

Notes of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group meeting held at The Orchard, 20 MacLoughlin Drive, Te Puke, on Wednesday, 2 September 2020, commencing at 10am

Chair: Councillor Norm Bruning

Advisory Group: Barry Roderick, Dave Hurst, Graham Thompson, Peter Dine, Nick Chater, Richard Weld

BOPRC Councillors: Councillor Matemoana McDonald

BOPRC Staff: Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Lynne Hind (Asset Management Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Kerry Smith (Area Engineer), Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Hemi Barsdell (Asset Management Specialist), Paula Chapman (Project Manager)

Public: Noel McLeod

Apologies: John Scrimgeour (Western Bay of Plenty District Council), Roger Hintz, Heather Brake, Pim De Monchy

1 **Welcome**

Councillor Bruning welcomed everyone to the meeting and Hemi Barsdell opened the meeting with a karakia.

Chris Ingle acknowledged the newest member of the Kaituna Advisor Group – Heather Brake. Although Heather was unable to make this meeting, Chris noted the strengths she will bring to the group including her work as part of the Community Reference Group assisting with flood recovery for Ngongotahā. She will be a welcome addition to our team.

Kirsty Brown introduced Lynne Hind as the Acting Asset Management Coordinator who will be filling in for Jo Heath, whilst Jo is on secondment until the end of the year.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies received as recorded above.

3 **Notes of previous meeting held 4 March 2020**

Resolved

That the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group:

- 1 **Confirm the notes of the meeting held 4 March 2020 as a true and correct record.**

Hurst/Thompson
CARRIED

4 **Matters arising from previous meeting**

- Figure queried from April 2017 Flood Repair Project infographic, regarding \$7 million. It was noted this was just for Group member information.

General question about Covid-19 as to whether the group would be happy to use Zoom for ongoing meetings if needed, general preference was not to use it if possible.

5 **Central Government Funded Projects**

Chris Ingle presented an overview of the Central Government Funding provided to Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Key points included:

- Funding categories – Provincial Development Unit funding, Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) bids, Jobs for Nature (co-ordinated by MfE), Department of Conservation jobs for nature, One Billion Trees programme (1BT), MPI funding for wallabies and wilding trees.
- Kia Kaha Whakatāne – Paula Chapman is the Project Manager, funds must be spent by 30 November 2020, \$2.1 million awarded via Whakatāne District Council for region-wide projects including track clearance, pest control, coast-care enhancement work and removing problem trees alongside waterways. Over 70 jobs created short-term, focus on those unemployed due to Covid-19. Monthly reporting requirement to the Ministry of Business and Innovation (MBIE).
- Crown Infrastructure Partners – The Kaituna Mole upgrade has received 75% funding (total project cost is \$2.5 million).
- MfE Jobs for Nature – First round granted to Bay Conservation Alliance for the Bay Conservation Cadet Programme. This is a 12-week programme that covers NZQA certifications such as Growsafe, Outdoor First Aid and Chainsaw licence. Combination of work experience and onsite training across a range of sites in the Bay of Plenty. Work will include pest and weed control, planting, fencing, tree management, understanding of nursery management, track cutting, species monitoring and conservation from a Māori world view. An additional four-week period will offer further support for cadets seeking long-term employment. Second round of \$55 million must provide job creation related to fresh water outcomes and include a local funding share – Bay of Plenty Regional Council is considering placing two or three project bids into this funding round.
- Focus Catchments work – Waihi Estuary Catchment has been awarded funding from MPI to assist in work primarily for engagement activities.
- One Billion Trees (1BT) - \$1.5 million partnership agreement through Te Uru Rakau's 1BT programme. Subsidises all Bay of Plenty Regional Council native plantings in coming years and helps with native planting for Kaiate Falls (Te Rerekawau) focus catchment (Waitao).
- Wallabies and Wilding Trees – four-year programme. \$1.45 million for wallaby control in current year with contributions from Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils. Funding increased in Year Two. Wilding pine control awarded \$817,000 in three management areas.

Discussion:

- Barry asked how much was spent on creating native species e.g. eel and whitebait stocks. Chris noted that Bay of Plenty Regional Council are on a journey towards enhancing habitats and Bruce Crabbe was currently working on this.

6 Engineering Update

Mark Townsend spoke to his report and presentation.

Key points included:

- Kaituna Mole Replacement - \$2.5 million budget, 75% funded by CIF. Construction of new sheet pile wall and concrete deck around existing structure. Kirsty Brown will be leading the landscaping work with Pim De Monchy.
- Ngongotahā Stream - \$2 million budget.
- Mark spoke to “Developments in the Kaituna Catchment” slide – areas covered were Rangiuru Business Park, Te Puke West, Pukehangi, Eastside Structure Plan – Rotorua and Ponds H and G in Pāpāmoa.
- Climate change overview – due to greenhouse gas emissions global average temperatures are rising, oceans are absorbing 93% of the extra energy, extreme events increasing in frequency.

ACTION:

NIWA Climate Change video link to be sent to the Advisory Group for their information.

- Mark spoke to slide that showed likely climate change impacts for the Bay of Plenty in 2040 and 2090 based on current greenhouse gas emission rates.
- Bell Road Sub-catchment – current level of service (LOS) discussed, based on five-year, three-day event with present LOS conditions. Lot of land not meeting the 72 hours level of service currently. Various scenarios modelled as per March 2020 meeting.

A number of options/questions were put to the Advisory Group in March 2020 to consider which included:

- Designated ponding areas that are temporarily flooded, with compensation provided to the landowners.
- Options for retention higher up in the catchment.
- Should the scheme spend money on increasing pump capacity that may not achieve the level of service into the future (e.g with climate change and the lowering of land, peat drying out and shrinking)? Or is it better to retire the affected land and change the land use?
- Some hard questions and decisions required - into the future is this the best place to be farming?

Discussion:

- Bell Road Pump Station – questions around scheme sustainability in light of modelling results to date. Concerns that many farms require new consents for ongoing effluent treatment at a cost of \$250,000-\$300,000 per farm. Hard to go forward on low land without knowing the economic viability of it. Need to look after the land for the next generation. Resolution presented by Dave Hurst on behalf of the Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Advisory Group recommend to Council that an independent consultant does an overview of options going forward before any more infrastructure money is spent by Council.

**Hurst/Roderick
CARRIED**

7 Operations Update

Bruce Crabbe took the report on the Kaituna scheme's maintenance works programme in the agenda pack as read.

Kerry Smith presented the Operations Update PowerPoint.

Key points included:

- Lower Kaituna, Kopuaroa Canal – approximately 2 kms of canal desilted, berms and bank reshaped. Surplus material loaded into landward toe.
- Lower Kaituna, Maketū Pump Station – upgrade to pump station's switchboard and telemetry. Updated to current electrical regulations and is now safer, more reliable and easier to operate.
- Lower Kaituna – rabbits continue to be an ongoing problem. Infestation of burrows living in the stream and stopbanks – the Advisory Group were shown photos of areas of concern at Kaituna River left bank and Waiari Canal right bank stopbanks.
- Ōkere Control Structure, maintenance – as at 13 August 2020, two of the three gates and lifting mechanisms have been refurbished and reinstalled. Final gate and lifting mechanism scheduled to be installed early September 2020.
- Rotorua, Waiowhiro Stream – obstacles were removed from Waiowhiro Stream and improvements made to the berm and flow to alleviate localised flooding.
- Windblown Tree Removals – from Waiowhiro Stream channel, Utuhina Stream erosion site and Waitetī Stream.

8 April 2017 Flood Repair Project Update

Paula Chapman spoke to the report provided in the agenda pack and delivered a presentation showing progress with the April 2017 Flood Repair Project.

Key points included:

- Rock repair costs in this scheme are higher than the rest of the region and damage from recent flooding has exacerbated issues in some places. Some sites have self-healed while higher priority sites in many cases have become worse.
- The forecast is for a total \$5.2 million spend instead of a \$3 million spend due to material cost being more expensive (rock supply and cartage) and more extensive works required.
- Kaituna – to date expenditure is \$4 million with \$1.2 million in recoveries to date.
- 30 of the 45 Kaituna sites were completed as at September 2020.

- Expected progress in the next six months is to complete 75% of the Kaituna works, finalise material damage claim for pumps and temporary pumping claim and to lodge and receive NEMA Claim 13.

Discussion:

- Question over whether other projects in the programme were also 30-40% over budget. It was noted they were not and several things had caused this overspend. For example estimates were based on standard rates and in several cases once work had started, more damage had been identified and this has required more materials. In other catchments there were also more self-healed sites.

9 Finance Report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the financial report that was tabled at the meeting and provided an overview of the scheme's revenue and expenditure for the 12 months ending 30 June 2020.

Key points included:

- Total operating deficit of \$30,000 at year-end as a result of more work being carried out and less revenue.
- Higher capital funding from NERM (previously MCDEM) and insurance pay outs, resulting in a favourable surplus of \$594,000.
- Lower capital expenditure due to COVID-19 lockdown and lack of available rock.
- Total reserve funds available of \$6.6 million.
- Internal loan balance of \$8.7 million.
- Annual 2020 valuation is currently underway.

Discussion:

- Interest loan rate was queried and confirmed as 3%. Andy Dixon also confirmed there was no cap on the flood reserve.

10 River Scheme Planning (AMP and LTP)

Hemi Barsdell presented the River Scheme Planning update.

Key dates:

6 October 2020	Council review of draft Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2031 and AMP budgets
10-11 November 2020	Second Council review of draft Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2031 budgets and AMP documents
December 2020	AMPs and draft LTP 2021-2031 documents adopted by Council for review by Audit NZ
February – May 2021	LTP consultation, submissions, hearings
March 2021	Advisory Group meeting
June 2021	LTP approved

Key points included:

- Baseline maintenance and operations budgets will increase due mostly to an increase in the number of assets, e.g. 2017 Flood Repair Project and the Ngongotahā Stream Flood Mitigation Project. Forecasting a 10-20% increase at this stage.
- The capital budget shared during the Long Term Plan (LTP) workshop with the Kaituna Advisory Group on 19 August 2020, is the same.
- Confirmed draft scheme budgets will be shared at the March 2021 Kaituna Advisory Group meeting.

Discussion:

It was discussed whether there were any budget implications for some of the floodgates to function more often. Bruce Crabbe confirmed these will be looked at when it is time to replace the floodgates.

11 Co-governance / community group updates

Site visit to be done after this meeting to Kaituna Diversion Project, this will be hosted by Mark Townsend in the absence of Pim De Monchy. A report from Stephen Park on the Maketū Estuary benthic ecology monitoring 2020 was provided to the Advisory Group in advance of the site visit.

No updates for the Freshwater Futures group.

12 General business**12.1 River Scheme Rating Classification**

Kirsty Brown provided an update on the River Scheme Rating Classification project.

Key points included:

- Simon Harris from Land Water People has been engaged to do a review of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme rating system.
- Group members will be kept up to date as the project develops, with the first report due early October 2020.

ACTION:

Kirsty to send out Simon Harris report to Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group in October 2020.

12.2 Infrastructure insurance

Kirsty presented an overview of the infrastructure insurance. Central government pays up to 60% of the repair costs for essential infrastructure to local authorities, conditional on us showing we can meet the remaining 40% through other means.

On 30 July 2020 a workshop was held between Council staff and Aon representatives. Aon will now be carrying out a frequency loss assessment for us and in turn we have created a video to show how the Bay of Plenty river and drainage area has been hit with recent disasters and what systems we have in place to prepare for this. As part of the loss assessment, Aon will identify and analyse the loss exposures for rivers and drainage assets

and examine the feasibility of self-insurance as a cost-effective option. Other ways to manage risk will also be examined, e.g. capacity to borrow, to fund any loss or damage.

As our insurance is obtained in London it was noted that due to the impact of Covid-19 on this market, our insurance premiums may go up by 15 percent.

The Kaituna scheme's infrastructure premium for this year was \$139,000.

12.3 Review of the Floodway and Drainage Bylaw 2008

The Floodway and Drainage Bylaw 2008 sets out regulations that safeguard flood protection and land drainage assets from third party damage or misuse. The bylaw is reviewed to ensure it is still fit-for-purpose and informed by the latest science and flood information. Due to Covid-19, deliberation and adoption timeframes were postponed until the following dates:

- Hearings – 26 August 2020
- Deliberations – 30 September 2020
- Adoption – 29 October 2020

Submissions closed 28 April 2020 with a total of 43 submissions received. Fifteen organisations and individuals advised they would like to be heard at the hearing.

Further information on the proposed Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws 2020 can be found on our website at <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/our-projects/flood-protection-and-drainage-bylaw-review>

12.4 Advisory group membership – September 2020 to September 2023

The first three-year term for Advisory Group membership was due to finish this month (September 2020). Members were approached by staff and everyone in the Kaituna Advisory Group noted they would like to continue. One vacancy for the Rotorua Urban position was still available since Warren Webber resigned in September 2018.

As per the Terms of Reference this vacancy was advertised via public notice in The Daily Post (Rotorua) and on our website.

Applications closed on Friday, 21 August 2020 and a selection panel of Councillor Bruning, Councillor McDonald, Chris Ingle and Kirsty Brown reviewed the applicants. Ngongotahā local, Heather Brake has been successful in her nomination and will be the new Rotorua Urban representative from September 2020.

12.5 Other general business

Richard Weld had asked if there was a chance to see more detail around what was being spent, in what areas and how much in regards to the Flood Recovery Project. Kirsty confirmed she could provide that information in another month (end of October).

ACTION:

Kirsty to send out more detailed information on spending to the Advisory Group, e.g. what areas and how much, by 31 October 2020.

Councillor McDonald mentioned we could have a Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority presentation at the next Kaituna Advisory Group meeting in March 2021.

ACTION:

Te Maru o Kaituna River presentation to be added to agenda for Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group meeting in March 2021.

Meeting closed at 12:38 pm.

Site visit to the Kaituna Re-diversion Project followed this meeting.