

Minutes: Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Working Group Meeting held at the Jordan Valley Farm on Thursday 18th February 2021

Facilitator	Simon Charles
Scribe	Trisha Ryan
Purpose	Forum to discuss the Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme Issues
Present	Simon Charles, Trisha Ryan, Andrew Carvell, Justine Rowe, Philip Bayly, Geoff Crawford, Evan Smeath, Steven Brown, Simon Donnelly, Ray Hindrup, Sean Clayton (NRC), Rowan Scott (NRC) Kelly Drake (NRC), Anahita Djamali (NRC), Anh Nguyen (DOC), Chantez Connor (representing Waima Waitai Waiora partnership), George Kingi
Apologies	Todd Imeson, Alison Puchaux, Phillip Halse, Wayne Sampson, Barry Thorne, Ken Finlayson

Simon Charles addressed the floor, opened the meeting welcoming members and staff representatives from the Whangarei District Council.

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Item	Description	Action	Decision
Apologies	As Above		
Actions	Actions Discussed in table below		
Operations Update	GH report on piping layer in stop-bank at 519 Apotu Road was received and circulated on 21 December 2021 Investigation determined the cause of piping to be a layer of highly organic and Permeable topsoil below the stop bank-foundation Removal of seepage layer Sheet Piling Clay plug/Trench Most viable solution = clay plug Further investigation needed De-watering of the stream behind stop-bank may be necessary Concerns raised that if this is not carried out soon it will have serious implications if it blows, flooding areas below Ray pointed out that the last flood ran over the stop banks into Otonga and that the Otonga pocket flood gates do not work – need a new pump. It was stated that there have been no improvements since 1968 so how long do we have to wait for improvements? Structure review of Ngararatunua pumpstation shall be carried out during Summer 2021. Scope; review structural integrity of the pumpstation, recommended maximum axle	Quotes from Hydrotech for work to be carried out Hawthorn Geddes to be chased about progress	Decision to be made and should be classed as urgent



-	Fee offer of \$4517 + GST was accepted on 21
	December 2020

Drain Clearing – the following progress has been made

- Te Mata Pocket completed (except Griffin and O'Reilly drain due to Maize blocking access)
- Ngararatunua Pocket ongoing
- Helicopter spraying started 22 January 2021.
 Complaints were received about lack of notification.
- Simon sent out a summary last week 9-12 Feb 2021
 - Kelly Drake NRC advised the Ppty owners' responsibility for notice of spraying or to work this out with contractor
- Complaints were also received about drain clearing sub-contractor – he allegedly not been instructed where to clean. This has been raised with Hydrotech we have responded that thorough briefings had been done
 - Geoff raised an issue that spraying should be carried out pre-Xmas (Sep/Oct) and to be done at least twice a year.
 He had discussions with Simon Weston that the spraying isn't good enough and that they do not want spray getting into any of their pumps etc. It appears to be a blame game.

Do not want diggers going down to clean out drains when it should be sprayed. Not good enough that nobody is pushing to getting this done in the time required.

- Farmers ending up having to organise their own drain clearing.
- Some drains have not been cleared for 10-15 years
- Hydrotech should be working out a strategy not the farmers
- What rules apply for spraying
- WDC to penalise Hydrotech if spraying is not carried out in the time specified
- Hydrotech contract to be sent out to farmers
- Review Hydrotech Contract note contract expires 2022

Some drains have been changed by Ops team from ATV to helicopter spraying – Ineffective using ATV

Spillways

- The spillway sensor cabinets need the brackets replaced as per LTP
- Otonga pump D discharge tube needs recoating as corroding badly. Flange bolts to be replaced with SS.

This has been raised with Hydrotech

WDC to advise Contractor that this is their responsibility

Breakdown between Hydrotech and WDC Simon to look into what needs to be done going forward

Simon Charles to send this prior to meeting

Simon to send out a request of quote and to update group once received



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	- Strengthening work needed on the Otonga		
	flood gate prior to upgrade. Need to chase supplier for price.		
	Supplier for price.	Simon to do	
	Simon gave a break down for the Pump operating	one for the	
	costs for 2020 calendar year	financial year	
	Social for 2020 canonidati year	and to supply	
	Flooding; -	one annually	
	- Simon showed a few photos of the flooded		
	area from the July 2020 storm		
	 Discussion have been had in-regards to the 		
	position of the Okarika flood gate		_
	- Showed Hydraulic modelling to install a flood		Consensuses
	gate @ Okarika pocket. Further break down	Androw	is do the
	of prices to be provided.	Andrew recommended	Group make a decision to
	Watershed quoted \$72k plus \$6k for 6month license for Mike Flood	to use Ewater	go ahead
	Ewater quoted \$\$75,500.00 with no additional costs	as they have a	with the plan
	= 1.3.5. quotou qu'i 0,000.00 With 110 additional 005ts	good	without
	- Ray voice a concern that Otonga pocket needs	reputation	funding been
	a pump the same as every other area and		approved?
	that it should be equality across all pockets		
	Not appropriate to alter things at this stage		
	due to consent been in the process now. Still		<u>_</u>
	waiting for current data. Does not want things		Essential that
	to be jeopardised	To take	this moves
	Opposed the timing and wants to see an	information	forward
	Engineers/Hydrologist report on the table Simon advised that Project cannot be started	for updating model to put	
	without a consent.	in floodgates	
	- 5 Floods Plan to be revisited. Since this was	iii iiooagatos	
	put in place there has only been one flood		
	large enough to record.		
	- Decision to made that won't impact on any		
	existing plans.		
	- Letter to go to Kaipara to advise of our scheme		
	and if they would like to make any		
	contributions towards it and to confirm that		
	they accept the outcome of the modelling		
	Chantez advised that they had been left out of any discussion to do with the Scheme so		
	therefore they were not in the position to		
	make any decisions. They are holding a Hui		
	next Monday and will report back at the next		
	meeting		
	All councils have signed up to the 3 Water Scheme		
	- Funding of \$11ml has been approved/received		
	at this stage	Boodobo to	
	 Nov/Dec/Jan – RFR completed this involved filling out 67 tabs of questions 	Roadshow to be held	
	- Central Government is putting on Roadshows	March-	
0.147. 1	to be held throughout the districts March-	October	
3 Waters	October 2021.	2 3 3 3 3 3	
	- Group needs to know what impact this will have	Meeting to be	
	on local communities	organised	
	- Chantez requested that Mana Whenua has	with group	
	more involvement and is kept up to date and	around the	
	included in on all discussions	Roadshows to	



	 Group requested that they have a stand-alone meeting with the council after the Roadshow to discuss any issues arising from this show. At this stage no decision has been made around stormwater or flood management this would involve roading and property management Concerns of losing control Need to be involved at a Governing level sitting alongside/with WDC Going through a review of all existing contracts – long term maintenance contracts Council to make decisions for the good of the scheme 	discuss issues Mana Whenua to have more involvement Simon to take concerns and issues raised back to Simon Weston
Living Water	 Anh gave a quick update on Living Water This year Living Water has the last round of planting in the Okarika Pocket, our contractors will do site maintenance for last year planting and for new planting soon. Continue monthly water quality monitoring at Okarika Pocket. From March 2021, Nga Kaitial O Nga Wai Maori will carry out Matauranga Maori monitoring work. This will include water quality, fish survey and cultural assessment in Okarika Pocket and expanding to 6 other sites in Hikurangi Swamp. Sediment detention bund trial at Umuwhawha Road shows the effectiveness: peak flow and sediment retention, total Nitrogen and Phosphorus removal. Living Water newsletter available at: https://www.livingwater.net.nz/ 	
	Chantez gave a brief update on what has been happening with Living Water In process of testing clarity of water Clarity tube starts @ 90 and sampling done last week came in at 6 – this was done after last week's rain. Sampling results will be back in 2 weeks Checking waterways at Pipiwai with children been involved. 3 sites need to be fixed up Hai has these details Eeling done last week and netted 50-60 eels', some big Long fins where released back into the water This is done on a yearly basis to track and see that the eels are moving, and this is carried out at pump sites. (Need to know when eels are running so pumps can be switched off)	Chantez to give results at next meeting Chantez showed us some photos of the eels netted along with photos of some long-finned eels



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Approval Needed	Swamp level sensor cabinets: items need to be replaced to restore integrity. If not done, costs will increase and valuable data may be missed (includes boxes, fixing brackets, key lock set, condensation kit, Gemini single opaque door, plus labour – rebuilding of damaged panels) Quote = \$7457.79 excl. GST. Flood gate @ Junction pump station to be repaired (includes supply and install of Stainless-Steel Grade 304 Floodgate and 4 of S-S hinge bosses). Quote =		All agreed to go ahead with repairs.
Long Term Strategy	\$12900.00 excl. GST. Rates – To be kept at a realistic level - Meetings to be planned • Justine to organise an LTP meeting for the end of February or early March to work with the Council. To have external people at the start of the meeting. Topics of interest to be sent to Justine prior to the meeting.	Justine to organise an LTP meeting	
	 LTP opens beginning of March to the end of April. Need consultation from various parties (Simon Weston etc) on matters of concern to be able to finalise a good plan going forward. To have progress showing on action list that items are ticked off between each meeting. Frustrating to see same actions still on the list 3 months down the track. More management required. Andrew gave a quick review of historical LTPs 	Meetings with various parties to be organised	
Financial	 The scheme debt has been repaid Now debt is cleared rates should be reduced back and set at a fixed cost from WDC. Do not want to keep paying for more and more rates, these need to be fixed so no more rises occur. Current cost of rates charged is not sustainable to continue Some farmers who have been part of the scheme for a long tenure have paid the debt back through rates twice Questioned why they couldn't borrow funds over a 30year plan to upgrade pumps etc, for rewards to be passed on to future generations so as the current farmers are not the only ones paying for upgrades. Everyone is losing confidence on where they stand and if they are still going to own their land after all of this. Feel tied to the Council with no control on what decisions are made. Need to know the total costs of the scheme. 	Simon showed a breakdown of costs involved for the past 3 years with actuals for	



 Grazing rights removed from rates. Simon drafted a letter to finance, and this resulted in the prices been reversed = approx. \$270k Submission to include a request to hold rates or decrease To consider any further capital expenditure to be borrowed for 30 years (longer repayment terms) for pockets this impacts. Simon has questioned the Hikurangi Swamp Scheme Overheads charges and waiting for an answer back 	
from Finance	

Meeting closed at 11.35 am

Meeting Actions

Point Number	Action	Responsible person	Timeframe Due	Notes
1	WDC to find Council Document that delegated the functions to various parties & regarding the rates that were denied by the Government	Simon/Hai		Lots of digging in archive records still not found anything - Business records now searching
				Justine raised an issue that due the long-term submission which Geoff did a presentation 2 meeting previous and that clarification of ownership is very important. Need something in writing and not to just rely on verbal assumptions.
2	Provide a copy of the transfer document to WDC for scheme ownership	Simon C		Simon questioned – Rates denied by Government not sure what this was about and to get clarity on this
				Justine – Concerned that land could be deemed to become wetlands. Need confirmation of ownership of this scheme
				Nothing was recorded in the last minutes
3	Four reps for the scheme to be identified to run a working group together	WDC, NRC, Chantez &	31 March 2021	Chantez has spoken with Geoff.
	- · ·	Geoff		Advised that their Hupu was going through a consentment process at



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Point Number	Action	Responsible person	Timeframe Due	Notes
				present and this should be finalised at the end of March.
				Notification was posted in the paper mid-January
				Geoff advised that a Commerical fisherman from Huntly was seen fishing in the waterways the other week and Chantez advised that NPI has been notified and that they will be dealing with it.
4	Research the Rates and Costs	Simon C/Hai	30 August 2021	Simon has researched Rates and has a student collating any correspondence from 7/2019 – 06/2020 between Hai Simon n Hydrotech
				Next step is Finance & Operations Involvement
				Work in progress
5	New operation procedure to be circulated	Hai	30 August 2020	Not sure if this has been finalised Simon to catch up with Hai upon his return to work
6	James Blackburn to look at ken Finlayson's and Barry Thorne's property	Hai	30 August 2020	GH report has been done
7	Chantez to investigate organisations for possible funding of project which is on hold	Chantez	30 August 2020	Chantez advised that nothing has eventuated at this stage and that she is to catch up with Hai upon his return to work.
8	Chantez and Geoff to organise/look into commercial eel fishing opportunity & arrange an expert to speak at next meeting	Chantez/Geoff	30 August 2020	Work in progress
9	Simon to provide a detailed cost breakdown for each pump and when WDC changes its fees	Simon		This has been done
11	Get a breakdown from the modeler and bring the information back to farmers	Simon C/Hai	Feb 2021	Nothing has been started at this stage
12	Look into consent requirements	Simon/Hai	Feb 2021	This has been completed
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Point Number	Action	Responsible person	Timeframe Due	Notes
13	Look into rates since bermlands have been taken out	Simon	Feb 2021	
14	Set up separate meeting for LTP	Simon C/Hai	Feb 2021	Justine has taken ownership for this and will arrange a meeting to work with Council for the end of Feb or beginning of March.
				Group to send topics for discussion to Justine
15	Check rates submission with Finance	Simon	Feb 2021	Simon advise that this is a long-term consolidation
16	Set up Meeting to discuss 3 Water scheme with Mayor or Simon Weston to attend	Simon		Group requested a meeting regarding 3 Water Scheme to be held after Roadshow to discuss any issues
				Chantez advised that Mana Whenua needs to be more involved as it will have a huge impact