

Kaituna/Maketū Freshwater Futures Community Group Workshop held at Te Puke War Memorial Hall, 130 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke, on Wednesday 1 March 2016 commencing at 9.00am

Chairman: Barry Roderick

Facilitator: Stephanie Macdonald

Scribe: Lisa Baty

Present: Cor Verwey, Hendrik Metz, Hohepa Maxwell, Ian Schultz, Jessica Dean, John Fenwick, Julian Fitter, Manu Wihapi, Maria By de ley, Marc Fauvel, Maria Horne, Mary Dillon, Morgyn Bramley, Murray Linton, Nick Webb, Councillor Paula Thompson, Peter Ellery, Vivienne Robinson, Warren Webber.
Rani Dhaliwal – Phd student.

BOPRC Staff: Alex Miller, Alastair Suren, Beverly Hughes, Janine Barber, Kerry Gosling, Nicki Green, Pim De Monchy, Raina Meha-Rangitauira, Paul Scholes, Raoul Fernandes, Richard Lyons, Rochelle Carter, Stephanie Macdonald and Shay Dean.

Apologies: Richard Fowler, Jeff Fletcher, Campbell Larking will arrive late.

1 Welcome/introductions

Barry Roderick welcomed the group with acknowledgement to Councillor Paula Thompson. Manu Wihapi was then invited to start the meeting with a karakia.

Apologies were noted and Barry requested the Science team introduce themselves to the members. Barry also sought approvals from members to have Rani Dhaliwal observe today's meeting; approval was given with no unwillingness. Rani provided background of her education and reasons for attending today's meeting.

1.1 Issues or Concerns

The issues and concerns were noted for action post today's meeting:

- Cor Verwey raised concerns around the sampling at Pukepine – this was parked and will be discussed at the morning tea break.
- Hohepa Maxwell asked if the Chair had followed up on concerns raised via email. Barry confirmed these matters were in hand and will be addressed.
- Hendrik Metz raised concern around the process and timeline for this group. There appears to be gaps of information available and the purpose of the group.
- Knowledge and information against compliance issues.
- Facts and figures – drilling down to actual data.

Barry went through the housekeeping rules and provided background to the purpose of today's meeting. Discussion was held around the relationships and collaboration of attendance at the Te Maru o Kaituna committee meeting that will be held on the 8th March 2016.

ACTION: Lisa to send the members details of the Te Maru o Kaituna meeting.

Further explanation was given around the groups contribution at this forum, the value of their knowledge will feed into Councils decision-making for the Plan change. Paula reiterated it is vital the Council receives input from the community groups, ensuring our waterways have an informed contribution to the Plan.

Stephanie Macdonald described the purpose of today's Current State workshop; asking what gaps are there? What information do you required to provide an educated decision?

The purpose of each workshop was covered:

- 1 Why we are working together / setting and gathering values;
- 2 Current State / Science;
- 3 Mapping the values / limit setting on quality/quantity plan change.

The group's concerns/issues are being noted and will be addressed either at the following workshop or at the end of the series.

1.2 Actions from previous meeting

1. Interim Chair; Barry Roderick appointment; *confirmed*.
2. Terms of Reference; *no comments received*.
3. Group gap filling - progress;
 - a. Tauranga City Council – *Campbell Larking has been appointed to the group.*
 - b. AFFCO – *Council staff are waiting for direction on who to approach.*
ACTION follow up
 - c. Te Tumu Landowners Group – *engagement has occurred, to follow up.*
ACTION follow up
 - d. Kaumatua – *Manu Wihapi has been appointed to the group.*

Comments made:

- Kaituna Scheme involvement? Further information of the groups function is required.
ACTION follow up

1.3 Setting the Scene

Nicky Green (Senior Planner – Water Policy) gave an overview of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill and the effects that may have on our decision making process.

Comments made:

When will the consultation document be available for review?

2 Science Current State

Rob Donald (Science Manager) works alongside a team of 12 scientists, all specialising in their area of expertise. Rob stated the science approach is to provide you with as much information as possible for you to gain an understanding of our current state, reiterating to interact and ask questions as we go along on this process. Rob talked to the prioritised gaps outlined by Council via his presentation.

The National Objectives Framework (NOF) defines the compulsory limits for freshwater to protect 'human health for recreation' and 'ecosystem health'. We will identify attributes that are important to measure in order to understand whether a value is supported.

Comments made:

- What are the definitions of bands A to D – specifically "wading contact"?
- How wide are the bands, percentage based?
- What is the percentage of toxicity? Example of 5% in band B and 20% in band C.
- What are the Primary and Secondary contact attributes?

Break out groups across two separate rooms.

3 Estuarine – Ecology and Water Quality

Paul Scholes (Environmental Scientist) explained that the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater (FM) focus is on freshwater and does not apply to coastal waters.

Paul confirmed the data calculations for algae and seaweed are based on aerial pictures and field based testing, which can be determined by density in growth and depletion; as an example.

Shellfish are in reasonable ecological health in the lower estuary with the upper having relatively fewer shellfish species due sediments and algal growth.

Paul confirmed the swimming quality is generally good in this area.

Comments made:

- Does 'coastal water' include estuary?
- How do you quantify the sediments in mud and sand?
- Once a re-diversion occurs, will the re-establishment of seagrass follow?
- Why has the size of cockle decreased?
- Julian commented on the environment/habitat disappearing due to human requirements.
- The metric was questioned.
- Sea and fresh water measurements – when the diversion occurs will there be a difference in data?
- Are specific tides targeted for taking measurements?
- Do we measure solidity?
- Does temperature effect Chlorophyll-a?
- Do you measure the tides/water quantity taken at the same time each week for comparison?
- Hendrik questioned the Waiotahi estuary – *discussion to be taken offline*.
- When is it not safe to eat shellfish?
- What percentage is of Canadian Geese?
- Following the re-diversion, how long will the water quality be reduced?

ACTION: Maketū re-diversion document to be sent to the members and uploaded to the website.

4 Groundwater - Hydrology

Janine Barber (Senior Environmental Scientist) gave background to the natural water cycle, showing how groundwater is replenished by rainfall and explaining the difference in aquifers being sand, gravel and fractured rock. Water in aquifers is brought to the surface naturally through springs which can supply a constant flow of water to a stream, river, lake or wetland – this is known as 'baseflow'. The volume of groundwater stored is monitored via recharge stations.

Raoul Fernandes (Environmental Scientist) provided an explanation around the Lysometers, 3 of which have been installed in the Kaituna region, how they gather information and how this is monitored.

Janine clarified that groundwater is extracted via a well drilled into the aquifer; this is then brought to the surface via a pump. Artesian wells hold enough natural pressures that a pumping system is not required.

Comments made:

- What levels are the Artesian bore installed?
- Fault lines across the region, would these have significance?
- Do you have declines over the summer period?
- Coastal Bores – how long until they are implemented?

It was outlined that the figures shown in the report are inaccurate.

- A comment was made that Council need to be accurate in the data provided for allocation to residents.
- Clarification was sought around the length of data – how many years of information do we hold?
- The effect of inducement was questioned?
- Do we have sufficient recovery from winter to summer months?

ACTION: Nicky confirmed a probability of flow occurring – a report would be prepared for the group.

GAP: Hendrik would like to know more about rainfall.

5 Freshwater Wetland Ecology

Shay Dean (Environmental Scientist) provided background on what determines a wetland, being an area of land that is permanently/frequently wet and inhabited by plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions. Examples given against a Fen, Swamp, Marsh and Seepage.

The importance of wetlands make up 22 percent of native land bird and 30 percent of native freshwater fish. Including the filtering of sediments, nutrients and contaminate, wetlands also control floods and reduce erosion by slowing and capturing of water.

Shay outlined the threats and impacts and an overall decrease in wetland function. Wetland attributes are still being developed for inclusion within the NOF.

Before and after pictures were spoken to identifying the loss of wetland in this region, we are currently down to 1.5 percent remaining. The Council have implemented a wetland condition monitoring programme to monitor and further research the baseline data required. The BOPRC are one of a few councils who have initiated this programme.

Comments made:

- It was noted, the level of service that wetlands provide, we need to recognise their value and place more importance in this area.
- How much wetlands are on Māori land?
- NPS view of alignment to working towards establishment of wetlands?
- Who has the regulatory responsibility of wetlands? Land or Water?
- To align with the NPS, have we forecasted what additional resources/extent to reinstate to original state?

Comments were then asked when Council has the policy in draft, will this forum have the opportunity to review prior to going to the public to ensure the values still align. Following on; when 'gaps' are filled how can the plan be amended – timing around changes to a plan being enforced.

- What is the political process? If we are uncertain at any stage can we alter or change? Are we dynamic or cyclical?

Paula gave assurance that the group needs to be nimble in the evolving science body.

ACTION: Draft Plan to be provided to the group prior to consultation.

6 Consents and Compliance

Nicky started by saying that we currently have limits of surface water but no limits for groundwater, this is being reviewed. The percentage/limits against the consents vs actuals – this is an area, Council needs to have a further understanding on.

Richard Lyons (Consents Officer) explained that consents and compliance relates to provisions under the operative Regional Water and Land Plan (RWLP). Council processes are guided by national and regional plans and policy statements created by policy team and the enforcement of consents are undertaken by the compliance team.

Richard provided an overview of how groundwater and surface water is allocated, the current baseline used to allow allocation is 10 percent of a rivers instream minimum flow, noting that the allocation limits are under review.

Alex Miller (Project Implementation Officer) added that surface water takes are common in this area. Allocation is split between aquifers of different depths - shallow / unconfined and deep / confined. Currently the policy is set that Council allocates on a first in first served basis. Existing consented takes form part of the consented environment and are therefore able to reapply to take water it is not considered an additional use of the resource.

Alex talked to the common consent types for the area and challenges for consents, noting that the most water taken in the area is for horticultural use.

Comments made:

- Are the rivers actually below the minimum?
- If you are consenting today – are you using relevant up to date information/data, not stats taken from a 2013 report?
- What is Councils certainty of the numbers we are dealing with?
- What stage do you see land use change coming in? *This comment was parked for the break.*
- What is the effluent into the water bodies?
- Treatment at AFFCO – what does this mean?

7 Socio Economic

Nicky commented that Council are assessing the current social and economic relationships with and importance of freshwater resources at the local catchment and regional scale.

The population increase across the Bay of Plenty with Agriculture and Forestry is a key dependency on local freshwater resources.

Comments made:

- Are the rivers actually below the minimum?

8 Māori Interests and Values

Raina Meha-Rangitauira (Māori Policy Advisor) talked to the Iwi associated with Kaituna/Maketū, many of which have crown recognition of their relationships with the river through their treaty settlements.

Beverly Hughes (Maori Policy Team Leader) introduced herself and spoke to Maori interests, detailing the multiple ownerships of freehold land, the Maori Land Act 1993 and the requirements that must be adhered to such as the 75 percent consent required for sale of Maori owned land. Bev noted the values as Tangata o te Whenua – with emphasis on the importance of relationships and belief.

9 Summary of the day

Stephanie spoke about the variety of presentations given over the day and re-capped what has been agreed to:

- The group was happy for Rani to attend as an observer;
- All notes taken from these meetings can be shared amongst the other community groups;
- AFFCO – to ensure transparency, the notes/presentation will be provided to the group;

Burning Questions:

- Timeline – this is not a scoping exercise;
- Sewage – Clarification;
- Facts from the field trips.

Prior to the workshop:

- Receiving material in a timely fashion;
- Access to the portal – wanting a hard copy of the agenda/executive summary;
- What are the expectations before each meeting;
- Support for more videos;
- Timing of meetings be held during the day;
- Ensure all presentations are on the portal;
- Determine group's purpose.

Barry closed by stating if any questions are unanswered to please contact staff, and that any questions asked today by members during a presentation were not personal.

We look forward to the next meeting.

Meeting ended: 2.34pm

Next meeting: 18 April 2016