

# Notes of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meeting held at 5 Quay Street, Whakatane, on Wednesday, 9 September 2020, commencing at 10am

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<b>Chair:</b>	Councillor Bill Clark
<b>Advisory Group:</b>	Alan Law, Linda Virbickas, Peter Askey, Shona Pedersen, Heyden Johnston, Councillor Alison Silcock, Glenn Cooper
<b>BOPRC Councillors:</b>	Councillor Stacey Rose (until 11am)
<b>BOPRC Staff:</b>	Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Lynne Hind (Asset Management Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Peter Hay (Engineering Team Leader), Andrew Pawson (Area Engineer), Tony Dunlop (Flood Repair Project Engineer), Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Hemi Barsdell (Asset Management Specialist), Paula Chapman (Project Manager), Charles Harley (Team Leader Eastern Catchments), Kay Boreham (Communications Partner), Craig Rowson (Team Leader Environmental Data – Collection)
<b>Public:</b>	None attended
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor Toi Kai Rākau Iti
<b>Absent:</b>	Jim Finlay (replaced by Glenn Cooper), Claire Gordon, Andy Dixon, Lee Ann Waaka

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## 1 Welcome

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

Councillor Clark introduced Councillor Rose and the newest member of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group, Heyden Johnston. Councillor Clark also acknowledged the second new member of the Advisory Group, Lee Ann Waaka who was unfortunately not able to attend this meeting.

Heyden is involved in search and rescue and is the Chairperson of the Thornton Community Emergency Response Team. He lives next to the Rangitāiki River and carries on the tradition with this Group as his father George Johnston was a previous member. Lee Ann would like to gain knowledge on the scheme to inform the Rangitāiki community. Both new members will be a great addition to the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Advisory Group.

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 11 March 2020

#### Resolved

That the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group:

- 1 Confirm the notes of the meeting held 11 March 2020 as a true and correct record.

Silcock/Law  
CARRIED

### 4 Matters arising from previous meeting

- Alan Law queried whether an update was available for the Cardno Report. Mark mentioned the Trustpower meeting was postponed due to Covid-19. Chris suggested a deadline be set to get an update on this report.

#### **ACTION:**

***Date to be set for Cardno Report update with Trustpower and Mark Townsend.  
Mark to report back to Advisory Group.***

### 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:**

- 75% funding for Rangitāiki River floodway and spillway.
- \$3 million for Rangitāiki floodwalls.
- Kia Kaha Whakatāne – Bruce Crabbe is coordinating some work in river schemes and 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.
- 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.
- 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:**

- Councillor Clark queried the longevity of this funding, e.g. Jobs for Nature, was it likely to go longer term? Chris confirmed it was unlikely. Department of Conservation (DoC) are focused on working with people who have been unemployed due to Covid-19.

## 6 Engineering Update

Peter Hay presented the engineering update to the Advisory Group.

### Key points included:

- Lower Rangitāiki Stopbank Upgrade - \$960,000 budget. Geotechnical aspects to be considered and stopbank height to be increased.
- Rangitāiki River Floodwalls Upgrade - \$1.2 million budget (2020/21). Three concrete floodwalls to be replaced over three years.
- Rangitāiki Floodway Stage 7 – \$1.35 million budget. Part of the floodway capacity upgrades to alleviate pressure on the Rangitāiki River. Phases 1 and 3 have been completed, Phase 2 held up due to landowner access.
- Rangitāiki Floodway Stage 6 - \$10.9 million budget. To raise floodway stopbanks in three stages including associated drainage and seepage works. Work commencing in November 2020.
- Rangitāiki Floodway Spillway. To upgrade spillway for greater capacity.
- Mark Townsend spoke briefly about the River Scheme Sustainability Project. \$100,000 budget – vision to have a 100-year sustainable river management strategy. Three different options to develop, will update the Advisory Group at the March 2021 meeting.

### Discussion:

- Discussion around tenders and whether there was interest from outside the district. Councillor Clark asked about the local skillset and how we could protect that. It was acknowledged that Peter Hay has been doing a lot of work to help train local contractors to increase/maintain this skillset.

### **ACTION:**

**Mark Townsend to give River Scheme Sustainability Project update to the Advisory Group at March 2021 meeting.**

*Attendance: Peter Askey arrived.*

## 7 Rangitāiki Monitoring

Craig Rowson (Team Leader Environmental Data – Collection) presented to the Advisory Group.

### Key points included:

- A screenshot of our updated website that is available to the public was shown to the Advisory Group. This can be found at <https://envdata.boprc.govt.nz/>
- Craig explained rain gauges in the region and what data was available to the public.

### Discussion:

Some data is not available to the public as it belongs to Trustpower, however it is available to us in flood control. General discussion as to whether it was possible to give the public more access to this. Look into getting Trustpower to come to the next meeting to discuss this and give an update on the Cardno report.

**ACTION:**

**Invite Trustpower to the next Advisory Group meeting in March 2021. Would like to hear from them in regards to data with Rangitāiki monitoring and the Cardno Report update.**

## 8 Gravel Management

Mark Townsend spoke to the Gravel Extraction report, which he took as read.

**Key points included:**

- Gravel management in the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme presently only occurs in the Rangitāiki River upstream of the Matahina Dam.
- Most extraction occurs in the Horomanga River.
- Extraction has been suspended in the upper part of the Horomanga River, from the confluence with the Ohutu River, to enable bed level recovery.
- Extractions are minor in the Mangamate Stream, Jones Drywash and Ohutu Streams.
- Gravel extractions have been approved for Kopuriki Stream this year, a total of 18,000m<sup>3</sup> to date in 2020.

**Discussion:**

Councillor Clark queried as to whether there was one type of rock stronger than another that we may use, e.g. Manawahe rock fractures when building a wall. Mark explained there is a shortage of rock supply and Manawahe has been looked at and tested. It doesn't have the same properties as Matahina rock but can be used in lower energy / lower velocity areas. Extraction under Rabbit Bridge (Lake Aniwaniwa Delta) was discussed.

**Attendance:** Councillor Rose and Mark Townsend left the meeting.

## 9 Operations Update

Bruce Crabbe gave an overview on the Operations report and explained current rock spend on replenishing existing rock.

Andrew Pawson presented the Operations Update PowerPoint to the Advisory Group.

**Key points included:**

- Pests in and around the river – animals/plants. Some rabbit holes were extensive. One hole can go into the stopbank and migrate into four, then six, etc. Lots of Woolly Nightshade and Alligator Weed.
- Undesirable activities – several sites around the area have had vandalism, graffiti, fly tipping and tree felling into the river. One example of vandalism included a smashed electrical pump station which cost over \$3,000 to ratepayers.
- Planting and releasing – Waikakariki Ltd and Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff. Service from Murupara people has been great.
- Minor scheme works – Omeheu Canal.

- Willow topping/mulching – working with locals on this one.

#### Discussion:

Continued discussion around rabbits and that it is a significant risk factor. Andrew noted that if anyone sees a lot of rabbits in their area it should be reported to us to remedy.

## 10 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:

- In Year Four of the flood repair project.
- As at 31 August 2020, 164 sites have been completed or no longer require remediation for the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme.
- 60 sites are remaining. Some sites in Rangitāiki-Tarawera and Whakatāne will not be completed by 30 June 2021 due to constraints in rock supply.
- There was an original works estimate of just under \$28 million. This is now estimated to be less, at \$25.8 million.
- Expenditure to date is \$15.1 million with \$6.8 million in recoveries.
- Looking at low priority sites to see if they still need to be done. Often high priority sites got worse but low priority sites were self-healing. Andrew Pawson is doing some work in this area.
- Expected progress in the next six months is to complete 80% of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme works including Reach 2 Edgecumbe to Te Teko, Reach 5 the last of the Galatea rock works and if rock supply permits, Reach 3 Te Teko to Matahina. It is also envisaged that NEMA Claim 13 will be drafted, the College Road land title transfers will be concluded and the material damage claim (pump stations) will also be completed.

#### Discussion:

- With work to be done in late spring and into summer the question was asked as to whether there would be any challenge there with El Nino, etc. Paula confirmed that there was a high level of confidence in getting the work done as the high priority sites would be done first.

## 11 River Scheme Planning (AMP and LTP)

Hemi Barsdell presented the River Scheme Planning update.

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

**Key points included:**

- Baseline maintenance and operations budgets will increase due mostly to an increase in the number of assets.
- The capital budget shared during the Long Term Plan (LTP) workshop with the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group on 21 August 2020, is the same.
- Confirmed draft scheme budgets will be shared at the March 2021 Advisory Group meeting.

12 **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:**

- Annual 2020 valuation is currently underway.
- High revenue and lower operational expenditure has resulted in a favourable operational position of \$514,000.
- Capital revenue was higher than budget due to additional recoveries received for the April 2017 Flood Repair project (insurance and NEMA claims).
- Total capital expenditure at year end was \$8,363 million (\$111,000 higher than budget).
- Closing balance of \$6.6 million for reserves.
- Closing loan balance of \$39.7 million.

Councillor Clark questioned why the \$100,000 Papataonga development contribution to Whakatāne District Council was charged against the scheme.

**Discussion:**

- Discussion around Crown Infrastructure Fund and how it affects rates, e.g. will they go down due to funding? Query around whether it was a grant or loan. Chris confirmed it was a grant and that a financial analysis would be done and emailed out to the Advisory Group.

**ACTION:**

***Finance team to do a financial analysis on Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme to see how Crown Infrastructure funding has affected rates. Emailed analysis to go to the Advisory Group.***

- Linda queried what rates were due for swamps/wetland. Charles Harley noted that there may be avenues available to landowners to seek rate exemptions on wetlands. As Councils are encouraging wetlands Alan thought it would be useful to let the public know to incentivise wetland protection, if indeed rates exemptions for wetlands are accessible. Charles would update Linda further on this.

**ACTION:**

***Charles Harley to update Linda Virbickas directly on rating exemptions for wetlands.***

## 13 Co-governance / community group updates

### Key points included:

- Councillor Silcock and Shona went through the Lake Aniwanuiwa Walking and Cycling Facility presentation with the Advisory Group.
- Project led by Galatea Community Group.
- Long term goal of establishing a recreational resource for the local community and potential local and overseas visitors.
- Cost will be approximately \$30,000. Pioneer Energy / Southern Generation, Whakatāne District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council are supporting this project by funding the cost of the initial design and concept plan.
- Damian Clarke from Rotorua Trails Trust is working on a detailed plan.
- Bruce Crabbe offered the services of PGF (Kia Kaha Whakatāne) contractors if some trees need clearing now for the trail and landowners are happy for this to go ahead. Tree clearing would need to be completed by mid-November so must be ready to go now.

### **ACTION:**

***Shona will contact Damian Clarke to confirm if any tree clearing is required.***

### Discussion:

- Talk around how long Lake Aniwanuiwa Walking and Cycling Track may take, Damian Clarke had confirmed they were getting through 100-150 metres per day.
- Discussion around weed issues and whether Southern Generation can drop the river to assist with this as diquat has not been very effective. Chris confirmed they were lowering it once a year. Charles Harley added that the consent allowed them to lower the river twice a year by a metre for weed control, but it wasn't mandatory. Currently his team were flying drones in the area to see how effective weed control had been.

## 14 General business

### 14.1 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 on the London market it was noted that due to the impact of Covid-19 on this market, our insurance premiums may go up.

The Rangitāiki-Tarawera scheme's infrastructure premium for this year was \$243,000.

A video has been created by Bay of Plenty Regional Council to show what systems we have in place within Rivers and Drainage and how prepared we are for flood protection, as part of the information package for Aon. This was shown to the Advisory Group.

## 14.2 Review of the Floodway and Drainage Bylaw

The Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws are regulations that safeguard flood protection and land drainage assets from third party damage or misuse. The bylaws are reviewed to ensure they are 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>

## 14.3 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). With the resignation of Maurice Warbrick and Graham Smeaton, two vacancies were available - one as a hill country representative and one as an urban representative.

As per the Terms of Reference these vacancies were advertised via public notice in the Whakatāne Beacon and on our website.

Applications closed on Friday, 21 August 2020 and a selection panel of Councillor Clark, Councillor Iiti, Chris Ingle and Kirsty Brown reviewed the applicants. Heyden Johnston and Lee Ann Waaka were selected as the two newest members of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group starting in September 2020.

Hemi Barsdell closed the meeting with a karakia.

**Meeting closed at 1:02 pm**