

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, 84 ORCHARD WEST ROAD, NGATEA ON THURSDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 10.30AM

PRESENT Messrs B Carter (Chairperson), B Pirie, P Leonard, P Johnstone, M Karl, R Young, Cr P Buckthought and Cr R Garrett

IN ATTENDANCE S Clark - WRC - Works Supervisor, Paeroa Team - Integrated Catchment Management, S de Laborde (Infrastructure Systems & Planning Manager), B Stephens (Drainage Overseer) and C Black (Council Secretary)

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

THAT the apologies for absence of P Paterson and B Keane be received and sustained.

WPDD20/16

Buckthought/Karl

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES (2815307)

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 6 August 2020 are received and confirmed as a true and correct record.

WPDD20/17

Buckthought/Johnstone

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters raised.

Waikato Regional Council Update – Steve Clark (Works Supervisor)

- Electrical inspections of pumps are completed second yearly. The Ngatea pump has been upgraded. The technology that has now been installed at the pump stations allows staff to monitor what is happening with their operation. It enables water levels to be checked remotely from phones or computers. A training day will be held on the use of this technology with WRC and HDC staff in the near future.
- New switchboards have been installed at Appletree and Awaiti South.
- WRC will be starting structural audits of pumps in November 2020. The Paul Leonard pump has quite a dip in the pipeline under the stopbank, WRC will be realigning this pipe. A fibreglass plastic lining will be used to repair it and give longevity. This work should be completed by Christmas.
- Annual refurbishment of pumps – Mangawhero Road and Robinson's are to be upgraded.

- WRC have received funding from Central Governments 'shovel ready' projects fund.
- New rules have been introduced by Central Government to improve water standards. The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES) has been established and regulates activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. The regulations came into force on 3 September 2020.

The standards are designed to:

- protect existing inland and coastal wetlands
 - protect urban and rural streams from in-filling
 - ensure connectivity of fish habitat (fish passage)
 - set minimum requirements for feedlots and other stockholding areas
 - improve poor practice intensive winter grazing of forage crops
 - restrict further agricultural intensification until the end of 2024
 - limit the discharge of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser to land, and require reporting of fertiliser use.
- WRC are still waiting for clarification on the consent processes. Steve considered any consents that need to be obtained should be worked through jointly with HDC and WRC as the issues are the same. A separate consent would then be applied for.
 - Protection of eel and fish species in waterways. Part of the application for the 'shovel ready' projects was to undertake fish friendly work on the foreshore shore canal. Planting will be undertaken 2-3m from the top of the stopbanks. Carex grasses and low growing plants will be used that will create shade areas to encourage healthy waterways for native fish species. Further planting will be undertaken on the eastern side up to a width of 15m. The planting plan is yet to be developed.
 - Mugeridge's Pump – going ahead. A general update of the project was provided.

DRAINAGE REPORT – JULY AND AUGUST 2020 - 2828994

The Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager presented the monthly activity report covering the months of July and August 2020.

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received.

WPDD20/18

Karl/Pirie

CARRIED

Financial statements were not available. It was noted that there has been very little expenditure to date.

Vegetation Control

There were no drains sprayed in July or August due to rainfall. The spray programme has currently been halted for the winter season.

Mechanical Cleaning

There has been 2.4kms of drains machine cleaned during July and 100 metres during August. This has mainly been weed clearing.

Other works

Routine maintenance was carried out in the district on fencing and culverts during July and August. In July, the Smythes gate was desilted and the timber flap was replaced. Approximately 100 man-hours were spent screen cleaning during July and approximately 100 man-hours were spent in August.

The Capital Works programme consists of assessing and raising stopbanks and refurbishing pumps and pump screens. Due to the requirements of the draft resource consent conditions, maintaining the level of service on the stopbanks is to be treated separately to maintaining the canal/stream.

Tenders have been drawn up for both the left and right banks of the Hot Springs and Karito canals (modified streams) to be reconstructed using imported material. Once peer-reviewed, they will be issued. Work is expected to start in mid-October.

As a separate body of work, staff will go back to WRC and discuss the maintenance of these types of watercourses. The thinking is that not as much silt will need to be removed to maintain drainage as opposed to removing enough silt to build a stopbank, thus not attracting such difficult resource consent conditions.

Pump Operation (attached Appendix A)

Regular inspection runs were undertaken during this period. There were 2,484 pump hours for July and 1,720 pump hours for August. The summary for the year to date was attached in Appendix A.

Rainfall (attached Appendix A)

The table and graphs of the Ngatea monthly rainfall depths since 1993 were attached. The rainfall for July was 85mm and for August was 116mm. The year to date total from July 1st 2020 is 201mm that is 77% of the average expected to the end of August.

Bylaws and Subdivisions

There were no bylaw approvals granted and no subdivisions for comment.

Frequency of Meetings

It was agreed that the Committee meetings remain at monthly intervals as the Chair has the authority to cancel meetings if necessary. Members will be notified in advance by the Council Secretary if a meeting is to be cancelled.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON THEIR DRAINAGE AREAS

Mike Karl advised that the Maukoro Canal stopbank has been surveyed. He raised his concern that there is significant water ponding occurring on the incoming tide and requested that consideration be given to asking WRC to investigate options to help reduce the ponding.

RESOLVED

THAT it be recommended to the Hauraki District Council that it communicate with the Waikato Regional Council requesting that when the Maukoro canal is next cleaned, the section from Nyssens floodgate to the Waitakaruru School be cleaned and the soil be stock piled on the western side of the Maukoro canal.

WPDD20/19

Karl/Leonard

CARRIED

Brian Pirie – stopbank at seaward side is eroding – Waitakaruru – Mahuta Road North from the bridge to the back of Max Purnell’s property. The Drainage Overseer will investigate.

Ross Young – Mangawhero Flume – asked is there a plan to upgrade the flume in the near future. The Drainage Overseer advised that an extensive upgrade has been programmed in next year’s budget for this work to be carried out.

Ross also asked who is responsible for the Council drain running through his property. He reported that the banks of the drain are being eroded away and the fence has been affected by this. The Drainage overseer stated that Council would be responsible to deal with this matter.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm.

CONFIRMED

B Carter
Chairperson

5 November 2020