

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes from the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group Meeting,

Sub-Committee of the Environmental Management Committee

held at NRC, 36 Water Street, Whāngārei

on Tuesday 10 February 2015 commencing at 6.30 pm

Present

Adrian Tonks	Community representative
Andrew Warren	Forestry representative
Brian MacLachlan	WDC Councillor
Glen Mortimer	Community representative
Jeremy Busck	Environmental interests representative
Jon Clotworthy	Beef and sheep farming representative
Margaret Kay	Community representative
Mira Norris	Hapu/Iwi representative
Murray Byles	Dairy farming representative
Murray Owen	Beef and sheep farming representative
Paul Dimery	NRC Councillor

In attendance

Darryl Jones	NRC
David Hebart-Coleman	WDC
Joanna Wilson (Minutes)	WDC
Natalie Blandford	NRC
Jonathon Gibbard	NRC
Jan Powell	Northland DHB
Jo Dones	Northland DHB
Jonny Osborne	Ministry for the Environment

1. Apologies

Dane Karepu, Freya Lynch, Jack Price, Juliane Chetham, Kim Jones, Neville Erceg, Nicki Wakefield and Paul Dunn.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting of 2 December 2014 were accepted. No amendments were made by the group but the following points were made:

- It was queried at the last meeting whether monitoring was undertaken at the swimming hole by AH Reed Memorial Park – Monitoring is not done at this site.

- At the last meeting Pohe Island landfill was discussed. Monitoring is done at Pohe Island. **Action:** David will circulate a map of monitoring station locations before next meeting. There was discussion and concern around leachate from the landfill causing health issues as well as leachate into the harbour. Monitoring results from the landfill to be circulated. **Action:** To be added to a future agenda.
- Question was raised as to the reference to the claim that 35% of the nutrient discharge in the harbour was coming from the WWTP. **Action:** David to follow this up.
- Three pieces of information were circulated by Andy Warren in follow-up to the catchment group field trip on 22 November: (a) Trends in turbidity and stream health in the Ngunguru River (2000-2010) by Stark (2010), (b) a map of exotic forests in the Whāngārei Harbour catchment, and (c) Key graphs from the Pakuratahi Land Use Study. The Stark report, while focused on the Ngunguru catchment, dealt with the same forest plantation that also flowed into the Whāngārei Harbour. Three sampling points on river at forest – entry, exit and control (indigenous catchment not touched), monitoring pre- and post-harvest. Very little change in water quality entering and leaving the forest over four years. **Action:** Darryl to circulate full report with minutes.
- There was discussion around sediment input into the Harbour. One pipe at Onerahi is producing a large amount of sediment. Sea grass is being covered by sediment, which is affecting marine organisms, particularly shellfish stocks.

3. Feedback from Member Networks

Nothing Discussed

4. Actions Undertaken

- Summer students at NRC have been working on several projects, which will be presented at a later meeting:
 - Fish barriers on the Raumanga and Waiarohia Streams
 - Seagrass survey update.
- NIWA sediment source tracking project is continuing. The report should be completed in the next month. There was discussion around the validity of sediment profiling. It was raised that the industries might be blamed for sediment where land development has taken place following rural land use e.g. subdivision post-agricultural block, roading etc. The sediment would reflect the original land use and not the development activity. There was discussion around road construction discharges of lime and cumulative effects of smaller un-consented earthworks.

- There was concern over timings of information being received by the group in time to make a recommendation. The next 6 months will be focusing discussions further.
- WDC Wastewater Capital Strategy Fund – paper based on the priorities recommended at the December 2014 meeting will be going to the March 2014 WDC Infrastructure Committee for approval.
- Andrew Carvell, WDC will come to a future meeting to discuss stormwater consents – Port Road and the City.
- The question of engaging a facilitator was raised. It was queried about the experiences of other catchment groups who are further into the process. Hawke's Bay have had a facilitator throughout their process. There was a feeling that a facilitator was not required now but could be beneficial at a later date. The facilitator would assist in the process of setting objectives and it would be preferable to have a facilitator who is familiar with the subject matter. The group will look into this further. **Action:** David will circulate some information on this.

5. Discussion – What have we learned this year?

The group undertook an exercise around issues and values, our knowledge of the current situation re water quality and quantity, and how these feed into measurable factors/attributes/indicators that can be used in setting objectives.

For the exercise each of the nine values has a table with descriptions taken from the National Policy Statement, and the measurable factors/attributes/indicators that affect the uses and values. The specific values identified by the group previously are also noted. The group was asked to work through the tables and add any other factors etc. that should be added to improve the particular use and value.

Good discussion was held and factors/attributes/indicators were brainstormed for five of the nine tables. The remaining four will be completed at the next workshop.

Action: The information added to the tables during discussions will be circulated with the minutes.

6. General Business

The group has been approached by Landcare Research to participate in a nationwide survey of collaborative groups. A sheet containing the questions that will be asked in the survey was

distributed to the group. The email addresses of the group members would be provided to Landcare who would then send out an email explaining the process to the group. Participation would be voluntary. Landcare would provide a summary of the results to the group. The group was generally supportive, although two group members declined to be involved at the outset.
Action: Darryl to liaise with Landcare Research.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next Meeting: 24 March 2015.