

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mangere Catchment Group meeting
Sub-Committee of the Environmental Management Committee
held at Kokopu School, Kokopu Road, Whangarei
on Wednesday 28 January 2015
Commencing at 7:00pm

Present:	Chris Frost Denis Anderson Gerry Brackenbury Hona Edwards Rob Pye Royce Kokich (co-chair) Tania Pene (co-chair)	Horticulture representative Dairy industry representative Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Trust Te Urioro Non-dairy farming representative Dairy farming representative Te Rūnanga A Iwi O Ngāpuhi
In Attendance:	Bill Shepherd Helen Moodie Milan Ruka Natalie Blandford Susan Karels	Chairman, NRC Dairy NZ Environmental River Patrol WNW Project Manager, NRC Minutes
Apologies:	Alan Clarkson Allan Halliday David Coleman Shayne O'Shea George Tuhivai Ian Pritchard	EMC – Farming industry Ngāti Hau Resource Management Unit Whangarei District Council Dairy farming representative Te Parawhau Catchment resident
Absent:	Roger Holder Cr Joe Carr Murray Smith	Community representative NRC Community representative

The meeting opened at 7:00pm. Royce, (co-chair), welcomed everyone.

Karakia from Hona Edwards.

Item 1: Apologies: Noted above

Item 2: Feedback from catchment member networks

- **Rob Pye** – Beef + Lamb New Zealand is teaming up with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust for a two-day conference to support sheep and beef representatives on catchment groups and zone committees across the country. Rob will be attending this conference on 12 and 13 February 2015;

- **Tania Pene** – Mangere Catchment Group business has been added to the Rūnanga communications network consisting of an Email group of 6,000 members and a Facebook page. These Rūnanga communications are aimed at getting Ngāpuhi whanau on board. Freshwater is high on the agenda for Te Rūnanga A Iwi O Ngāpuhi;
- **Milan Ruka** – Milan expressed his respect for all catchment group members and thanked the group for the work done over the last two years. He hopes that his reports to NRC are being received. Milan shared his recent experience of South Island rivers where miles of irrigation paints a scary picture;
- **Gerry Brackenbury** – Project Crimson, (Pohutukawa and Rata), celebrates 25 years in action this year. Gerry will be celebrating this milestone at Government House. The Rata in Pukenui Forest has been thrashed by possums. The Forest Trust is starting to restore rata in Pukenui Forest by collecting seeds and keeping hammering the possums;
- **Hona Edwards** – Hona attended a Living Waters meeting aimed at forming partnerships. This positive meeting acknowledged that ‘collaboration means we can do more’. A further meeting will take place in three weeks’ time to look at a project plan for 2015/16. Hona, as cultural monitor, participated in a ceremony at the Kotuku dam site where a Mauri stone was laid this week. Eel monitoring will take place in the future.
- **Chris Frost** – Chris advocated for the installation of water meters, saying that his has helped him find two water leaks recently;
- **Bill Shepherd** – Before Christmas, the Kotuku dam was running four to six weeks behind, which means that building may have to be deferred due to construction seasons. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is carrying out a growth study of the Northland region. The study will be launched on 4 February, in Kerikeri, with three central government ministers in attendance. Bill had input into the draft. The Ministry for Primary Industries is in process of a usage study of Northland in collaboration with Northland Inc.;
- **Royce Kokich** – River levels and clarity are looking quite good due to the quality rain before Christmas. The current dry weather has not been good for plants planted in the autumn.
- **Helen Moodie** – The Dairy NZ web-newsletter will link to the NZ River Awards. All dairy farmers in the catchment, bar one, have had a sustainable milk plan prepared for their property. All of these farms will be re-visited six months down the track, beginning in the next month or so. Helen will provide the catchment group with a summary report after the follow-up visits.

Item 3: Actions since last workshop

1. Mangere’s NZ River Award

The NZ River Awards are sponsored by the Morgan Foundation and aim to encourage communities and regional councils to improve the health of their local rivers. The Mangere Stream – one of the five priority catchments in the Northland Regional Council's Waiora Northland Water programme – was recently named as Northland's most improved and the fourth equal most improved river nationally.

Bill presented the award trophy to Tania and Royce as co-chairs of the catchment group. Bill congratulated the local community and group members and suggested the trophy be kept at Kokopu School for a month or two. Once engraved, Royce and Rob will approach the school regarding an assembly presentation and an item in the school and community

newsletters. Newspaper articles regarding the win were published during December 2014 and January 2015.

Action 1 **Engrave trophy**

Action 2 **Contact Kokopu School re. River Award assembly presentation and associated newsletter inserts**

2. Water use survey progress

The methodology of the water use survey is currently being designed. Natalie asked the group if members would like to join NRC staff in carrying out interviews of catchment residents. The group agreed that members would provide a friendly face in that they have personal links to the catchment and will know many of the people being interviewed. Concerns were raised around consistency of data.

Discussion points:

- Importance of the collection of this baseline data;
- Need to avoid duplication of data collection;
- Gauge future use;
- Time taken out of interviewees' day to complete the survey;
- Include water storage – reticulated schemes are so inexpensive that water storage is not a viable option for some.

Action 3 **Susie and Helen to look at the Dairy NZ data already collected to ensure the questions are not asked again in the survey**

3. Time and day of meetings and workshops

The group agreed to start future meetings and workshops at 6.30pm, preceded with a light dinner at 6.00pm. In July and August, when dairy farmers will struggle with the earlier time, the group will revert to a 7.00pm meeting start and 6.30pm dinner. The change of meeting night from Tuesdays to Wednesdays will not suit Shayne on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Item 4: Mapping what we've learnt about the Mangere Catchment

Group members worked in pairs to mark up maps of the catchment with their knowledge.

Learnings:

- Clarity comparisons on field trip – upper reaches compared to lower part of the river;
- Building of relationships across the community – getting to know and understand people from different sectors;
- Learning about compromise;
- Swimming sites on the Mangere;
- Identification of weed issues, eg. by the falls;
- Education through the kids, eg. Kokopu and other schools involved with Waimarie Nursery and Enviroschools work;
- Geography of the catchment – how big it is, where it goes to, names of waterways;
- Diverse make up of catchment area – number of lifestyle blocks;
- There are knowledge gaps, eg. use and allocation of water;
- Pest animal issues in the forest part of the catchment – affecting water quality?
- Need for Northland solutions for Northland issues.

Item 5: Mangere round-up presentation

Natalie gave a presentation on how far the catchment group has come, and the importance of group members' involvement in and commitment to the process. The presentation also included a diagram about adaptive management and a work plan for the year ahead.

Action 4 Circulate a copy of the presentation with the meeting minutes

Discussion points - general:

- None of the other catchment groups have co-chairs but this arrangement has worked well for Mangere and both co-chairs are committed to continue in their roles;
- Time it took around identifying uses and values was related to building relationships – field trip helped;
- E.coli measure may be one of the most important measures for the group;
- Sediment is also an important measure as are dissolved oxygen levels;
- We need to understand the graphs we are being shown – explanations required;
- Good to look at graphs of different measures together;
- Come to each group meeting armed with an action that you would like to do, eg. Hona's 8,000 plants – planted!
- Have we lost the life-stylers? Should we recruit more? The group agreed that it would be hard to bring new members on now. Instead, it would be useful to implement text messages as meeting reminders – a week and a day before hand.
- Milan asked about requirements of beef farmers for stock exclusion from waterways. Rob will find out about this at the upcoming conference. Natalie advised that the new RPS directs that the new regional plan shall require stock exclusion from waterways adjacent to intensively farmed land.

Action 5 Natalie to find out what the 'acceptable limit' stands for

Action 6 Natalie to implement text reminders

Discussion points – 2015 work plan

- Group members will need to communicate between meetings
- Pest control, farm water quality improvement plans, water quality monitoring and community planting are all examples of implementation measures;
- Cultural values – after discussion, the meeting agreed to investigate a stream walk identifying cultural values followed by a marae visit towards the end of the year.

Item 6: Linking indicators to freshwater values

(Deferred to next meeting – Natalie introduced the exercise)

Item 7: Field trip – scheduled for 4 February 2015

The field trip health and safety plan was handed out to members. On Wednesday 4 February, members are asked to meet at the end of Woods Rd at 5pm. Wear walking shoes, not jandals.

The meeting ended at 9pm with a karakia from Hona.

Next meeting: 11 March 2015 – dinner at 6pm and meeting starts at 6.30pm