

# HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NGATEA SERVICE CENTRE, NGATEA ON THURSDAY, 05 JULY 2018 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM

**PRESENT** Messrs B A Carter (Chairperson), B Keane, G Laurich, H van Eyk, P Johnstone  
R D Young, Cr D H Swales (Council Representative)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Cr P Buckthought (alternative Councillor Representative – 10.42am-1.00pm),  
Cr G Leonard, Mr K Growden (WRC Team Leader | Hauraki/Coromandel, Integrated Catchment Management), Mr S de Laborde (Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager), Mr B Stephens (Drainage Overseer) and Ms C Black (Council Secretary)

### **APOLOGIES**

### **RESOLVED**

THAT the apology of B Pirie and P Leonard be received and sustained.

WPDD18/16

Swales/Johnstone

**CARRIED**

### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WESTERN PLAINS DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 April 2018 (2384734)

### **RESOLVED**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 27 April 2018 be taken as read and confirmed.

WPDD18/17

Swales/Keane

**CARRIED**

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Speedy Farms- Orchard East Road, Ngatea - Flood Water not draining through Culvert under SH2

The Manager Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager was asked if he had communicated with the HDC Transport Manager requesting that he communicate with NZTA on the feasibility of NZTA repairing the culvert under SH2 draining Mike Speedy's property. Also inquired if the Drainage Overseer had investigated costs and options to address the issues with the current culvert which is not at a level to drain Mike Speedy's lower land.

Staff advised that the requested action has not yet been undertaken but would be followed before the next meeting and reported on.

Cr Buckthought attended the meeting at 10.42am.

### WRC Representative Adam Munro - Current Works Programme

Kenny Growden responded to a query raised with Adam Munro by Gavin Laurich at the previous meeting regarding his concern that the Waitakaruru stream is blocked with silt and asked what WRC can do about this.

Kenny stated that WRC's environmental team have started investigating to find options to address the silting issue of the Waitakaruru Stream.

### Private Drain – Laurich Farm – Ken Jones Property

Gavin Laurich asked if a letter had been sent to Mr Ken Jones (neighbour of his father's property) requesting that the drain running through his property become a board drain. Mr Laurich Snr does not want the drain to terminate at his property.

Steve de Laborde advised he had not yet corresponded with Mr Jones but will endeavour to do so before the next meeting. He advised that the Land Drainage Bylaw controls this activity. To change the status of a private drain to board drain will require a report to Council to officially change the ownership of the drain. This drain has a small diameter pipe, so debris will get lodged in it easily causing blockages with the result of ponding.

Steve de Laborde stated he will investigate options to remediate the issue with the pipe.

It was requested that staff prepare a report recommending to Council that the Committee take over responsibility for the private drain on the Laurich property.

### Mangawhero Road Flume

Staff advised that Group Manager – Engineering Services (Adrian de Laborde) has visited the site and has completed structural investigation into the flume.

### DISTRICT DRAINAGE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2018 AND FINANCIAL REPORT (FOR THE 11 MONTHS TO 31 MAY 2018 (2392612))

The Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager presented the Western Plains District Drainage Report for May 2018.

### **RESOLVED**

THAT the Drainage Report for the month of May 2018 and the financial report on the operations of the Western Plains District Drainage Area for the 11 months to 31 May 2018 be received.

WPDD18/18

Laurich/Young

**CARRIED**

### **CAPITAL WORKS**

#### Stopbanks

Most work is getting more difficult to carry out as the winter conditions set in. No major earthworks projects will be done this year until ground conditions improve after winter.

Some work will, however, be done on the Karito Canal. The lower portion of the canal will be dug out and the material stock piled for later raising and shaping of the stop bank.

### Future Works

In the immediate future, field staff will continue with drain maintenance as long as the budgets, weather and paddock conditions allow. More drain condition assessments are being planned for in the longer term, to ensure the maintenance regime is effective and optimal. Staff changes have been put in place which will provide more resources, and more time, to be devoted to Land Drainage & Flood Protection that will allow better monitoring of the systems which in turn informs the annual maintenance program. These changes will take place after the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### Bylaw Approvals

Bylaw approvals were granted in the period as follows:

Culverts: Schouten – Opposite 293 Pipiroa Road

Other: Nil

### Subdivisions

There were no subdivisions commented on during the period.

### Rainfall

The Ngatea monthly rainfall total for May was 106mm.

The year to date total from July 1<sup>st</sup> is 1127mm which is 129% of the average expected to the end of May.

## **GENERAL**

### **Drainage Bylaw Review**

Members were reminded that they can provide feedback on the review of the bylaw – copy of which was distributed to the Committee in March.

Members commented on the spray register with regard to 'organic' farmers.

The Drainage Overseer explained the process regarding spraying in relation to certified organic farming operations. Better agreement needs to be reached with property owners and Council staff. People need to be aware of the consequences of going onto the no-spray register.

The Committee agreed that the process of notification to Council by certified organic farmers where they do not want spraying of drains needs more clarification. These farmers need to be better advised what the process is and what their responsibilities are as regards to costs involved etc.

The Drainage Overseer advised that currently the HDC spray programme is publically notified in the local newspaper and on its website.

The Drainage Overseer explained the drain machine cleaning process in comparison to spraying of drains.

### Financial Report

Ross Young suggested Drainage operational financial report be presented in 'graph' form to make it more relevant and better to understand as opposed to tables with figures provided currently.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Brian Carter on behalf of Brian Pirie advised that Landcorp works are currently underway. Brian Pirie has asked what Landcorp are doing with their internal drain. The Drainage Overseer advised that it is Landcorp's own internal drain which would not impede Council's system.

### WRC Works Programme

Kenny Growden updated on the current work programme and status of maintenance works to date.

Significant works:

- Upgrade of Stitchbury pump station
- Sheet piling on the Piako below Ngatea
- Maukoro Canal to be cleaned in February / March 2019

The Chairman thanked Kenny Growden for attending the meeting and providing an update on WRC programmed works and responding to the drainage member's questions.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

CONFIRMED

B A Carter  
Chairperson

2 August 2018