

Pongakawa/Waitahanui Freshwater Futures Community Group Workshop held in Pongakawa Hall, on Tuesday 15 December commencing at 10.00 am

Facilitator: Stephanie Macdonald

Interim Chair: Wilma Foster

Scribe: Carla Gray

Present: Andre Hickson, Bernie Hermann, Bev Nairn, Colin McCarthy, Darryl Jensen, Dennis Walker, Geoff Rice, Grant Rowe, John Garwood, John Cameron, John Meikle, Julian Fitter, Kevin Marsh, Kura Paul-Burke, Melv Anderson, Mike Maassen, Paul van den Berg, Te Awhi Anderson Manahi, Wilma Foster, Councillor Jane Nees

BOPRC Staff: Toni Briggs, Pim De Monchy, Kerry Gosling, Carla Gray, Jill Owen, Ryan Standen, Alex Miller, Clarke Koopu, Nicola Green, Rochelle Carter

1 Welcome

Pim De Monchy introduced himself as Relationship Manager for the group and invited Geoff Rice to start the meeting with a karakia.

Wilma Foster was introduced as the Interim Chairperson selected by Council for the group.

1.1 Purpose of the group

Pim explained: that we are all here because we care about water; that the National Policy Statement for Freshwater (NPS) was established under the Resource Management Act (RMA); and the purpose of the community group is to help Council establish a freshwater management approach for the Kaituna/Pongakawa/Waitahanui water management area by providing their feedback and advice in relation to Pongakawa/Waitahanui catchment.

Clarke Koopu (Māori Policy Advisor) provided an update on the hui-a-iwi process - Two hui facilitated. Couple of key points that came from hui – a lot of passion expressed. Key message that was presented by iwi and hapū, they want clean and potable water for future generations, opportunity to practice kaitiakitanga. Asking council to consider cultural values in the plan change. Discussion around water ownership.

Group members asked what hui participants' Stance was on ownership – Nicki explained that rights and interests in freshwater was a key issue they want to see resolved. A range of views were expressed about this. Be mindful that this discussion is happening at national level.

1.2 Community Group Members

Stephanie Macdonald introduced herself as facilitator and described the outline for the workshop. She then invited community group members to introduce themselves to the rest of the group and explain what their main drivers for being a part of the group were:

Dennis Walker	Dennis is an interested dairy farmer, and kiwifruit orchardist. Here because water is a big factor in his family's livelihood.
Colin McCarthy	Colin's family has been farming for 100 years in the area. The ownership question and consent process are issues he would like to see resolved.
Bernie Hermann	Bernie is a dairy farmer, kiwifruit orchardist and dry stock farmer. Water is very important to him. He is unsure there is water shortage as there is plenty of water on his farm.
John (JC) Cameron	JC is interested in water in the region and believes there is plenty of water available – it is about allocation and use. JC is a dairy farmer and horticulturist (avocado) and has a good relationship with iwi – understands some of the concerns they have. Wants to see proof of science and methodology around use of water.
Darryl Jensen	Darryl is a dairy farmer and kiwifruit orchardist and is a Federated Farmers representative. Darryl wants our region to be future proof. In agreement with other farmers he believes there is plenty of water – needs to be allocated in an efficient manner so all get good take of water. All have equal rights to it. Community to prosper.
Mike Maassen	Mike uses the Pukehina estuary for recreational purposes and often sees people collecting kaimoana. Mike has seen what has happened to Maketū over the past 60 years and thinks the Maketū estuary is a shadow of what it once was. Witnessed increase of water coming out of catchment. Concerned Pukehina estuary will degrade.
Melv Anderson	Melv represents people that live in Pukehina and Maketū that weren't able to be a part of this group. Melv loves this area, loves water, and wants to be part of the decisions made to ensure something here for future generations. Background of love for the whenua, understanding of relationship that owners have as tangata whenua, regardless of whether it came through contract, conquest or ? Work towards commonality. Create future for people.
John Garwood	John is a kiwifruit grower, has connection with the dairy industry, and is a part of the Te Puke Fruit growers Association. Wants to see the science to understand available ground water. John thinks the limitations on various catchments weren't based on real facts. Also concerned over quality issues and how that science is going to be progressed – hopes to come out of this process with realistic information.
Grant Rowe	Grant is a dairy farmer and is also involved with the Pukehina Surf Club and Waihi Drainage Society. Grant joined the group as he thinks we all need our say in how water is allocated. He is also interested in the quality of the water in our region.
Kura Paul-Burke	Kura is from Ngati Whakahemo and is interested in science and how we can move forward as a community. She is seeking an integrated approach, Maatauranga Maori alongside western science.
Jane Nees	Jane is a Bay of Plenty Regional Councillor and has been appointed by Council to be on this group. She is here to listen, and to understand the group's perspectives. Jane has a background in science, geology environmental science and economic development. This is her third term as Councillor. Jane is passionate about the Bay of Plenty region and wants the very best for the community – balancing economic, environmental, social and cultural factors. Jane is a certified resource consent commissioner and is a Te Maru o Kaituna member.
Wilma Foster	Wilma sees herself as a new community member. Really looking forward to meeting new neighbours in new district. Quite a lot of knowledge in agricultural. Works for Dairy NZ but is here as a

	community member not as a representative.
Te Awhi Anderson Manahi	Te Awhi is an iwi rep for Pongakawa river from Ngati Whakahemo. She is personally interested in the amount of faecal matter that is going into the river from dairy farms, the wetlands, the riparian planting, and the solutions that other countries are using in their horticulture to deal with shortage of water.
Paul van den Berg	Paul is a Western Bay of Plenty District Council employee and he also lives in the region. He is really interested to hear what everyone in the community thinks and what their concerns are. Part of Pauls' role as Water Engineer for WBPDC is trying to plan water for the next 50-100 years. He thinks this group is really important, wants to separate perception from reality. People to understand volumes etc. and balance.
Geoff Rice	Geoff is a representative of Tapuika iwi, and also here for his grandchildren, he has a long term intergenerational view. Always concerned about whether we will have enough water and the quality of that water. He is also on the Incentives Board in Rotorua, important we understand what's happening up there as it is where the catchment this group is concerned with starts. If not connected with them what we do down here will be waste of time.
Andre Hickson	Andre's family have lived in the area for over 100 years as dairy farmers and kiwifruit orchardists. He believes our obligation is to leave this place better than we found it – and that the obligation is equal to all of us. He thinks good decisions have to be based on good science. Obligation for urban and rural is the same.
Bev Nairn	Bev lives in Pukehina and is part of the Pukehina Ratepayers Association. Her primary focus is the quality of the estuary. Health and recreation point of view. Personal interests, nature and environment, birdlife, wildlife safe situation.
Julian Fitter	Julian is a writer, conservationist, and is chair of the Maketū Ongotero Wetland Society, projects around Maketū harbour and Waihi harbour, here for the environment and wildlife. He is also a part of Te Puke Forest and Bird and the Te Puke economic development group. Feels strongly that trying to improve environment should go hand in hand with economic improvement Access to the environment and access to wildlife important.
John Meikle	John works for Fish and Game and is here to represent their interests. Mainly interested in game birds and sports fish and water quantity and quality. John feels that the biggest issue in this area is sedimentation.
Kevin Marsh	Kevin's family have lived in the area for a long time. Kevin is a dairy farmer and commercial worm farmer. Kevin is also a Western Bay District Councillor. Kevin believes all are equal and disagrees with Maori having more rights to water. No one owns the water. Need to look at how much fertiliser we are putting on the land.

It was noted that members are present to bring views on behalf of the Pongakawa/Waitahanui community and that more nation-wide/industry-wide discussions will be held at the Regional Water Advisory Panel.

1.3 Terms of reference

Members were advised to contact Carla Gray (Carla.gray@boprc.govt.nz) if they had any issues with the current terms of reference.

1.4 Gaps in membership

Gaps identified by the group are as follows:

- Ngāti Pikiao
- Ngāti Mākino
- Rotorua Lakes Council
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Roku Mihinui
- Quarry industry (Winstone)

Comments made:

- It was agreed Land Trusts is covered by those present in the group already
- Ngati Pikiao – Te Awhi mentioned several of us on group whakapapa to Ngati Pikiao, but here as individuals. Agreed need someone on group.
- Kura has tourism business – happy to think from a tourism perspective. Julian also has tourism background
- Quarry has consent that is surely going to affect the Waitahanui stream
- Rotorua lakes connected to our catchment – what doing up there crucial to what we do down here.
- Public health – if specific concerns, we can get them to provide information to us. Councils charged with responsibility for water safety plans. E.g. New Zealand drinking water standards – Paul van den berg can provide info/input

1.5 Chairperson

Council has given consideration and is of the view that having a chairperson as part of the community group is important in this process as the community groups will be providing advice to Council. Staff noted that the group is not a formal committee. To reflect that role, having a chairperson from membership is appropriate. The group agreed and was comfortable having Wilma Foster act as interim chairperson until such time as a chairperson was voted in.

1.6 Councillor Jane Nees role

Councillor Jane Nees is here representing Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Councillor Nees noted to the group that she is happy to participate in discussions if that's what the group wants. She is available to offer insights from Council and the wider community. She will then relate the views of this community group to Council at the political/governance level. Staff noted that Councillors will not vote at a community group level.

2 Scene Setting

Nicki Green (Senior Planner – Water Policy) provided a brief explanation of the national picture and resource management framework in New Zealand under the Resource Management Act (RMA). She explained that the National Policy Statement directs Council to do some things to sustain freshwater resources for the long term. This is driving changes to the Bay of Plenty Regional Water and Land Plan.

The co-governance body in this programme of work (Te Maru o Kaituna) is providing guidance to Komiti Māori and the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee in relation to the Kaituna catchment in particular, not Pongakawa/Waitahanui.

The treaty settlement act that established TMoK, charges them with setting up a river document. TMoK was set up following the Tapuika settlement act and is made up of Regional Council and iwi members. Recently, TMoK gave direction to staff to produce the river document as a comprehensive draft. The river document is statutory and will be notified by the end of

2016. There will be opportunity for the community to input into the document but it is ultimately up to TMoK on what they want to include. Their interest lies in the Kaituna catchment which is part of the Water Management Area.

Comments made/ Questions asked:

- In relation to policy, do we have a say how the policy is written or is it going to be something we submit on later? We would expect the group will get to review the draft before the proposed plan change is notified. To be confirmed.
- When will the points made here be taken to Council? Regular reporting up by officers. Meeting notes will be circulated to the group to confirm.
- Are we only a small voice? A significant voice. Council will seriously consider the views of the community group.
- Important to identify the things that we all agree on – i.e. different catchments, hui a iwi, Te Maru o Kaituna, Regional Water Advisory Panel etc.
- Will our minutes be sent to other WMA groups and vice versa?
- Will this group disband after the plan change is done? At this stage, community group involvement will be reviewed after workshop 3 and the Council's intent is to continue through to plan change notification. Continuation can be considered after that.
- Staff advised the Council intends to notify one plan change for the first two water management areas (Rangitāiki and Kaituna)

3 Working Together

3.1 Expectations

The community group brainstormed ideas of what it is they are expecting of one another and of the process:

Behaviours	Processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Letting people finish – having respect • Trying to avoid general statements and blanketing industry/sector of community • Be frank • Having an attitude of working together. Is there something here that we all agree on? – getting the water right and making sure it's going to be here for our kids forever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to feel safe • Speak openly without getting judged etc. • Need to feel valued – got to be outcomes that are real and tangible • Agenda and information before the workshops • Commitment to do homework before we arrive • Respect time, start and end time • Key issues on agenda – e.g. refer to page 62 • Clear description of the issues – link agenda items to relevant documents

Comments made:

- The group was happy for all media statements to go through the chairperson (in collaboration with Regional Council staff) as the group's official spokesperson. This doesn't stop members talking to others in the community etc.
- The workshop notes will not attribute views to certain members.
- Group agreed the workshop notes can be distributed by members as long as no names.

3.2 Groups consensus process

It was explained that Council are expecting that the community group will seek consensus and will put forward the majority view where consensus cannot be reached, but will also note

minority views. The group was then asked how they felt about this and the group agreed to reaching consensus with disagreements recorded (and why).

4 Values: an introduction

Community group members provided important values:

Mahi māra / cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ample for irrigation • Good for food production • Food production • Ability to utilise water for food production (irrigation); better land use
Mahinga kai / food gathering, places of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain healthy kaimoana harvesting and abundance • Mahinga kai: no kai, no survival • Source of food • Seafood kai safe to eat
Equality / Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water for all • Adequate water for those that need it – now and in the future • Meet all peoples’ needs • Water for all • Water for everyone • Maintain aquifer levels • Water quality for human use (drinking, cooking, food production, etc.)
Te Hauora o te Wai / health and mauri of the water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Ecosystem health – The freshwater management unit supports a healthy ecosystem appropriate to that freshwater body type (river, lake, wetland, or aquifer). In a healthy freshwater ecosystem ecological processes are maintained, there is a range and diversity of indigenous flora and fauna, and there is resilience to change.] • Sustains life: supports healthy ecosystems • Wildlife • Identification of endangered and endemic species • Mauri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of ecosystem • Health of biodiversity • Indigenous flora and fauna • Life supporting for fish and critters • Promotion and maintenance of wetlands • Quality NI • Management and welfare of the estuary • Fresh water is the breath of life for our aquatic environment • River/plant protection (birds/fish, water quality, erosion, etc.) • Minimum seawater encroachment
Wai Māori / municipal and domestic water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy potable water • Clean and drinkable • Healthy quality – drinkable • Potable water supply
Āu Putea / economic or commercial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic value is a value because it will pay for the other values • To use all available water economically and environmentally • Economic value • The water quality in the region will enable users to run our businesses for now and the future

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic use • Supports land productivity • Supports our economic prosperity • Promote economy • Freshwater provides for our community to prosper • Freshwater supplies enhance productivity of the land
Te Hauora of te Tangata / health and mauri of the people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Human health for recreation – as a minimum, the freshwater management unit will present no more than a moderate risk of infection to people when they are wading or boating or involved in similar activities that involve only occasional immersion in the water] • Safe to swim in • Appropriate water quality for swimming and food • Water for recreational use and food • Recreational use for generations • A place to play in that is safe • Fishing/water quality to be improved • Health: no more than moderate risk of infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of safe • Recreational awareness • Provides recreational experiences • Managed for future change • Acknowledge medicinal and health values of fresh (healthy) water • Supplies the life and health • Fresh water is safe • Water quality better than “moderate risk of infection to people”
Sustainable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not wasted or inefficient • Remedial action • Used wisely • Management of land which affects water quality • Encourage better water quality by recycling (both human/urban/farming practices) • Sustainable use • Efficient use of • Wise use • Care • Sustainable management • Sustainable water management • Whanaungatanga: relationship and responsibility to our awa and ourselves
Kaitiaki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation • Water is valued by residents / industry • The environment we enjoy will be maintained for generations to come • Responsibility for present and future generations • Community education
Wai tapu / sacred waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainer of life • Maramatanga: understanding
He ara haere / navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain navigability of the water courses, channels etc • Navigable
Uncategorised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value the natural environment above increasing economic interest

Comments made:

- Members asked if estuary (Waihi) was in scope – consideration of estuary values and effects related to freshwater management in the catchment are in scope. Broader issues in the estuary are not.
- Discussion around whether geothermal is included or not – focus is not on managing the geothermal resource, but in this catchment there are groundwater and geothermal are integrally connected, so there will be some consideration given to it.

5 Trend Analysis

Staff want to know what scenarios the group see might be coming in the future. Behaviours actions and processes in the past and future.

Mapping changes – behaviours, actions and trends

- What's current
- What was happening 20/50 years ago
- What's on the horizon
- What's coming in 20/50 years

5.1 Raw trend analysis data

Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More wetlands have been drained for farming o Flax based industry o Wetlands as a source of food o Used water sources without consequence o Landscaping o Fishing and hunting o Do-it-yourself access o Rice paddy fields o Native tree felling o Kiwifruit o Horticulture o Flax o Peas o Kiwifruit o River used as a waterway o Abundant tuna o No measuring o Population decrease o Whitebait o Dry stock o Clearing of land o Low fert application
Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Eeling o Climate change o High fertiliser use o Cows o Pukehina semi-urban / residential o Intensive land use: kiwifruit, dairying, horticulture o Pressure on water quality and quantity o Forestry o Restoring estuary o Worm farms o Kiwis and cows

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wildlife o Water supplies meet current demands o Peat shrinkage
Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More demand for irrigation o Lesser water take threshold o More rules around water use o Greater regulation o Growing population, more pressure on water quality/quantity/recreation o Water storage o More difficult to find potable water sources o More horticulture: kiwifruit, avocado o More intensification o Decreasing biodiversity o More planting of shade trees o Technology advancement in horticulture and agriculture o Climate change or cycle
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increased awareness of climatic variability o Aging population o Service requirements o Sea levels rising o Salination of coastal lowlands o Better science and better understanding o Afforestation o Technological advancement o Geothermal o Low heating o Housing industry o Waihi drainage society management in the future o Horizon: polluted aquifers o More industry o Cropping changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtropicals • Plants not needing 'chill' hours • Low fert species • Low water requiring • Veg protein substituting animal o Population growth and urban sprawl o Paddy fields for future development in our wetlands o Grow the forestry industry o Afforestation required o Water storage the way of the future / water banking o More legislation o Restricted use impacting on economic growth o Farming intensification o Renewable power sources o Re-useable: water recycling etc. o Biosecurity risks o Vegetation change o Defined land use areas (Council; land type) o More/different crop diseases o Water harvesting

Comments made:

- Geoff rice mentioned there is a climate change conference in Rotorua in March 2016 – he can send out the invite to fellow community group members if interested.

6 Field Trip

The group discussed field trip possibilities.

Actions: Staff to capture field trip ideas and email members to get a vote on location preferences

7 Next Steps

7.1 Next workshop

- Focus will be on current state – quality and quantity
- Date: Tuesday 15 March 2016

7.2 Burning questions:

- Municipal – important to understand volumes/takes where they are etc.

Colin McCarthy left the meeting at 2.05pm.

- Issue of consents – process of getting consent
- Compliance – will overseer be in this? No this workshop about values and where we are currently
- Natural hazards, flooding etc.
- Overseer
- Water banking
- Maatauranga Māori with western science
- How will we identify/measure/science or water availability
- How food is the science for determining water quality long term
- Protecting the flow of water into Pukehina Estuary
- Increase of take from the catchment effecting the estuary and coastal environment
- Over allocation?
- Urban vs rural use % - future use?
- Bay of Plenty supply of water – use of water
- Are we in an area where there is a shortage of water
- Can we have a map outlining where and what quantity municipal/council comes from and goes to
- Thoughts on parameters of allocation
- Are all surface water river recorded? Therefore how are zones allocated?
- How will we keep all waters clean and sustainable?
- How will we link with the Lakes District the water quality issues?

7.3 To do before next session

- Talk to fellow community group members – Carla Gray will supply email addresses via the online portal.
- Talk to others, community, industry, family, neighbours.
- Read the science fact sheets before the next workshop. The next workshop will be on current state and trends in the water management area.
- Feedback comments to Pim/Carla
- Check out the online portal – Carla Gray will be sending members login details before Christmas

Actions: Carla Gray to supply members email addresses via the online portal

**Members to feedback comments on the workshop to Pim/Carla
Carla Gray to send members login details for the online portal
PowerPoint to be distributed with agenda for following workshop
Agenda to include references to info pack with page numbers.
Staff to check with other community groups if happy to share notes
after each round of workshops.
Staff to check geothermal conversation inputs
Staff to prepare meeting notes and circulate to group for comment
before finalising and placing on portal**

8 Closing

Pim De Monchy thanked everyone for their participation and Geoff Rice closed the meeting with a karakia.

Meeting ended: 2.30 pm

Next meeting: 15 March 2016