

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 THURSDAY, 06 MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT

B A Carter (Chairperson), B Keane, G Laurich, P A Leonard (from 10.32am), P Johnstone, P Paterson (from 10.32am), M Karl (from 10.32am), R D Young, Cr Buckthought and Cr R Garrett

IN ATTENDANCE

S Clark (WRC - Works Supervisor, Paeroa Team - Integrated Catchment Management), K Botting (WRC-Infrastructure Programme Lead, Business and Technical Services, Integrated Catchment Management), E J Wentzel (HDC – Utilities Manager), G Russell (Land Drainage Contractor), B Stephens (Drainage Overseer) and C Black (Council Secretary)

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

THAT the apology for absence of B Pirie and for the lateness of P Leonard, P Paterson and M Karl be received and sustained.

WPDD21/35

Keane/Laurich

CARRIED

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 04-03-21 -2907520)

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 04 March 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

WPDD21/36

Buckthought/Laurich

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters raised.

Pat Leonard, Peter Paterson and Mike Karl attended the meeting at 10.32am.

Waikato Regional Council - Shovel Ready Projects

Karen Botting – WRC Infrastructure Programme Lead, provided an update on the WRC Shovel Ready projects.

- \$29million in grants alone for climate resilience projects.
- \$15million in grants – HDC and Coromandel projects.
- Piako green corridor - Ngatea stopbank upgrade.

It was advised that the time period from start to finish of these projects is between 3-5 years.

Western Plains Environmental Enhancement Projects

Karen invited questions from the members as she went through the key projects affecting the western plains.

Ngatea Stop Banks:

- Stopbank between college and Puhunga Bridge.
- Processes to manage upgrade of the banks.
- Letter of intent between WRC and HDC for these projects, budgets etc. Karen is working with HDC's Utilities Manager, E J Wentzel on this.

Foreshore – Eastern and Western Stop Banks Upgrade (Flood Protection Works) Provincial Development

New design being worked through to incorporate the cycleway – reshaping of bank. The cycleway would need to be closed for the shaping stage of the project. Likely to be over 2 summer seasons to complete this project.

Karen outlined advantages to ratepayers. Surveys are ongoing to confirm the boundary between farmers and HDC land.

Communication will be held with stakeholders/landowners affected by flood protection works to enable staff to work and negotiate with these parties. It is next to a RAMSAR site of more than 15km. The works undertaken will bring the stopbank to a height of 3.5m.

MBIE (Ministry, Business Innovation and Employment) will fund up to 65% of these works. The Ministry has requested that a timeline be provided to them when all shovel ready projects funded are expected to be completed.

Piako Green Corridor Project

Climate Resilience:

- 17km riparian restoration.
- WRC will provide restoration for the bird species to move between the Firth and Kopuatai wetland.
- Stakeholder group and interested parties are currently working together to develop a final concept for this project. This is a 2.5 – 3-year project.
- Allowing drainage works and planting programme to work together.
- Vermin controls are supported.

Stakeholders Representative - Communication between HDC Land Drainage and WRC

It was confirmed that Gavin Laurich be the Western Plains Committee representative on the WRC lead Piako Green Corridor project.

Action: Council Secretary to email all member's contact details to Karen to allow her to send information on WRC shovel ready projects to all members.

WRC Operational Updates: Steve Clark, WRC - Works Supervisor

- Stopbank – top up trial completed at Ngatea and is being monitored.
- Holding off doing Piako floodgates as there is no water inside the gates.

- Paul Leonard pump discharge pipe successfully relined. Has been checked and has shown to be working well.
- Next financial year – timber retaining at Rawerawe pump station.

HDC Staff Update

EJ Wentzel, Utilities Manager introduced himself and Guy Russell, Land Drainage Contractor, to the committee for those members that were absent at the last meeting. The members were advised that Guy has extensive knowledge and expertise in the land drainage area over many years.

DISTRICT DRAINAGE REPORT – FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 MONTHS TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021 – 2936191

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received.

WPDD21/37

Karl/Paterson

CARRIED

HDC Drainage Overseer Update – Operational

The Drainage Overseer provided a summary of activity since the last meeting.

- Weed regrowth spraying programme continues.
- Replaced Van Eyk floodgate steel work
- Smyth’s floodgate – Feeder drain has been desilted and cleaned. A structural audit was undertaken on the floodgate asset where it was found to be in structurally sound condition so there is no requirement for its replacement. This funding can now be utilised elsewhere.
- Low pump running hours.
- A contract to excavate silt from the borrowpit from Indian floodgate to Karito canal has been evaluated and a preferred contractor recommended.
- The contract to upgrade the stopbanks along the Karito canal and the Hot Springs canal has been let to KTL Ltd. Work will be undertaken in October – November 2021.
- Floodgate works to lengthen the pipes will commence at Miranda hot pools prior to the stopbank upgrading work.
- The overhaul of one of the Hopai West pumps has been completed and the pump will be reinstated next Wednesday, 12 May. Once installed, work will start on the discharge pipe.
- Spoke on new machinery – digger (Kubota) purchased.

Re-naming of Land Drainage Committees

The members inquired into the status of the proposed name change of the drainage committees to align with a more climate change focus.

The matter has not yet been considered by Council. A suggestion has been received that the name be changed to the Land/Water/Drainage Management Committees. It was advised that a submission has also been received through Council’s Long Term Plan consultation process suggesting the name be changed to ‘Water Management’ Committees but it was considered that this name does not clearly reflect the true purpose and role of the Committees.

Further consideration on the name change will be sought from the Committee along with input from the Utilities Manager and Group Manager - Service Delivery.

Member's feedback on drainage matters in their areas:

The members were invited to raise any matters requiring consideration within their designated drainage areas.

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 11.58am.

CONFIRMED

B A Carter
Chairperson

01 July 2021