

Notes of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group meeting held at Te Puke War Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 28 September 2021, commencing at 10am

Chair: Councillor Norm Bruning

Advisory Group: Richard Weld, Barry Roderick (arrived 10:43am), Dave Hurst, Councillor John Scrimgeour (Western Bay of Plenty District Council – arrived 10:16am)

BOPRC Councillors: Councillor Matemoana McDonald, Councillor Jane Nees

BOPRC Staff: Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Jo Heath (Rivers and Drainage Assets Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Kerry Smith (Area Engineer), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Richard Lyons (Land Management Officer)

Public: Steve Crossan (local farmer)

Apologies: Roger Hintz, Nick Chater, Peter Dine (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Laura Albrey (Communications Partner)

1 **Welcome**

Councillor Bruning welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Richard Weld introduced local farmer Steve Crossan.

Kirsty Brown gave a Health and Safety briefing, including a reminder of the COVID-19 requirements for the meeting and within the venue.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received as recorded above.

3 **Notes of previous meeting held 3 March 2021**

Resolved

That the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group:

Confirm the notes of the meeting held 3 March 2021 as a true and correct record.

**Weld/Hurst
CARRIED**

4 **Matters arising from previous meeting**

Bruce Crabbe provided an update on the Puke Pine issue. Regional Council, as scheme managers, submitted to the Resource Consent hearing seeking financial assistance for the contamination remediation of scheme managed drains. The commissioner did not support the submission. Rivers and Drainage Operations staff have been desilting Factory Drain with half now completed and 1.5 km through the Verwey farm to be cleaned in February once the maize has been harvested. Also working in conjunction with Western Bay of Plenty District Council as they also administer a drain in the area.

A submission to the LTP was made by the Advisory Group requesting that funding for the Ford Road pump station be 50% targeted rate and 50% general rate. Through deliberations, Council decided to retain the 80% targeted and 20% general rate funding formula.

ACTION:

Circulate the detailed staff response to the Advisory Groups submission to the Long Term Plan with regard to changing the funding ratio for the Ford Road Pump Station replacement.

5 **Scheme annual report 2020-2021**

Kirsty Brown spoke to the annual report provided in the agenda pack.

Key points:

- The 2020-2021 Kaituna maintenance programme was delivered generally on budget and to programme.
- The 2020-2021 Kaituna capital programme includes large multi-year projects which are largely on track with some programme slippage provided for through budget carry forward funding recommendations.
- All 45 Kaituna sites identified during the April 2017 flood event are now complete, or have been re-inspected and assessed as no longer required.
- **Operating revenue** was \$135,000 lower than budget, mainly due to lower than forecast interest rates (the call rate sat at 1.5% for the year)
- **Operating expenditure** was \$76,000 higher than budget
- This resulted in an **operating deficit** of \$211,000
- **Capital revenue** was \$2,253,000 lower than budget, due to capital works with insurance recoveries and CIP funding delays
- **Capital expenditure** was \$3,229,000 lower than budget, with carry forwards into 2021-2022 proposed for a number of projects
- **Total reserve fund** opening balance of \$5,567,000 and closing balance of \$5,535,000 (decreased by \$32,000)
- **Loan** opening balance of \$8,743,000 and closing balance of \$7,902,000 (decreased by \$841,000)
- **Asset valuation** as at 1 July 2020 of \$70.7 million – with the 2021 annual revaluation currently underway

ACTION:

Finance team to provide an explanation as to why external interest income, for the year ending 30 June 2021, was \$108,000 lower than budget.

6 Capital work programme

Mark Townsend spoke to the agenda report and delivered a presentation.

Key points:

- Council has approved Option 1 for the Ford Road pump station replacement – additional pump capacity at the Diagonal Dain pump station. In 2021-2022 the focus will be on detailed design and consenting, followed by construction in 2022-2023 (\$7.9m) and decommissioning the Ford Road pump station in 2023-2024 (\$1.9m). Design options include an axial flow pump (like in existing pump stations) versus an Archimedean screw pump. The Archimedean screw pump has higher upfront costs and lower long-term costs. Waikato Regional Council has several Archimedean screw pumps and have found they require less ongoing maintenance with no need for weed screens. They are also fish friendly. Ongoing consultation is planned with those affected by the proposal.
- Regional Council has raised concerns with Tauranga City Council (TCC) about the design of Pond G. An independent review by Pattle Delamore Partners (PDP) supports the Regional Council view that the pond does not provide enough storage. Data is currently being collected for both Pond H and G from level sensors and outlet flow sensors.
- Utuhina Stream modelling has shown that raising the stopbanks would just move the issues further upstream. Regional Council are working with Rotorua Lakes Council on possible options, which could include retreat from some areas in the long-term.
- Supply chain issues for sheet piles coming from overseas has delayed the Kaituna Mole project. Construction now scheduled to be completed by December 2021, with Western Bay of Plenty District Council responsible for the proposed carpark development and associated landscaping.
- Surplus Waka Kotahi land between the Tauranga Eastern Link and Bell Road pump station is being considered for purchase with the intention to develop as a wetland and flood storage. The land area is 10 hectares and valued at around \$185,000.

Attendance: Barry Roderick arrived at 10:43am

Questions/Discussion:

- Concern was expressed about the amount of residential development that is impacting the scheme. Staff explained that through the land use consenting process developers need to show they can mitigate the effects of the development. Regional Council has input in to this process on behalf of the scheme and the environment.
- Members recommended that the Ford Road pump station not be decommissioned until there was proof that the new option is working. Staff advised that the plan is to decommission the Ford Road pump station the year after the new pump station is constructed and commissioned.
- The advisory group's LTP submission regarding funding for the Ford Road pump station was discussed, with members questioning why Council did not support the requested 50% targeted and 50% general rate funding scenario. Councillor Bruning responded that the area had received a lot of government funding that was reducing costs to the scheme and that landowners were not being disadvantaged in any way.

Members highlighted that the scheme was being disadvantaged by time delays and escalating costs.

7 Maintenance work programme

Bruce Crabbe spoke to the agenda pack report, and Kerry Smith delivered a presentation focusing on two projects from the maintenance programme – Raparapahoe Canal and drop structure and Ngongotahā floodway maintenance.

Key points:

- The berm of the Raparapahoe Canal had significant silt build-up that was reducing the canal's flood capacity. A staged process is underway to: remove unwanted vegetation, lower the berm, rock armour corners at risk from erosion, widen stopbank crest, create better access points, and toe load the landward side. 1.5 km of the left bank has been completed, with other stages planned.
- Staff have been working on perfecting hydroseeding with native grasses. A native grass seed nursery has been developed and several hydroseeding techniques trialled on the Raparapahoe job, including pre-germinating the seeds.
- The drop structure on the Raparapahoe Canal has undergone a major upgrade after Environmental DNA (eDNA) testing identified that the structure was a barrier to four of the ten fish species identified as being present in the area. A post construction assessment will be undertaken to see if passage has been re-established for common smelt, common galaxias (inanga), shortfin eel and rainbow trout.
- The 2018 Ngongotahā flood event caused new erosion and damage to existing rock erosion protection along Ngongotahā Stream, and silt and vegetation build up on the six floodways. The floodways have been cleared and good access to the sites re-established. Staff also worked with Fish and Game to create fish habitat within suitable areas of the stream while the repair work was being undertaken.

Discussion:

- Members asked if any fish passage remediation was being proposed at the Tauranga City Council water supply weir on the Waiāri Canal where whitebait are visibly trapped by the diversion structure. Staff were not aware of the issue and will investigate.

8 Co-governance and freshwater community group updates

There was nothing to report from Te Maru o Kaituna or from the freshwater community groups.

9 General business

9.1 General business report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the agenda report.

Key points:

- Simon Harris from Land Water People Limited shared the rating review methodology and findings with advisory group members at a special meeting in August. Additional work is underway to update the draft report and include an alternative mechanism for estimating changes to impermeable surfaces in Te Puke.
- A review of river scheme infrastructure insurance is currently underway to look at ways of reducing annual premium costs. Stage 1 of the review is complete and involved assessment of the data. Stage 2 is in progress and involves risk identification, analysis and evaluation. Since the agenda report was written, a draft review report has been received from Aon Ltd and will be discussed by Council at the next Risk and Assurance Committee meeting.
- A project called *Safeguarding our Stopbanks* started on 1 July 2021 with the purpose of maintaining community safety by resolving situations where encroaching urban land use has affected the structural integrity and performance of our flood protection assets. The project has an urban focus and looks at situations where landowners have developed land beyond their legal property boundary in areas where there are stopbanks and floodwalls. The focus in the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme will be on the Utuhina Stream and the Waingaehe Floodway where landowner encroachments have been identified as a concern.
- It has been four years since the current advisory group format was implemented and a member survey will be circulated soon seeking feedback on how members feel the group is going and whether any improvements can be made.

9.2 River scheme website demonstration

Jo Heath outlined the new look river scheme page on the Regional Council website and asked for members' feedback either after the meeting or via email/phone.

<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/flood-protection/rivers-and-drainage>

Site will be a useful tool for advisory group members to refer members of the public to for information on capital projects in the area. Also developing a registration process for people to receive notifications when a page is updated.

9.3 Environmental data portal demonstration

Mark Townsend outlined the new Environment Data Portal on the Regional Council website <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/maps-and-data/environmental-data>.

10 Public forum

- Cycleways and walkways along stopbanks was discussed and members questioned who has the right to grant permission to use the stopbanks. Staff explained that any activity on a stopbank requires a Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaw Authority from Regional Council. If the land under the stopbank is privately owned the development would need the landowner's permission.

- Richard Weld asked if the settings on the Diagonal pumps had been altered as he has observed a lot of weed build up and the screens are full of weeds. Also noted that the water was high but the pumps weren't working. Staff responded that there had been issues with the probes not being set correctly. The probes at the Maketū pump station were reset last week and the Diagonal ones will be reset this week.
- The government's three waters reform was discussed, The reform focuses on reticulated systems managed by district and city councils – drinking water, waste water and stormwater. It does not include Regional Council's flood protection and land drainage responsibilities, however Council is keeping a watch on the reforms.

Meeting closed at 12:00 pm