

# Notes of the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting held at Council Chambers, Opotiki District Council, 108 St John Street, Opotiki on Wednesday, 23 September 2020, commencing at 10am

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**Chair:** Councillor Bill Clark

**Advisory Group:** Barry Hennessy, Councillor David Moore, Councillor Steve Nelson, Dave Wilson, Dean Petersen, Tania Te Whenua, Robbie Petersen

**BOPRC Councillors:** Councillor Bill Clark, Councillor Toi Kai Rākau Iti

**BOPRC Staff:** Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Lynne Hind (Asset Management Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Hemi Barsdell (Asset Management Specialist), Paula Chapman (Project Manager), Tony Dunlop (Flood Area Engineer), Kay Boreham (Communications Partner)

**Public:** Ian Connor, Tim Herewini

**Apologies:** Jessica Wiseman, Ari Erikson

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## 1 **Welcome**

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

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 25 September 2019**

**Resolved**

**That the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group:**

- 1 **Confirm the notes of the meeting held 25 September 2019 as a true and correct record.**

**Wilson/Clark  
CARRIED**

## 4 **Matters arising from previous meeting**

No matters arising.

## 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% Crown funding for the Waioeka Estuary concept.
- Kia Kaha Whakatāne – 100% funding but must be spent by 30 November 2020, \$2.1 million 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.
- 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.

## 6 Engineering Update

Mark Townsend spoke to his report and presentation:

- Waioeka-Otara Capacity Review – Hydrology was peer reviewed by WSP. Hydraulic Modelling awarded to Cardno. High level of interest in the tender process which led to a cost-effective outcome. Work due to commence June 2021. They will do 103 different modelling runs.
- Otara River Stopbank, Geotechnical Investigations – work on wharf looking at floodwalls. Working on identifying the priority list to do further geotechnical work.

## 7 Gravel Management

Paula Chapman spoke to the Gravel Management report:

- Meetings with Whakatohea during 2019. No changes since then.
- Good progress with Waioeka River.
- Gravel extraction is for flood protection and has a river management perspective. Gravel extraction will only progress if the works have a clear river management advantage.

### Discussion:

- Discussion around the difficulty that arises at times between gravel extraction for flood control / river management purposes and businesses managing their markets and maintaining business continuity. Robbie Petersen spoke on behalf of Waiotahi Contractors from a business perspective. Where possible, Council to let businesses know more in advance about gravel extraction requirements.
- Questions as to process for engaging the Engineering team and to what extent environmental scientists are involved. Code of practice sits alongside any operation. Consenting process has ecological considerations built-in.

## 8 Operations Update

Bruce Crabbe spoke to the report on the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme works programme in the agenda pack – it was taken as read.

Tony Dunlop presented the Operations Update PowerPoint.

### Key points included:

- Te Rere Pa Drainage, Aerodrome Drain – job complete.
- Riverloch Farms Rock and Planting – willows out, replanted with cabbage trees and toe toe.
- Otara River, Carters Flood Depression – opened up cut with less velocity.
- Moody Trust Rock Replenishment.
- Ruby Trust Rural, Memorial Park Urban – rock showing signs of wanting replenishment. Habitat ponds put in after 2017 still working. Want to grow / enhance these, talking to DoC.
- Waioeka River – lots of pampas grass coming down. Trench willow works at Maxwell's.
- Wilding Tree Clearing Project (Kia Kaha Whakatane) – clearing commenced at Tarawa Creek, Waioeka River. Working with DoC, Opotiki District Council, Opotiki College and iwi to enhance habitat and create environmental education for school students.
- Waioeka Estuary Restoration Proposal.
- Bruce Crabbe went through rating scheme distribution. Urban sector pays significant portion of the rates. Looking closely at where work is carried out and if it is sustainable. Two dynamic rivers and low population to pay for it means rates per head are higher. More work to come here, looking at room for the river principles and affordability.

### Discussion:

- Congratulated on use of native trees. Discussion around use of willows and native trees. Tony explained some natives will not establish in some areas. Lots of natives planted behind willows.

## 9 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, 60 sites have been completed or are no longer required for the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme.
- Only one site left to complete in Waioeka-Otara Scheme – Gault's Outlet to do.
- Expenditure to date has been \$5.33 million with \$2.1 million in recoveries.

## 10 Finance Report

Kirsty Brown provided an overview of the scheme's revenue and expenditure for the 12 months ending 30 June 2020:

- Higher revenue and lower operational expenditure has resulted in a favourable operational position of \$912,000.
- Lower capital expenditure due to the modelling results showed that the Duke Street Pump Station upgrade was not required.
- Total reserve funds available of \$2.5 million.
- Internal loan balance of \$5 million.
- Annual 2020 valuation is currently underway.

### Discussion:

- Councillor Clark questioned the payment of \$1.1 million from the scheme loan balance. Finance staff have since confirmed the repayment was from insurance recoveries.

## 11 River Scheme Planning (AMP and LTP)

Hemi Barsdell presented the River Scheme Planning update.

### Key dates:

<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

- More assets means more budget required for maintenance.
- Forecasts are resulting in higher budgets.
- Need to look at affordability. Options include increasing the budget or keeping the budget the same but doing less work (only high priority sites).
- Confirmed draft scheme budgets will be shared at the March 2021 Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meeting.

## 12 Co-governance / community group updates

No updates to report.

## 13 General business

### 13.1 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 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 Waioeka-Otara River Scheme's infrastructure premium for this year was \$67,000.

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. The video was shown to the Advisory Group.

### 13.2 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 – 1 and 23 October 2020
- Adoption – 17 December 2020 (to be operative from 1 February 2021)

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>

### 13.3 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). Members were approached by staff and everyone in the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group noted they would like to continue.

#### Discussion:

- Discussion around insurance increase and other options, e.g. self-insurance.

Hemi ended meeting with a Karakia Whakamutunga.

**Meeting closed at 1.30 pm.**