

## Minutes: Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Working Group Meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

<b>Facilitator</b>	Simon Charles
<b>Scribe</b>	Trisha Ryan
<b>Purpose</b>	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Issues
<b>Present</b>	Simon Charles, Trisha Ryan, Andrew Carvell, Justine Rowe, Philip Bayly, Geoff Crawford, Evan Smeath, Steven Brown, Simon Donnelly, Ray Hindrup, Sean Clayton (NRC), Rowan Scott (NRC) Kelly Drake (NRC), Anahita Djamali (NRC), Anh Nguyen (DOC), Chantez Connor (representing Waima Waitai Waiora partnership) , George Kingi
<b>Apologies</b>	Ken Finlayson, Geoff Crawford, Todd Imeson, Luke Beehre, Wayne Sampson, Alison Puchaux

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

Item	Description	Action	Decision
<b>Apologies</b>	As Above		
<b>Actions</b>	Actions Discussed in table below		
<b>Operations Update</b>	<p>BOQ for stop-bank repair at 519 Apotu Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RFQ sent to contractors and the following contractors advised that they would not be quoting due to no resources available until October 2021,</li> </ul> <p>Eathworx, Clements Contractors, Robinson Asphalts, McKenzie Contracting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waiting for quotes from Hydrotech</li> <li>- Geoff provided clay source from Okarika quarry</li> <li>- De-watering of material behind stop-bank to reduce transportation costs.</li> <li>- Stop-bank @ Pedro McHardy's also need repairing well</li> </ul> <p>Evan Smeath questioned as to who would be responsible if work not done and flooding occurs.</p> <p>Structure review of Ngararatunua pump station completed            Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- main precast slab units and cast insitu support beams are considered in good condition, no sign of deterioration</li> <li>- The cracking is not considered to be affection the structural integrity</li> <li>- Signage of maximum 10,000kg axle loading</li> <li>- Work in progress</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>1-D Hydraulic modelling – Jess Wallace spoke regarding this and where process is at via zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contractor; E Water</li> <li>- Phase 1 budget; \$75,500 (excl. GST)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quotes from Hydrotech for work to be carried out Dependent on price</b></p> <p><b>Base model expected in a months-time</b></p>	<p><b>Decision to be made and should be classed as urgent Cory to report back regarding Hydrotech's resources to carry out the work</b></p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> June meeting with Working Group</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documents provided; as-builts drawings, hydrological data, water level, photos, video of 17 July 2020 flooding, LiDar</li> <li>- Claim 1; \$13k (excl. GST)</li> <li>- Progress report; chasing E-Water to send to us.</li> </ul> <p>Time frame for testing once model approved - 2 to 4 weeks after model approved</p> <p>Pump operating procedure and storm readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refer to document sent out by Simon Charles on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021</li> </ul> <p>Points questioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who notifies us about heavy rain warnings and who receives it?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification received from Civil Defence and sent to Simon Charles WDC who then notifies the contractors</li> </ul> </li> <li>- What if event happens out of business hours?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On call 24/7</li> </ul> </li> <li>- What is classed as large?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 10% or steady rainfall over a period of 3 days or more</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Winter (July to end of October) pumps are in automatic mode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- e. Checking if there are any eels/fish in the pocket area           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chantez advised that they have a good indication when Tuna are moving, and they are out on the water frequently</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Time-frame of pumps not to be switched on for an 8-hour period to enable eels to be moved raised concerns           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would at Chantez discretion and assessed by each storm event. (may require less time for some events)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Suggestion made that a Push-Cam be placed into one of the pump wells to gauge how many eels are sitting there.</li> <li>- Backup if Greg from Hydrotech is not available</li> </ul> <p>Decisions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unanimous decision to approve Pump operating protocol as an interim process</li> </ul> <p>Drain Clearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All drain clearing is done in accordance with schedule of works and map of the scheme</li> <li>- Discussion needed around extending O'Reilly drain further to the west. A document has emerged between Council and property owner of Lot 4DP18795 and dated February 200 agreeing that the drain be extended</li> <li>- Draft Drain cleaning for 2021-2022 programme is available and we will be seeking feedback in 3 weeks</li> </ul> <p><b>New procedure;</b> Each pocket representative to sign a confirmation sheet to say that they have had the opportunity to request which drains they would like clearing. This needs to be returned by 10 June 2021 so</p>	<p><b>Evan to forward data onto Hai/Simon to be forwarded onto Jess Wallace</b></p> <p><b>Chantez to approach Jason Docherty (NRC) about Storm Early Warning technology being worked on</b></p> <p><b>Greg to forward name and contact details of backup person</b></p> <p><b>To review after first flood event</b></p>	<p><b>Decision that Winter period to be in manual off and to be monitored</b></p> <p><b>Group agreed to drain extending further to the west</b></p>
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	<p>that works can be programmed early in the next financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hai handed out spread sheets to everyone at the meeting           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hai to re send sheet out to individual pocket groups (not all pockets on same spreadsheet)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- WDC – Hydrotech to work out issues – review standard operating procedures</li> <li>- Chantez requested that they be part of the drain clearing programme to enable them to monitor the eels</li> </ul> <p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unanimous decision to include extension of Reilly Drain in scheme operations</li> </ul> <p>Additional Meetings held since last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simon advised of what meetings had occurred since last meeting in February 2021</li> <li>- 15 April workshop – invitation to be sent out from Waikato District Council inviting the group to view their pump-system and view how their pump stations and floodgates are operating</li> <li>- Was noted that Waikato District Council was not given enough time to present to the workshop</li> <li>- 21 April – Funding – group looking at forming a new entity i.e.; Setting up a Trust this would enable more benefits/flexibility – outside funding. Board of trustees – employ a manager to manage issues</li> </ul> <p>Chantez stressed that their funding has not been funded from the scheme</p>	<p><b>Request to have a column added for comments</b></p> <p><b>Swamp scheme map to be updated to show this change – WDC action</b></p>	
<p><i>Living Water</i></p>	<p>Due to tight timeframe Chantez gave a quick overview of what has been happening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 sites water is monitored monthly</li> <li>- Show a graph of all tests carried out</li> </ul> <p>Explained that E. coli average should be 300 or under but showing higher over some months</p>		
<p><i>Long Term Strategy</i></p>	<p>Justine presented the Farmers LTP submission to Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April seeking;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revise Flood Protection in proposed LTP for year 1 &amp; year 2 2021/2022 to remove capital reserve forecast of \$632,000 &amp; \$656,000 from the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme</li> <li>- Revise Flood Protection Targeted Rates Funding to be decreased from \$1161,00 to \$537,000</li> </ul>		

	<p>(Year 1 - 2021/2022) &amp; \$1190,000 to \$555,000 (Year 2 – 2022/2023) from the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suspend replacement of pump station or assets for 24 months (Year 1 &amp; 2 or proposed LTP 2021/2031) and establishing a steering committee working group to develop a strategic plan for sustainable improvements to the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme.</li> <li>- Two other submissions were also provided to WDC on the LTP seeking rates reduction</li> </ul> <p>Initial Response        LTP will be amended to approve the formation of a working group &amp; to suspend capital works for pump renewal for 24 months <u>however</u> no</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- amendment to targeted rates is supported at this point in the process.</li> <li>- Seeking clarification if 8% increase is still planned given debt repaid &amp; will continue to lobby for Council to amend the targeted rates.</li> <li>- Final decision on LTP due with Council on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021</li> <li>- Geoff &amp; Chantez to outline conceptual new ownership model &amp; the 70% ownership petition support to lobby local government\</li> <li>- Proposal for change of ownership discussed with WDC. New ownership proposed to be a Trust with appointed trustee's with stakeholders involved from Farmers, Hapu, WDC, NRS, DOC, Living Waters, Fonterra.</li> <li>- 2166 rate payers in the catchment, require 70% (1516 rate payers) support by way of a petition to present this to local government.</li> <li>- New entity would change the operational management – propose a role is created and candidate hired to be dedicated to this responsibility</li> <li>- Hydrotech contract expires in 2022</li> </ul> <p>Funding could still be collected via WDC as targeted rates, however, funding requirements set by the Trust. Also, option to apply externally to fund schemes such as DOC National Fund, KMR, etc.</p>	<p><b>Phil Halse – WDC Councillor spoke regarding forming a Trust and the benefits that it would have.</b></p> <p><b>Justine speaking to Councillors be before meeting next week</b></p>	
<p><b>Financial</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The scheme debt has been repaid            Now debt is cleared rates should be reduced back and set at a fixed cost from WDC. Do not want to keep paying for more and more rates, these need to be fixed so no more rises occur.</li> <li>- Current cost of rates charged is not sustainable to continue</li> </ul>		

	<p>Some farmers who have been part of the scheme for a long tenure have paid the debt back through rates twice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Questioned why they couldn't borrow funds over a 30year plan to upgrade pumps etc, for rewards to be passed on to future generations so as the current farmers are not the only ones paying for upgrades.</li> <li>- Everyone is losing confidence on where they stand and if they are still going to own their land after all of this.</li> <li>- Feel tied to the Council with no control on what decisions are made.</li> <li>- Need to know the total costs of the scheme. Financials showing actual costs Not to lose sight of any LTPs going forward</li> <li>- Grazing rights removed from rates. Simon drafted a letter to finance, and this resulted in the prices been reversed = approx. \$270k</li> <li>- Submission to include a request to hold rates or decrease</li> <li>- To consider any further capital expenditure to be borrowed for 30 years (longer repayment terms) for pockets this impacts.</li> <li>- Simon has questioned the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Overheads charges and waiting for an answer back from Finance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Simon showed a breakdown of costs involved for the past 3 years with actuals for 2021</b></p>	
<p><b>Changes to Meeting</b></p>	<p>Meetings have been changed to quarterly, February, May, August, November Starting at 10.30am to 12.30pm</p>		

Meeting closed at 11.35 am

### Meeting Actions

<b>Point Number</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>	<b>Timeframe Due</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Research the Rates and Costs	SimonC/Hai	30 August 2021	Work in progress
2	New operation procedure to be circulated	Hai	30 July 2021	Submitted for the group to review and comment
3	James Blackburn to look at ken Finlayson's and Barry Thorne's property	Hai	31 August 2021	James Blackburn to look at ken Finlayson's and Barry Thorne's property
4	Chantez to investigate organisations for possible funding of project which is on hold	Chantez	30 August 2021	Ongoing

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5	Chantez to investigate organisations for possible funding of project which is on hold	Chantez/Geoff	30 August 2021	Ongoing
6	Look into rates since bermlands have been taken out	Simon	Feb 2021	?
7	BOQ for stop-bank repair at 519 Apotu Road	Quotes from Hydrotech for work to be carried out		
8	1-D Hydraulic modelling	Jess Wallace	Base model expected in a months time	18 <sup>th</sup> June meeting with Working Group
9	Pump operating procedure and storm readiness - Refer to document sent out by Simon Charles on Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> may 2021	Working Group	To review after first flood event	
10	Hydrotech to nominate backup if Greg from Hydrotech is not available	Greg Palmer		