

## HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WILLIAM STREET, PAEROA ON TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 11.00AM

**PRESENT** Messrs B A Carter (Chairperson), B Keane, G Laurich, P A Leonard, H van Eyk, R D Young and Cr P Buckthought (Council Representative) and Cr R Garrett (alternative Council representative)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Messrs Robert Hicks, Brendan Manning ( WRC Works Supervisor - Projects & Compliance), Cr R Harris, Mr S de Laborde (Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager) and Ms C Black (Council Secretary)

#### **APOLOGIES**

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT the apology of Peter Paterson be received and sustained.

WPDD19/23

Johnstone/Keane

**CARRIED**

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES (03-10-19) (2665556)

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 03 October 2019 be taken as read and confirmed.

WPDD19/24

Buckthought/Keane

**CARRIED**

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

Corrections as noted.

#### Waikato Regional Council – Update

- Phillips Road – replacement of bearings on pumps.
- Structural auditing – Appletree – large amount of silt there on internal drains.
- Cut silage on foreshore stopbank – this will be used to upgrade stopbank.
- Awaiti Canal – third of way through desilting. Starting on Ngarua Canal 03 December.
- Reviewing stopbank valuations.
- Maukoro line – 2 x culverts – 1 culvert has a weir in the culvert so this has been removed. This will assist in getting water away from stopbank.
- Cutting hay for bales to be used on the Maukoro stopbank later this month.
- Drains have all been sprayed.
- Robinson's floodgate has been completed.

### Bristle Grass Eradication

Brian Pirie raised issue regarding the importance that the bristle grass eradication programme is stepped up by WRC as it has been noted that there is prolific growth in some areas on stopbanks and roadsides.

### Fish Friendly Pump Trial

Brendan Manning stated that they will be trialling fish friendly pumps in 2020.

### Rules – WRC Controlling Cattle in Waterways

Brendan Manning reiterated the need for farmers to report any breaches observed as regards to cattle in waterways.

The Regional Council's new structure is focussed on addressing rivers and drainage.

## WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL - COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Members raised their concern that there was no consultation pre-election with key stakeholders (land drainage committees) on the proposed new structure and believed the new structure does not allow for local representation of key stakeholders.

### **RESOLVED**

THAT the Western Plains Drainage Committee have serious concerns that no consultation was undertaken with stakeholders (drainage committees) as regards to the WRC committee structure as it relates to drainage and flood protection of the Hauraki Plains, and

THAT the Western Plains District Drainage Committee recommends to the Hauraki District Council that it communicate their concerns to WRC, and

THAT local representation on the WRC stakeholders working group is requested.

WPDD19/25

Carter/Laurich

**CARRIED**

### Muggeridge Pump Station Project

Robert Hicks updated on the Muggeridge project. The project has been put on hold until there is an acceptable tender.

### Abolishment of Catchment Committees

Members also raised their concerns regarding the WRC's decision to abolish catchment committees. Robert Hicks and Conall Buchanan were members of these committees.

### **RESOLVED**

THAT Robert Hicks and Conall Buchanan be thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Hauraki Plains region in relation to the catchment committee representation and support ongoing dialogue with WRC in relation to the abolishment of catchment committees.

WPDD19/26

Buckthought/Carter

**CARRIED**

DISTRICT DRAINAGE REPORT (SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER) AND FINANCIAL REPORT (FOR THE 4 MONTHS TO 31 OCTOBER 2019) (2613944)

The Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager presented the monthly operational activity report for September and October and the financial report for the period 4 months to 31 October 2019.

**RESOLVED**

THAT the Drainage Report (September and October) and the financial report on the operations of the Western Plains District Drainage Area for the (for the 4 months to 31 October 2019) are received.

WPDD19/27

Keane/van Eyk

**CARRIED**

Chemical spraying

There were no drains sprayed in September or October, however, localised spraying was completed around the pump stations during both months.

Machine cleaning

2.8km of drains have been machine cleaned in the finance year to the end of October.

Maintenance/Fencing/Culverts

Routine maintenance items were undertaken.

Pump operation

Regular inspection runs were undertaken in this period. Pump hours for September were 1262 hours and for October were 936 hours.

The summary for the year to date was attached.

There were 60 man-hours spent on weed screen cleaning in September and 34 man-hours were spent in October.

Floodgates

Floodgate inspections were completed.

Stopbanks

No maintenance was carried out in September and October. Page 2 M 2683640 WPDD Drainage Report September and October 2019.

Capital Works

The capital works consist of assessing and raising stopbanks and refurbishing pumps and pump screens.

Stopbanks:

Hot Springs and Karito Canals progress to date:

- The survey and design has been completed.
- The resource consent application submitted.
- Imported material volumes & first order costs calculated.

The next steps in the process are to procure contractors to haul material, place and shape it. There is no consent required to maintain a stopbank, so all that work can continue. However, cleaning the drain and placing the material on the bank not receiving imported material is what the resource consent is for and work in that area has halted until Council receive the consent.

The Regional Council has responded to HDC application, requesting further information:

*Please provide an ecological assessment that considers what aquatic life may be present at the sites, the effect the works will have on the habitat and aquatic life and provisions for actions such as fish recovery.*

WRC end their request by informing HDC that its application requires to be assessed on more stringent rules too.

*Finally, your activity has been assessed as falling under rule 4.3.4.4 (discretionary) rather than 4.3.6.2 (controlled). Please provide any additional assessment that is required for assessment under this rule.*

It should be noted by Council that the result of the fish study could affect when Council are allowed to do the instream works. The image attached explained the possible options. Council has initiated the fish study and is waiting for the results.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Harry van Eyk asked if his submission to Lisa Moore would get into briefing paper for LTP.

Gavin Laurich – at the end of Hopai Road the road drain is overflowing. He asked that staff come out to his property to review the situation. Flaps are shutting down and he is taking on other farmer's water. Gavin would like to dig out toe drain. The Drainage Overseer and Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager will investigate.

Steve de Laborde suggested Gavin does not do this – WRC is under control of water runoff. Steve and the Drainage Overseer will visit Gavin's property to discuss matter further. This visit to include Chairperson, Brian Carter also.

Mangawhero Flume – Ross Young is satisfied with the repair of the flume.

Robert Hicks updated the Committee on the Waikato Regional Council ruling on cleaning of drains in relation to fish protection.

Cr Harris thanked all the members for their involvement into the operation of the Western Plains Drainage District and wished them well for the xmas break and new year.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

CONFIRMED

B A Carter  
Chairperson

4 February 2020