

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT

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, 04 MAY 2023 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT

B Pirie (Chairperson), B Keane (Deputy Chairperson), B Carter, G Laurich, P A Leonard, P Paterson, Cr P Buckthought (Council Representative) and S Croymans (Council Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE

R D Young (co-opted member) J de Vos (Utilities Manager), G Russell (Land Drainage Contractor), D Plom (Operations Engineer – Team Leader) and C Black (Council Secretary)

Cr Buckthought welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the re-established Western 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 members, P Johnstone and M Karl be received and sustained.

WPDD23/07

Keane/Pirie

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.

Brian Keane nominated Brian Pirie for the role of Chairperson.

RESOLVED

THAT Brian Pirie be elected as Chairperson.

WPDD23/08

Keane/ Carter

CARRIED

Peter Paterson nominated Brian Keane for the role of Deputy Chairperson.

RESOLVED

THAT Brian Keane be elected as Deputy Chairman.

WPDD23/09

Paterson/Pirie

CARRIED

Brian Pirie assumed the chair.

LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

CONFIRMATION: WESTERN PLAINS DRAINAGE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 02-02-23 - 3354857

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Western Plains Drainage District Committee held on Thursday, 02 February 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

WPDD23/10

Pirie/Laurich

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Muggeridge Pump Project Update

Gavin Laurich requested that a WRC representative be invited to update the Committee on the Muggeridge's pump project.

Action: Chair to contact WRC - Waihou-Piako Subcommittee Chair, Robbie Cookson to attend 6th July Western Plains Committee meeting for this update.

Capital Works

Foreshore stopbank - first stage for the Waitakaruru to Karito section has been completed with partially dried spoil lifted onto the stopbank, this will be shaped and re-grassed in April-May if the ground dries out sufficiently. This stopbank is up to full height but just requires reshaping to complete the work.

Canal West Road Stopbank

This work has been deferred and is to be carried out February 2024.

Phillips Road Drain - Floodgates

Peter Johnstone - water from the Phillips Road Catchment is flooding onto his property and other properties. When the Phillips Road floodgates close, water reverse flows down the drain to flood the lowest land. He asked that Council consider funding the installation of a floodgate to prevent this reverse flow. Members suggested putting a block in the drain as an option to address the issue.

Action: Land Drainage Contractor (Guy Russell) to investigate if a resource consent is required to install a floodgate in the Phillips Road drain.

DRAINAGE ACTIVITY REPORT - 3392958

The Land Drainage Contractor presented the land drainage activity report covering the months of January to March 2023 and financial report for the 9 months to 31 March.

RESOLVED

THAT the report be received.

WPDD23/11

Buckthought/Carter

CARRIED

Drainage Contractor

- Staff have continuously been spraying since Xmas as the weather has allowed, but are well behind for this time of the year.
- There has been lower impact from the weather events on western plains as drains have required less mechanical cleaning during the flood events compared to the eastern plains district.
- Routine inspections of assets are being undertaken to ensure they are operational during weather events.
- Machine work has been completed at Indian high-level floodgate, and cleared Costello floodgate. Also cleared Mangawhero debris trap, Tako's culvert and Rawerawe West culvert.
- Culverts: G Laurich, culvert crossing in Rawerawe Roadside drain.
- January had the highest rainfall since records began. February was 230% greater than average.
- Flooding from the western hills occurred at the end of January.
- The Hot Springs left stopbank overtopped flooding farmland and the Miranda Hot Springs holiday park
- Flooding occurred for more than 3-days in the Hot Springs area and the Karito canal catchment above the Hill drain and stopbank
- Mangatangi rainfall was recorded to be a 60 to 80-year event
- Severe weather events are becoming more frequent
- High pump running hours for January and February.

Financial Report

Finances are sitting within budget because there has been no significant mechanical cleaning undertaken to date.

Member's feedback on drainage matters in their areas:

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

Replacement for Ross Young – Area 6 - Patetonga / Mangawhero

Ross Young was in attendance and advised the Committee that he did not seek a nomination for the 2023-26 Term as he had chosen to retire but was willing to stay on as member of the Committee in the interim until a suitable replacement could be found for Area 6 - Patetonga / Mangawhero with Peter Paterson. There was an inference that the other member for this area, Peter Paterson could oversee this area but the Committee preferred that a second person be included.

RESOLVED

THAT Ross Young be co-opted onto the Western Plains Drainage District Committee for Area 6 - Mangawhero/Patetonga in the interim until a replacement member could be found.

WPDD23/12

Paterson/Keane

CARRIED

Proposal Report to Restructure Committees

Cr Croymans raised a proposal that had been discussed briefly at Council that the four land drainage committees could be combined to form one overall committee that would oversee the operation of all drainage districts.

Therefore, to enable the Committee to have a clearer view on what the proposed structure would look like, it was requested that staff prepare a report to the next meeting in July where consideration of the proposal could be reviewed by members in more detail.

Other feedback:

- Brian Carter – block in drain at Bell’s – holding up water on Walsh’s property. The issue was discussed and the committee was advised that the block is not having an adverse effect on drainage as all landowners have direct access to Council drains. It is an issue between landowners.
- Patrick Leonard – Rawerawe East – pampas grass encroaching in the drain by the floodgate.
- Gavin Laurich - Rawerawe West pump – pump is still not working satisfactorily as it regularly cuts out.

Action: Drainage Overseer to follow up why Rawerawe West pump – pump is still not working.

The meeting closed at 12.27pm.

CONFIRMED

B Pirie
Chairperson

06 July 2023