

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group Meeting,
Sub-Committee of the Environmental Management Committee
held at Barge Showgrounds Event Centre, Maunu, Whangarei
on Thursday 17 October 2013, commencing at 6.30 pm

Present: Group Members present:

Cr Brian McLachlan (WDC)
Nicki Wakefield (Ngati Hau)
Juliane Chetham (Takahiwai Patuharakeke Trust Board)
Mira Norris (Kaitiaki Roopu Whangarei Harbour Health)
Jon Clotworthy (Dry stock farming interests)
Murray Owen (Dry stock farming interests)
Murray Byles (Dairy farming interests)
Freya Lynch (Dairy farming interests)
Andrew Warren (Forestry interests)
Jack Price (Commercial fishing interests)
Jeremy Busck (Environmental interests)
Margaret Kay (Community Rep)
Glen Mortimer (Community Rep)
Adrian Tonks (Community Rep)
Kim Jones (Community Rep)

In Attendance: Also Present:

Natalie Glover (NRC)
Ben Tait (NRC)
David Coleman (WDC)
Cr Craig Brown (NRC)
Helen Moodie (DairyNZ)
Andrew Jolly (Beef+Lamb)
Kathryn Ross (NRC)
Richard Griffiths (NRC)

Neville Erceg (absent Community Rep)

Cr MacLachlan offered to be interim chair for the group.
The Interim Chairman declared the workshop open at 6.45 pm.

The difference between “meeting” and “workshop” was explained:

- Workshop not advertised under LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act of 1987).
- Public are excluded from the workshop.
- Catchment group members or NRC Waiora Northland Water project staff may invite input to workshops from technical specialists.
- The workshop is a forum for discussion.

Apologies (Item 1.0)

Paul Dunn (Marine services interests) Clive Stone (Ngatiwai Trust Board)

Welcome and Introductions (Item 2.0)

All participants introduced themselves.

Project Overview (Item 3.0)

(Item 3a)

Natalie Glover presented an overview of the project drivers and the Waiora Northland Water programme.

(Item 3b)

Ben Tait presented an overview of the state of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment environment.

Discussion points:

1. Several members of the Catchment Group requested further information on the sources and rates of sedimentation in the Whangarei Harbour Catchment. Ben Tait pointed out that NIWA will be presenting to the group in February on the Whangarei Harbour research and the group will have the opportunity to question the experts. Ben also added that other experts will be presenting to the Catchment Group on relevant information on catchment water quality and quantity in the Group Learning Phase.
2. Several members of the Catchment Group requested that information on water quality and quantity in the Whangarei Harbour Catchment be made available to them. Ben Tait will organise for this to happen, likely via a web portal.

(Item 3c)

Ben Tait presented an overview of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group’s process and anticipated outcomes.

Terms of Reference (Item 4.0)

Cr McLachlan invited members of the Catchment Group to raise any issues, concerns, or questions regarding the proposed Terms of Reference.

Discussion points:

1. Several members stated that they do not have the mandate to speak for their constituents and other hapū/iwi. It was pointed out that the group will never be fully representative of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Community, but having a diverse cross section of members will ensure that the Catchment Group's recommendations are robust and increase the probability that any agreed actions are implemented.
2. Mira Norris stated that Ngatiwai should not be represented on the Catchment Group because they do not have an interest in the Whangarei Harbour. Cr Brown stated that that it is not the role of the respective councils to identify hapū/iwi representatives; rather that is a decision for Maori. (For context, hapū/iwi of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment were asked to collectively nominate representatives from the 'collective'.)
3. One member of the Catchment Group asked whether the new Northland Regional Council will change the proposed Terms of Reference. Cr Brown replied that it is very unlikely.
4. Cr Brown stated that members should contact Ben Tait if they have any further issues, concerns, or questions regarding the proposed Terms of Reference.
5. David Coleman stated that in the next few months an agenda item will be put to the Environmental Management Committee of Northland Regional Council (or Council/ other relevant committee) calling for an elected councillor to be appointed to the Catchment Group to replace Bill Rossiter. David also stated that that this would be an opportunity for the Catchment Group to request any changes to the proposed Terms of Reference.

General Business (Item 5.0)

Discussion points:

1. Ben Tait stated that the second meeting of the Whangarei Harbour Catchment Group will be held at the Northland Regional Council building (Water Street, Whangarei) on Thursday 14 November 2013, from 6pm – 8:30pm. Suzie Greenhalgh (Landcare Research) will be presenting on the principles of collaboration and structured decision-making.
2. Members of the Catchment Group stated a preference for evening meetings.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 20:45