

## 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 16 June 2015 commencing at 6.30 pm

### Present

Andrew Warren	Forestry representative
Brian McLachlan	WDC Council representative
Freya Lynch	Dairy farming representative
Jack Price	Commercial fishing representative
Jeremy Busck	Environmental interests representative
Jon Clotworthy	Beef and sheep farming representative
Margaret Kay	Community representative
Mira Norris	Hapu/iwi representative
Murray Owen	Beef and sheep farming representative

### In Attendance

Darryl Jones	NRC
Joanna Wilson	WDC
Helen Moodie	DairyNZ
Dee du Toit (Minutes)	WDC
Suzie Greenhalgh	Land Care Research
Jan Powell	NDHB
Malcolm Green	NIWA Hamilton

Suzie Greenhalgh provided an opportunity, before and during the dinner that preceded the catchment group meeting, for members to complete a catchment group survey. This survey is a chance for members to comment on the process to date in order to ensure that all of the relevant information and procedures are in place to support the stakeholder group.

### 1. Apologies

Adrian Tonks, Dane Karapu, Glenn Mortimer, Julianne Chetham, Kim Jones, Murray Byles, Neville Erceg, Nicki Wakefield, Paul Dimery

Brian McLachlan acted as chair for the meeting in Glenn's absence.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

### 3. Feedback from Member Networks

The group was made aware of the upcoming Waitaua Awa Community Planting Day on Thursday 18 June 2015.

A Drains to Harbour (DTH) Stormwater Community Day was held at the Town Basin on Saturday 13 June 2015. Feedback shows an increase in public awareness since the last survey in 2007. The group is supportive of Drains to Harbour to continue in schools, and to consider targeting the commercial sector.

Concerns were raised about WDC Resource Consent for wastewater discharge. Primary concern is around a proposed lowering of the water quality standard. **Action: Darryl to investigate with Consents.** Support for work happening at the wastewater treatment site.

Concerns were raised about additional moorings in the harbour when there is already an issue with moorings and silt.

Group may be interested in devices that catch rubbish from stormwater (enviropods). One was used in drains in the community day which was a good educational tool.

### 4. Actions Undertaken

Significant non-compliance found in four Pohe Island boatsheds (WDC & NRC).

Councils are trying to improve water quality for swimming at the Whangarei Falls. Additional source tracking and monitoring is being done by NRC and two Northtec students will be walking the streams over the next few months to locate pressure points. An update will be given at the next meeting.

The Auckland University Geography department will be running a human geography course up here. If anyone has any research topic suggestions get in touch with Jo.

The restoration sites chosen: Whangarei Falls, Onerahi & Waiarohia Stream were investigated for funding allocation: approximately \$1500 for Onerahi for erosion planting; Waiarohia Stream need \$10 000 for fish barrier remediation and approximately \$18 500 to go to Whangarei Falls. Discussion about how the money for the Whangarei Falls would be spent and options will be discussed with the group once the investigation has been done. There was also a discussion around water fowl and how to manage this issue. **Action: Jo & Darryl to speak to Fish and Game.**

## 5. Presentation – Whāngārei Harbour Sediment Budget

Malcolm Green from NIWA presented on the Northland Sediment Study. It should be noted that the numbers included in the presentation were purely hypothetical. The following questions were raised:

- What is the expected timeframe? Study to be completed within a couple of months.
- Is a 1mm annual Sediment Accumulation Rate (SAR) achievable or should we aim for a more realistic target? We may have to explore a tiered approach. 1mm/year seems to be a good starting point. Should help with targeting areas.
- Is the 1mm SAR for Porirua based on our specific soils? No, here we are taking a more strategic approach and building the model first. Did it back to front in Porirua. The Model is a tool for thinking what you want to achieve, how you're going to achieve it and what it will cost.
- What is the cost? Model will take per ha production costs, look at revenue, cost of production and then a sediment load. If we were to trigger mitigation costs the model would hypothesise a cost benefit analysis.
- How do you account for the big city in the middle of it? This has been built into SEDNETNZ model. Previous study done on sediment in Whangarei Harbour, part of the reason why the catchment was chosen.
- From your experience in terms of estuarine systems, are there some thoughts on the ecological impacts of a 1mm/yr SAR? Guessing a little bit, but guess is somewhere in the middle is useful and practical. Graph links ecosystem health to sedimentation rate by PhD student. Issue is not sedimentation rate but health of the ecosystem. 1 is halfway between what is now and what it used to be.

## 6. Discussion – Linking Attributes to Uses and Values

Clarification was sought around the difference between an attribute and a performance measure. MCI is up for discussion as to whether it was an attribute or performance measure. Some can be both.

Discussion around missing attributes for each of the uses/values. Points raised were:

1. Some of the attributes have positive impacts on some uses/values and negative impacts on others
2. Access needed for multiple, fish life needed for multiple (is fish life attribute or performance measure) – agreed.

3. Human Health and Recreation and Water Supply, bit of duplication
4. Simplification of overlapping, lots of duplication

It was agreed that the attributes list will be condensed and overlapping and duplicated attributes combined before prioritisation begins. **Action: Darryl to condense list and circulate.**

## **7. General Business**

Discussion about attendance. Nothing set down in specifics in the Terms of Reference about this.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

**Next Meeting:** 28 July 2015