

## HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EASTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NGATEA SERVICE CENTRE, 84 ORCHARD WEST ROAD, NGATEA ON THURSDAY, 04 MAY 2023 COMMENCING AT 1.00PM

**PRESENT** R Hunter (Chairperson), K J Reid (Deputy Chairperson, K R Caddy, T Nicholson, A Green, D Coldicutt, P Schouten, R Webster, Cr P Buckthought (Council Representative) and Cr N Gray (Council Representative)

**IN ATTENDANCE** J de Vos (Utilities Manager), D Plom (Operations Engineer – Team Leader), G Russell (Land Drainage Contractor) and C Black (Council Secretary)

Cr Buckthought welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the re-established Eastern Plains District Drainage Committee following the receipt of nominations for the 2023-2026 term and called the meeting to order.

#### **APOLOGIES**

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT the apology of Cr S Crooymans be received and sustained.

EPDD23/06

Hunter/Reid

**CARRIED**

Apologies were noted from the HDC Land Drainage Overseer and the Waikato Regional Council staff.

The Utilities Manager introduced David Plom, Operations Engineer Team Leader – Service Delivery who had recently taken up the role and would be the successor to the current Land Drainage Contractor upon his retirement.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR**

Cr Buckthought called for nominations for the roles of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Peter Schouten nominated Roger Hunter to the role of Chairperson.

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT Roger Hunter be elected as Chairperson.

EPDD23/07

Reid/Coldicutt

**CARRIED**

#### **RESOLVED**

THAT Kim Reid be elected as Deputy Chairperson.

EPDD23/08

Schouten/Webster

**CARRIED**

Roger Hunter assumed the chair.

#### **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

**RESOLVED**

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 02 February 2023 are received and confirmed as a true and correct record.

EPDD23/09

Hunter/Coldicutt

**CARRIED**

DRAINAGE REPORT – JANUARY – MARCH 2023 AND FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 9  
MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2023 - 3393356

The Land Drainage Contractor presented the land drainage activity and financial report covering January – March 2023.

**RESOLVED**

THAT the report be received.

EPDD23/10

Hunter/Webster

**CARRIED**

Drainage Contractor's Report

- Due to the higher than normal amounts of rain over the last three months, staff have continued to monitor and respond to the assets to ensure that they will operate when necessary.
- Spraying for the 2022/23 year did not commence until 20 March 2023 due to the adverse weather that has been experienced since August 2022. Since then 23.5 km have been sprayed within the Eastern Plains area and that includes the completion of the annual helicopter spray.
- There has been significant drain cleaning activity, mainly responding to issues that have arisen resulting from the rainfall events and because spraying had not been able to happen earlier due to the continuous adverse weather.
- Machines cleared blocked culverts and mechanically removed weeds at Reservoir pumps, Awaiti West and Johnstone pumps.
- Rainfall has been significant in January and February with some areas experiencing greater than design events. Eastern Plains area had 30 to 40-year rainfall at Ngatea but a bit less further east. Most areas cleared water within 3 days, except for H-Drain and Awaiti catchments due to Roger Harris pumpstation being out of action.
- Pump operation has been significantly high for January and February due to the amount of rain and saturated catchments.

Cr Buckthought advised members that there is funding in the Mayoral Relief Fund that is available to ratepayers if they have been impacted directly by the ex-Cyclone Gabrielle event. The funding towards the purchase of grass seed for reseeded of pasture would be a key need.

Keven Caddy – asked if the drain through Edmonds was to be cleaned.

A discussion was held on the Awaiti roadside drain and how difficult it was to clean.

**Action: Members requested the Awaiti Roadside drain to be sprayed more than once a year.**

### Member's feedback on drainage matters in their areas:

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

- Peter Schouten – asked when is the South catchment drain going to be cleaned. Land Drainage contractor advised that it is cleaned annually and is due to be done the following week. Advised that the Spencer drain and the Candy drain, has dead weed that is blocking them up and they need to be cleaned out.
- Richard Webster – drains are working well.
- Coldicutt – all drains in his area are looking good.
- Kim Reid – H Drain – digger has gone through and water levels are good. McMillan drain, thick weed is prolific and is at threat of blocking flow. Most drains are clean so there is no need to do much spraying.
- It was asked who cleans the Tee-head canal? Contractor advised that WRC maintain the Awaiti and Tee Head canals.
- Roger Hunter – good feedback was received from ratepayers that HDC and WRC pumps worked well during the severe weather events. He noted there are hay bales in his borrowpit drain. Requested Land Drainage Contractor contact WRC about this.
- Roger has put in service requests to have the culvert cleaned on Bush Road just before school. It has been blocked for some time. Roger has been advised his request has been completed but the culvert still remains blocked.
- Keven Caddy – Carters block has a lot of poa aquatica (glyceria maxima) weed growth.
- Andrew Green – Drain on Hamilton Road, Fox property needs cleaning.

The meeting closed at 2.10pm.

CONFIRMED

R Hunter  
Chairperson

06 July 2023