels had already migrated – there was no reason therefore to delay the pump start. WDC replied that this had not been communicated to them or anyone else. ○ Chantez will report back once the surveys are complete ○ Chantez feels that manawhenua has not had much of a voice in this - Wayne feels that there should be government funding for this <p>Going forward regarding Pumps not turning on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New operating procedure to be drafted for review and circulated for comments - Once approved, all pumps station shall be operating as per new procedure - Optional item: flood gate and pump to be operating based on level or pressure sensor and it shall be automatic on/off. <p>Operations update_____</p> <p>Is there a motion that Hydrotech checks all the sensors? Are Hydrotech able to check that the sensors are at the right height?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Henwood's to check the pumps probes ○ Hydrotech to confirm that they are turning on and off at the right times ○ Simon/Hai to confirm and inform Justine ○ Leave them on during the wet season and then turn them off afterwards? <p>Large cracks on Tanekaha stop banks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action required: limestone to prevent damage to cows' hooves - Barry mentioned in his pocket that they are getting hydraulic pressure from it going underneath, it's getting worse - Philip wants to know what WDC are thinking of doing about it 	<p>14 Hai</p> <p>15 Hydrotech</p> <p>Simon/Hai</p> <p>16 Hai</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hydrotech proposed limestone to it - Hai sent an email to James Blackburn for his review and will arrange a site visit. WDC to engage Hawthorn Geddes to investigate - Hai to inform cost to farmers - Philip would like to know who is in charge and do they know anything - Hai will visit with James - Could James also look at Ken Finlayson's and Barry's property - Philip is worried that when it rains if it is a waste of time to fill it- and that it might fill itself - The cows will not fall in the holes - The paddocks near Ngararatunua pump station are too high and need adjusting <p>Otanga flood gate was completed before lockdown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simon to provide information regarding costs by two weeks' time - If this in the Hydrotech report it can be easily if it's not there it may prove to be more difficult <p>Weed screen at Te Mata repaired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How much did this cost? - WDC to provide <p>Drain cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule to go out next month - Cost estimate is on the back sheet? <p>Te Mata flood gate quotation received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hai to provide <p>Time frames for quote requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two weeks to provide the quote updates <p>Post flooding issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greg came out on the 4th of June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The graph is not the exact the number of eels that get killed; it is just those that are found o It needs to be pushed that Hydrotech counts how many eels are killed o We need to start collating data - WDC to submit the eels mortality report to NRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Who will own the data? - If we are going to count being killed each flood event- how do we know if the eels are not ill already? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Is the flood causing the deaths or are there other factors? o Chantez's group can identify which eels are killed by deoxygenation o There needs to be more work done into how this is done 	<p>17 James/Hai</p> <p>18 Simon</p> <p>19 WDC</p> <p>20 Hai</p> <p>21 Hai</p> <p>22 WDC</p>
<p>Environmental Update Programme</p>	<p>Environmental Improvement Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed site Rushbrook Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Quotation for fence, trees, labour cost received. o Project to be put on hold. Operation budget was cut by 6% o How long is the fence? o WDC to provide 	<p>23 WDC</p>

<p><i>Eels joint venture opportunity with the Iwi</i></p>	<p>Chantez Currently a commercial fisherman comes in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making roughly 60-80k tonnes a year ○ We talked about co-managing the level for commercial eel fishing ○ Geoff rang in and it was a great idea ○ Maori perspective aims to have a better co-management for their eels <p>- Most of the quota for commercial fishing is owned by Maori, but most of it is shelved for eels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All the other commercial fish have quota ○ We need to investigate and research how to go about doing this ○ It will help fund the environmental impact, might get us fish passages for better pumps ○ And might even go as compensation for the farmers rates ○ Maori would benefit for being employed to run to get the better outcomes ○ South Island has already been through the quota and it has gone down <p>- There is an opportunity for us to get involved</p> <p>- How much tonnage is used for personal use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Don't have the data for that <p>- What is being used?</p> <p>- If they do commercial fish from the river- will they put eels back?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently as kaitiaki, they transfer eels upstream <p>- It can only be good for our area</p> <p>- The fish passages there is already legislation that DOC needs to provide better passages and they have not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We want an agreement to go forward ○ Phill Bayly agrees <p>Next meeting, we aim to have a structure laid out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chantez can bring in an expertee in next meeting (around September) in to help support - We would have to have a governing body for where the funds would sit - Chantez and Geoff to organise <p>Those in favour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chantez Conner, Wayne Sampson, Justine Rowe, Geoff Crawford, Philip Bayly, Evan Smeath, Barry Thorne, Steven Brown, Simon Donnelly <p>Plans for this to sit above the scheme</p>	<p>24 Chantez, Geoff</p>
<p><i>Budgets</i></p>	<p>Was not discussed this meeting</p>	
<p><i>Long Term Strategy</i></p>	<p>Funding Application was an unsuccessful submission as not enough job created.</p> <p>Debt situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philip would like a detailed cost breakdown for each pump and when WDC changes its fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our power charges should be way down since they are hardly run ○ We should be able to see that ○ To come out in the next month via email - Simon to provide - How do the famers get detail on the overhead figure? 	<p>25 Simon</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worked out cheaper to have a fixed rate than a time sheet ○ We still have to maintain all the property rates ○ There is ongoing maintenance and we must maintain the system. It doesn't cost us more to send out a separate invoice ○ How much time is allocated to the Hikurangi swamp? ○ We don't do timesheets - Hikurangi swamps is not collected separately from other rates <p>- There is major replacement or work that will need to be done on the pumps soon</p> <p>Aiming to have a separate meeting where we can decide what needs to be done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request to have the minutes and agenda two days before - Provide a breakdown of the costs - Need to know that the quotes that are being approved are the ones that are being used 	
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Meeting closed at 12.08 pm

Meeting Actions

Point Number	Action	Responsible person	Timeframe Due	Notes
1	Steel access bridge to Mountain pump station repair was completed. Hai to find how much the bridge cost and provide cost to farmers	Hai	*	completed
2	Simon C to share Hydrotech's finance report to the farmers	Simon C	*	
3	Hai to revisit environmental plan and investigate further funding options	Hai	*	
4	WDC to follow up with getting a DOC presence	Simon C/Hai	TBA	With the recruitment freezes it will be difficult to confirm when DOC can attend our meeting
5	WDC to find Council Document that delegated the functions to various parties	Simon C/Hai	TBA	It will take time to find such documents
6	WDC to find documents regarding the rates that were denied by the Government	Simon C/Hai	TBA	It will take time to find such documents
7	WDC to find out what evidence is needed for the box culvert	Simon C/Hai	TBA	2D Hydraulic simulation might be required. It will take time
8	WDC to find documents regarding ownership of scheme	Simon C/Hai	TBA	It will take time to find such documents

Point Number	Action	Responsible person	Timeframe Due	Notes
9	Four reps for the scheme to be organized	WDC, NRC, Chantez and Geoff	TBA	September or next flood scheme meeting
10	Research the rates and costs	Simon C/Hai	*	Similar to point 25 Please note that it would take longer than 2 weeks as WDC does not have breakdown line for rates and cost, but we will do an estimate
11	Look into doing another survey to ensure that the land size is accurate	Simon C/Hai	*	WDC proposes to do the survey before the grazing licence end which shall be in 2024.
12	Simon to raise query of pumps not turning on with Hydrotech	Simon	*	
13	Hai to follow up if mountain pump station was turned on or not	Hai	*	Confirmed all pump stations turned on auto mode on 24 th June 2020
14	New operation procedure to be circulated	Simon C/Hai	*TBA	It will take more than 2 weeks to complete the new operating procedure
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Henwood/Hydrotech to check the pumps probes - Hydrotech to confirm that they are turning on and off at the right times - Simon/Hai to confirm and inform Justine 	Simon C/Hai	*	
16	Hai to inform cost to farmers regarding filling the large cracks in the stop banks	Hai	*TBA	I had contacted James Blackburn already, but he has not yet response
17	James Blackburn to look at Ken Finlayson's and Barry Thorne's property	Hai	*TBA	
18	Simon to provide information regarding costs of completing Otanga flood gate	Simon	*	
19	WDC to provide costs of Weed screen repairment at Te Mata	Simon C/Hai	*	
20	Hai to provide Te Mata flood gate quotation	Hai	*	
21	Otanga flood gate costs	Hai	*	
22	WDC to send Eels mortality report to NRC	Simon C/Hai	*	

<i>Point Number</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible person</i>	<i>Timeframe Due</i>	<i>Notes</i>
23	WDC to provide length of fence for proposed site on Rushbrook Road	Simon C/Hai	*	
24	Chantez and Geoff to organise/ look into commercial eel fishing	Chantez/ Geoff	Not required	
25	Simon to provide a detailed cost breakdown for each pump and when WDC changes its fees	Simon C	*	Similar to point 10

*: to be completed 2 weeks after the meeting minute finalised.