

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 03 DECEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT

B A Carter (Chairperson), G Laurich (from 10.38am), P Paterson, R D Young, Cr Buckthought and Cr R Garrett and His worship the Mayor, D A Adams

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

THAT the apologies for absence of B Keane, M Karl, P Johnstone, P Leonard and the apology for the lateness of G Laurich be received and sustained.

WPDD20/25

Buckthought/Pirie

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES (05-11-20) (2858129)

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 05 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

WPDD20/26

Paterson/Pirie

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters raised.

Waikato Regional Operational Update – Steve Clark

Steve provided a summary of activities:

- Competed Carter outlet.
- Mangawhero pumps – one pump has gone in and one is out.

G Laurich arrived 10.38am.

- Structural audits and maintenance – Waikaka south is still to be completed and on Thursday next week and exposed steel work to be repaired the following week.

- Rowerawe pump – structural audit. A hole has been found underneath the structure so it has been filled with bentonite and the base concreted. It was noted that there was a flaw in the plan when it was first built. The structure has rotted out. Work has been carried out also on the pump sump as well while it was dewatered and brought up to standard. Several of the units are getting to the end of life and need replacement in the near future.
- Desilting of floodgates will be undertaken this side of Christmas (if required during high rainfall events).
- WRC cut 507 bales of silage outside of the foreshore bank and 64 bales off the Maukoro bank at the lower end.

The Mayor attended the meeting at 10.42am.

Cr Buckthought asked if WRC has checked that there was no bristle grass in the silage. Steve Clark advised that it was sprayed prior to cutting.

Adrian advised of the establishment of an operational working party tasked with looking at issues created from the drought 2019-20 as regards to the safety of eels and fish species.

He advised that the immediate situation is if January 2021 is dry, WRC will work with the working party to evaluate what action is required to ensure fish species are preserved.

Adam Munro spoke on the 100-year drought experienced last season and spoke on impacts on native species and habitats. He stated that lessons have been learnt from the last drought season as regards to land drainage and the river network. He advised the members of the link to the Waikato Regional Council website which gives information on hazards. [Waikato Regional Hazards Portal](#) and [Flood room live | Waikato Regional Council](#).

WRC has been asked to lead a drought response team consisting of Iwi, WRC Doc, Fish and Game, GNS Science (NIWA) and HDC. The Drought Hui attended by HDC staff, WRC and other stakeholders that was held recently was beneficial.

He spoke of the Hauraki 'drains of death' that was reported on in the media during the last drought season 2019-20. Urgent consideration is required as to what can be done long term to address this problem resulting from the effects of severe drought now and into the future. The Regional Coastal Plan is under review to look at what can be done to offset this effect and assist in response planning going forward.

At the Drought hui, it was agreed to put together 2 subgroups to get GNS scientist's around the table to look at drought hot spots.

Kenny Growden is putting together a WRC action plan to be completed before Christmas 2020. He is happy to share it with other agencies as a template.

An MPI permit has been approved for the transport of stranded eels from drought effected waterways to health waterways. It is a regional permit process which requires a WRC staff member to be in attendance.

Consenting process and level of Service needs to be considered to allow the opening of a floodgate to allow water through. The transfer / pumping of water must be a consented permitted activity that can be undertaken under a declared emergency.

Spot surveys are being undertaken to look at water temperature, salinity and water quality.

Response plans are being prepared to look at what action is required when drains are dry, as regards to stranded fish species.

There is a need for an operational plan to be prepared (collaborative efforts from stakeholders iwi, DoC etc) to be ready for an emergency drought situation.

Botulism appeared to be issue on the Hauraki Plains last season.

Gavin Laurich was displeased that seawater is being used to flush drains and was concerned about saltwater sitting on his property.

Brian Pirie agreed that a conservation of water needs looking at earlier in advance of a positive dry season.

Adrian stated that the hui is discussing how information can be given out to public to help save the eels if drought hits the region. There will be an 0800 number established in place over Christmas. He gave an example where cyclists on rail trail may see eels in stress and can make contact with WRC via this number.

Summary of Shovel Ready Projects

Adam Munro spoke on the Shovel Ready projects and advised of the link to the website listing all confirmed projects: [Shovel ready projects | Waikato Regional Council](#)

- Gained government grants – creation to 27km riparian margin providing natural corridor wetland areas.
- MBIE – received funding. \$13m excluding Muggeridge’s project.
- Sourcing of flood pump which is fish friendly.
- Upgrading Piako right stopbanks.
- Ngatea stopbank upgrade – for urban protection.
- Foreshore stopbanks firth of Thames is being brought up to design standard
- Mill Road and Roger Harris pumps are being upgraded.
- A decision on the Muggeridge’s pump project should be advised before Christmas 2020.

Adam raised the issues caused by the planting of crops beside drains/waterways causing sedimentation and access issues. Clarification is needed as to what is classified as a stream or drain. The Mayors from MPDC, HDC and TCDC will be briefed on the issue in due course.

Adrian advised that he would be putting a report to Council soon regarding fencing requirements of drains as part of applying the new NPS for freshwater.

DISTRICT DRAINAGE REPORT OCTOBER 2020 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 4 MONTHS TO 31 October 2020 - 2867278

The Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager presented the district drainage operational activity report to October 2020.

RESOLVED

THAT the Drainage Report – October 2020 and the financial report on the operations of the Western Plains District Drainage Area for the 4 months to 31 October are received.

WPDD20/27

Paterson/Young

CARRIED

Pumping hours are low due to the current low rainfall.

EXCAVATION OF FORESHORE STOPBANK SILT TRAP (WAITAKARURU TO KARITO CANAL) - 2866192

The Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager presented a report that summarised a number of projects that were on the 2019/20 Annual Plan for the Land Drainage Activity and was carried over at the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 30 September 2020, as per Council Resolution C20/433/1.

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received.

WPDD20/28

Pirie/Paterson

CARRIED

It was proposed that it be recommended to Council that the budgets of the projects shown in the table within the report be combined to fund the removal of silt from the Foreshore Canal and that Council consider accessing the funds in the Western Plains Drainage District reserves for the deficit of \$298,000.

RESOLVED

THAT it be recommended to Council to combine the budgets of the following projects to fund the removal of silt from the Foreshore Canal.

Renewals – Land Drainage

Proposed 2020-21 Capital Project Budgets	Detailed “raw” proposed 2020/21 budgets
WPDD Waitakaruru Right Stop Bank (F1)	\$65,000
WPDD Miranda North Stop Banks (F1)	\$53,000
WPDD Miranda North Stop Banks (F1)	\$36,000
Total	\$154,000

THAT it be recommended to Council to consider accessing the funds in the Western Plains Drainage District reserves for the deficit of \$298,000.

WPDD20/29

Laurich/Pirie

CARRIED

PROJECTED ENGINEERS ESTIMATE TO RAISE THE HOT SPRINGS RIGHT STOPBANK, RECONSTRUCT THE HOT SPRINGS LEFT STOPBANK AND RAISE BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT STOPBANKS OF THE KARITO CANAL – 2866141

The Infrastructure Systems and Planning Manager presented a report which sought the support of a recommendation to Council to agree to the projected engineers estimate to raise the hot springs right stopbank, reconstruct the hot springs left stopbank and raise both the left and right stopbanks of the Karito canal.

RESOLVED

THAT the WPDD will recommend the following to Council:

- a) To approve the estimated construction cost of \$1M to raise the Hot Springs Right Stopbank, Reconstruct the Hot Springs Left Stopbank and raise both the Left and Right Stopbanks of the Karito Canal.

- b) To reapply/redirect/move the \$324 000 approved for the Smythe's Floodgate project over to raise the Hot Springs Right Stopbank, reconstruct the Hot Springs left Stopbank and raise both the Left and Right Stopbanks of the Karito Canal, should the investigation into this asset confirms that no remedial or upgrading work is required.
- c) To proceed with the Resource Consent to dig out the silt build-up from the Hot Springs and Karito Canal and indeed all the other canals and drains that the RMA considers highly modified streams. Staff have made initial inquiries with WRC on how best to proceed with this.
- d) To approve an additional \$400,000 to raise the Hot Springs Right Stopbank, should we be unsuccessful to harvest 6475m³ of silt to raise the Stopbanks of both the Hot Springs -and Karito Canal and reconstruct the Hot Springs left Stopbank.

WPDD20/30

Laurich/Pirie

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Gavin Laurich stated that a property owner he had spoken with is proposing a 4-lot subdivision. There is a 5m easement by the drain. The property owner is concerned about an encroachment onto the Council drain. He has requested Council consider moving the board drain back to allow him to have more land for his development.

Adrian advised that consent to development an area of land for subdivision needs to consult with the planning and regulatory department on all aspects of the proposal and whether the proposal meets the requirements under the RMA.

Renaming of District Drainage Committees

It was proposed that all of the HDC Land Drainage Committee's consider a change of name to a more aptly defined name that is aligned with a climate change focus.

RESOLVED

THAT it be recommended to Council that consideration is given to changing the name of the HDC Land Drainage Committee's to a name which reflects a more climate change based focus.

WPDD20/31

Laurich/Pirie

CARRIED

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There was no issues of significance raised.

The meeting closed at 12.06pm

CONFIRMED

B A Carter
Chairperson

04 March 2021