

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Waitangi Catchment Group workshop
Sub-Committee of the Environmental Management Committee
held in the Okaihau Golf Clubrooms,
Thursday, 7 August 2014,
commencing at 6.30pm

Present:	Marty Robinson	Bay of Islands/Whangaroa Community Board (FNDC)
	Donald Jack	Drystock Farming Interests
	Terence Brocx	Dairy Farming Interests
	Darryl Way	Waimate North Landcare
	Bill Hunter	Kerikeri Irrigation
	Albie Apiata	Waitangi River Liaison Group
	Neil Cates	Transfield (Industry Interests)
	Liz Kingsford	Forestry Interests
	Alec Jack	Public Interests
	Sue Johnsen	Dairy Farming Interests
	Ross Baker	Top Energy (Industry Interests)
	Cr Joe Carr	Northland Regional Council (Interim Chair)
	Arnold Maunsell	Ngati Hineira
	Roger Ludbrook	Dry Stock Farming Interests
In Attendance:	Duncan Kervell	Northland Regional Council
	Natalie Glover	Northland Regional Council
	Justin Murfitt	Northland Regional Council
	Anita Semenoff	Northland Regional Council
	Abraham Witana	Northland Regional Council
	Rio Greening	Catchment resident
	Doug Small	Member of the public
	Helen Moodie	DairyNZ
Apologies:	Kevin Baxter	Dairy Farming Interests
	Gil Parker	Ngati Korohue
	Cr Dover Samuels	Northland Regional Council
Absent:	Darryl Honey	Tourism Interests
	Nathan Burkepile	Fish and Game (Recreational Interests)
	Carolyn Smith	Department of Conservation
	Emma-Gibbs Smith	Ngati Rahiri
	Cr David Collard	FNDC

KARAKIA MIHIMIHI *Rio Greening*

The meeting opened at 6.45pm.

Item 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Kevin Baxter, Cr Samuels and Gil Parker.

Cr Joe Car, Interim Chair welcomed everyone. Catchment Group members, regional council and DairyNZ staff introduced themselves.

Item 2 Confirmation of minutes

The group agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

Item 3 Catchment update

3.1 Update on monitoring in Waitangi catchment

Duncan Kervell, Waitangi catchment group staff lead, updated the group with details of an expanded state of the environment monitoring that had begun for the Waitangi catchment. The programme – which includes sediment analysis for source location and associated landuse - has increased the number of sites monitored monthly over the next year from two to nine. Results of the monitoring - anticipated by December 2015 – will allow regional council staff to delineate any problems they find. Details of the monitoring programme were distributed to the group in a summary document.

3.2 Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans

Anita Semenoff and Duncan Kervell explained the function of Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans and advised that over 22 had been completed in the Waitangi catchment to date. Farmer attitudes to the plans had been positive due to the plans being simple and tailored to each farm.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Waitangi River Liaison Group held a site visit 6 August 2014 to look at flood damage in the Waitangi catchment, including Waiaruhe River at Puketona junction.
2. The idea of putting a plan together to manage erosion.
3. Discussion about events generating gravel accumulation and whether peak river flows were monitored.
4. Options for reducing sediment load and slowing velocities down
5. Commercial uses for the extracted material are few due to it being derived from a low energy river system.
6. Need to understand issues before looking for solutions because aspirations come at a cost. At this stage, Waitangi River Liaison Committee's flooding reduction role to continue to remain separate to Waitangi catchment group's, as per the catchment group's Terms of Reference.
7. Catchment group needs to agree values and objectives based on the current state. We may have to wait for results to establish that.
8. Sediment management case studies from similar catchments would be useful if presented to the group.
9. River aggradation – is it natural or land use related?
10. Catchment group members are expecting the first year of their involvement to primarily include learning about the catchment.
11. Peter Taylor gave a good presentation about Horizons One Plan at a recent conference.
12. An understanding of stormwater detention systems would be useful.

13. Willow clearance effectively reduced the impact of flooding around Puketona Junction.

ACTIONS:

1. **Upload Waitangi monitoring summary to website.**
2. **Send link to hydrology monitoring information to catchment group members.**
3. **Send minutes of Waitangi River Liaison Group to Waitangi catchment group members.**
4. **Research sediment management case studies with a view to presenting these to the group.**
5. **Research stormwater detention systems for future presentation to the group.**
6. **That discussion point 6 is relayed to the Waitangi River Liaison Committee, which will need to extend their scope of activity above State Highway 10 at Puketona.**

Item 4 Presentation: Freshwater Policy Framework

Justin Murfitt, Resource Management Policy Programme Manager, presented the big picture in relation to national and regional freshwater management legislation.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Sediment – Northland can and should have sediment objectives, due to its effect on uses and values of fresh and coastal water.
2. Catchment groups will provide input into the preparation of regional plans, currently undergoing an internal review process. Stakeholder workshops on the various workstreams of the regional plans review are scheduled for September/October 2014 to provide for this, including workshops on water quality and quantity with catchment groups.
3. Timeline for catchment group to provide feedback may be too short – consider extending it.
4. Unhappy about doing action plans now – expecting to learn about the catchment for the next year to improve knowledge first.
5. Sediment benchmarking – how do we know sediment situation is bad? Depends upon the values we are managing for. What can we do to mitigate? If nothing, is it still considered an issue?
6. The Waitangi River Liaison group is already addressing sediment. The Waitangi catchment group is primarily here to address policy. Hydraulic actions should happen but are independent of this catchment group. The group needs to stick to its Terms of Reference and agenda.
7. Everyone will need to move their positions in terms of values to create consensus.
8. Need to consider the catchment as a whole and wait for staff to produce the requested information before jumping to solutions.
9. Staff were sent a request for monitoring data against the National Objectives Framework this morning.

ACTIONS:

7. **Send link to NPS Freshwater Management to catchment group members. Provide hard copy at the next meeting/workshop.**
8. **Distribute copy of plans review vs catchment group workplan timeline to catchment group.**

9. Provide current Waitangi monitoring status against National Objectives Framework.
10. Irrigation allocation of 22,000m³/day needs to come out of the calculation because it is not relevant.
11. Prepare a virtual catchment tour to present to the group at a future meeting.
12. Make arrangements for Arnold Maunsell to join State of Environment monitoring staff during a site visits in Waitangi catchment.
13. Distribute copy of Justin's presentation to the group.

Item 5 Uses and Values Workshop

The workshop was postponed to the next meeting, due to running short on time.

ACTIONS:

13. Add uses and values workshop to the next agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Change of venue after daylight savings: Ohaeawai Rugby Club was proposed and agreed to by the group as an alternative venue when the Okaihau Golf Club venue was unavailable on Thursday evenings following daylight savings.
2. Add Lake Omapere Trust representative to the Waitangi Catchment Group?
3. Election of chair

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. For what reason should a representative of Lake Omapere Trust be involved in the group?
2. Many absent members, and late hour – better to add election of chair to the next agenda.

ACTIONS:

14. Record Terence Brocx apologies for the next meeting.
15. Lake Omapere Trust member to be invited to attend the next meeting to present their case to be included in the group.
16. Add election of chair to the next agenda.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

The next catchment group meeting is scheduled for 6.30pm, Thursday 4 September 2014, at Okaihau Golf Club. A meal will be served at 6pm.