

## NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mangere Catchment Group,  
*Sub-Committee of the Environmental Management Committee*  
held at Kokopu School, Kokopu Road,  
Whangarei District on Tuesday 6 August 2013,  
commencing at 7.00 pm

- Present:**
- Tony Davies-Colley (EMC - NRC) (Interim Chairman)
  - Joe Carr (EMC - NRC)
  - Alan Clarkson (EMC – Farming Industry Rep)
  - David Coleman (WDC)
  - Royce Kokich (Dairy Industry Rep)
  - Denis Anderson (Dairy Industry Rep)
  - Shayne O’Shea (Dairy Industry Rep)
  - Gerry Brackenbury (Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust)
  - Roger Holder (Catchment Resident)
  - Rob Pye (Non-dairy Farming Rep)
  - Tania Pene (Te Rūnanga A Iwi O Ngāpuhi)
  - Hona Edwards (Te Uriroroi)
- In Attendance:**
- Natalie Glover (NRC)
  - Dean Evans (NRC)
  - Abraham Witana (NRC)
  - Tony Phipps (NRC)
  - Helen Moodie (Dairy NZ)
  - Alex Wright (Fonterra Shareholders’ Council)

The Interim Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.10pm.  
Mihimihi and karakia from Hona Edwards

### Apologies (Item 1.0)

Apologies were received from Allan Halliday (Ngātihau Resource Management Unit) and George Tuhiwai (Te Parawhau).

### Welcome and introductions (Item 2.0)

Group representatives, staff and others in attendance introduced themselves. Cr Tony Davies-Colley suggested he could act as Interim Chairman until the group decided to elect their own. Tony said actions solving problems and innovative initiatives as a focus would be

good, so we may avoid creating rules. He also acknowledged the investment by DairyNZ into research and resources in the Mangere catchment.

### **Overview of Waioira Northland Water (Item 3.0)**

Tony Phipps and Natalie Glover gave a presentation providing an overview of Waioira Northland Water programme and how catchment groups contribute to making consensus recommendations for water management in their catchment.

Discussion included:

- Acknowledging the importance for keeping the Department of Conservation (DoC) abreast of group discourse, given their landholding in the Mangere catchment. Catchment group members already had links to DoC to facilitate this.
- A catchment description was currently being drafted by Northland Regional Council (NRC).

### **Overview of Mangere Catchment (Item 4.0)**

Dean Evans, Mangere Catchment Lead for NRC gave a presentation summarising current monitoring and information about the Mangere Catchment.

Discussion included:

- Helen Moodie mentioned the research effort currently being undertaken by DairyNZ scientists, including fish survey and riparian assessments. They are also collaborating with NRC to produce a “Sustainable Milk Plan” with every dairy farmer in the catchment.

### **Terms of Reference (Item 5.0)**

Discussion included:

- Information for catchment group members would continue to be sent out at least a week in advance of meetings.
- Reports should be taken as read to facilitate an efficient meeting.

### **General Business (Item 6.0)**

Discussion/action items included:

- Catchment information will be distributed to catchment group members
- The group would begin to develop uses and values at their next meeting
- A National Objectives Framework was being developed by Central Government and in all likelihood, it would need to be achieved as a minimum.
- What are the effects of Nitrogen, and Phosphorus in particular on stream ecology? Information needs to be particular to Mangere catchment, utilising flow data, so that any data that shows effects of N and P on water quality could then be extrapolated to the catchment
- DairyNZ work will assist in identifying water management issues.

- Applicability of national guidelines may be an issue, in terms of comparing the catchment water quality with unachievable guidelines.
- How has Mangere Catchment improved in last 5 years?
- To what extent is water quality affected by the time of year?
- What percentage of farms are fenced?
- How resistant to stock exclusion are farmers? What are the barriers?
- Helen Moodie said that the Sustainable Milk Plans would be completed in the catchment by December 2013.
- Is there an issue with “basket willows” (crack willows?) in the catchment in terms of causing flooding? Work was done 40 years ago in the lower catchment on clearing willows
- How much water are we using? How much do we need? Stock watering: 70 litres/day/cow is rule of thumb (DairyNZ).
- How is E.coli bacteria affecting humans and cattle?
- What are the stock numbers over the last 5 years? Is there an increasing trend?
- What Whangarei District Council infrastructure influences are there on the catchment? Mainly roads but David Coleman to confirm.
- What quarries do we have? Kara Quarry, Woods Road, and at the top of Knights Road are some known ones.
- What are the iwi and hapu values for the catchment? Same as everyone else – healthy water, plus cultural values such as needing to source food from the waterway and spiritual values.
- What is the contribution of the catchment to downstream water quality issues?
- How do we consider the values of the downstream catchment?
- Discussion around role of natural physical barrier of waterfall potentially reducing fish diversity.
- Are flows correlated with water quality sampling? Yes.
- Discussion about gathering water use data via water metering in the catchment.
- How many farmers are consented to take water?
- What are the uses and values of water in the catchment?
- Are there water storage opportunities?
- Do we have a good understanding of soil types in the catchment?
- Discussion around considering landowners (such as lifestyle block owners) that might benefit from a Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan (FWQIP).
- Is there an issue with tenure, ownership and absentee owners relative to poorly managed grazing?

Next meeting will be in six weeks: Wednesday 18 September 2013, 7pm – 9pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Waimarie Nursery was offered as an alternative venue by Hona Edwards.

Field trip to provide an overview of the whole catchment to follow on a date after next meeting. Natalie Glover to check nursery for evening venue suitability.

## CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 9pm with a Karakia from Hona Edwards