

Notes of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group meeting held at Rotorua BOPRC Office, Waiariki Room on Monday, 4 April 2022, commencing at 10am

Chair:	Councillor Norm Bruning
Advisory Group:	Barry Roderick, Graham Thompson, Heather Brake, Nick Chater, Richard Weld, Councillor John Scrimgeour (WBOPDC) and Peter Dine (RLC)
BOPRC Councillors:	Councillor Jane Nees
BOPRC Staff:	Chris Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Annalees Craig (Acting Asset Management Coordinator), Bruce Crabbe (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Andy Dixon (Treasury and Tax Specialist), Sam Whittle (Communications Partner), Russell Knutson (Team Leader Western Catchments)
Public:	Nathan York (Blue Haven)
Apologies:	Councillor Matemoana McDonald, Dean Favell (Te Maru o Kaituna), Roger Hintz, Dave Hurst, Kerry Smith (Area Engineer Kaituna), Jackson Efford (Principal Advisor, Land and Water)

1 Welcome

Councillor Bruning opened the meeting.

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 28 September 2021

The Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group confirmed that the notes of the previous meeting held 28 September 2021 as a true and correct record.

**Weld/Roderick
CARRIED**

4 Matters arising from previous meeting

- For general business – Kaituna River mouth bar (Barry Roderick).
- TCC's Ponds G and H update. Mark Townsend advised that an independent review for Pond G has been completed which produced several concerns. These have been raised with Council's Compliance Team who are seeking information from TCC.

5 Engineering update

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

Key updates:

Ford Road Pump Station

- The detailed design for replacement of the Ford Road Pump Station considers both axial flow pumps and archimedes screw as potential solutions. Council is progressing the consent application based on these two designs.
- Consultation ongoing with landowners, Iwi, Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fish and Game.
- Awaiting the cultural impact assessment from Tapuika.
- An archaeological assessment has been completed and application for Archaeological Authority is being prepared.
- Council is proposing to push works out a year if a consent hearing is required.

Te Puke Stormwater Project

- A modelling assessment on Te Puke development impacts since 1999 has been completed. Modelling showed that flood levels have increased due to development which has an effect on volumes. It also showed that installation of the Armer and Marshall pumps has been beneficial.
- Western Bay of Plenty District Council is currently undertaking the climate change modelling. Optioneering will follow.

Utuhina Stream Modelling

- Currently unable to find a solution due to the geothermal activity and lack of room.
- Discussing long term retreat with Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC). The Regional Council will be providing support to RLC as they lead this process.

Kaituna Mole refurbishment

- A video of the Kaituna mole was shown.
- Construction works now complete. From the remaining budget (approximately \$500,000), \$250,000 has been offered to WBOPDC towards a carpark and new toilet block.

Ngongotahā Stream Mitigation

- Peer review completed by Christensen Consulting Ltd.
- Separate consent is now required for hi-flow paths.
- Agreement has now been received from all affected landowners except one.
- Upper catchment works continue with the removal of problematic trees and the construction of detainment dams.

Questions/Discussion:

- Members queried whether the price of the Ford Road pump station replacement would increase if delayed. Mark Townsend commented that they are presuming prices will increase if this is the case.
- Barry Roderick questioned whether the re-diversion has affected the sand bar at the river mouth for boats. Russell Knutson commented that this was due to dry weather conditions and river low flows. A decent rain event should shift the sand.

6 Operations update

Bruce Crabbe spoke to the agenda report and delivered a presentation.

Key points:

- Covid-19 has caused delays with equipment and material shortages.
- Desilting of Factory Drain downstream of Pukepine has been completed, noting material had to be removed.
- Installation of pump drain culvert and screen installation on Singletons Drain. Fencing to be set back and planting to come.
- Maketū Estuary stopbank rock replenishment work has been completed.
- Works completed on the Managakahi Stream to open the floodway and remove pest plants. This work was done in conjunction with RLC Parks/Reserves.
- Rock has been installed on Waitetī Stream to replace a delapidated retaining wall.
- Landowner encroachments on the Waingaehe Floodway have been resolved with fences moved back to legal boundaries, resulting in just over 5,700m² floodway land recovered.

Questions/Discussion:

- It was questioned who was paying for the removal of the desilted material from Factory Drain. Bruce responded that this was a cost to the scheme.
- Peter Dine queried what work that has been planned for the Ōhau Channel. Bruce responded that it was erosion repair job by the highway.

7 BOPRC Collecting Rates

Kirsty Brown and Andy Dixon spoke to the agenda report and provided a presentation.

Key points:

- From August 2022 the BOPRC will start collecting its own rates. Priority reason for the change is to become more transparent and accountable for the work that BOPRC does.
- It has been estimated that there will be a saving of \$6 million over 10 years by moving to self-collection.
- This will also enable Council to control remission and postponements available to ratepayers, penalty schedules and payments plans/direct debits to spread payments.

Questions/Discussion:

- It was questioned whether there will be an extra charge if payments are made throughout the year. Andy Dixon advised there will be no extra charges if a payment plan is in place.
- Councillor Nees advised that consultation is currently underway on the rates remission process. Submissions close on Wednesday, 4 May 2022. Details can be found on the BOPRC website.

8 Finance Report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the finance report and provided an overview of the scheme's revenue and expenditure for the six months ending 31 December 2021.

Key points:

- External interest income \$39,000 lower than budget.
- Total revenue \$53,000 lower than budget.
- Contract work was \$102,000 lower than budget but expected to be close by year end.
- Total operating deficit of \$76,000.
- Capital revenue was \$171,000 higher than budget, but total capital expenditure was \$1,170 million lower than budget.
- Total reserves funds available at 31 December 2021 \$5.3 million.
- The loans closing balance was \$7.8 million.
- The scheme's asset valuation is \$77 million.

Questions/Discussion:

- Barry Roderick queried why capital expenditure was so much lower than budget. Kirsty advised that this was due to the main construction season commencing after the Christmas period.

9 Co-governance and Community Group Updates

Kirsty Brown spoke to the Te Maru o Kaituna (TMoK) River Authority report and Nick Chater offered to provide answers to any questions.

It was noted that the purpose of this report is to improve the connection and communication lines between the river authority and the advisory group. Nick Chater commented that visitors are welcomed at the TMoK meetings which meet four times a year. Councillor Bruning requested TMoK meetings dates be circulated.

ACTIONS:

Circulate to TMoK river authority members a report from the 4th April 2022 Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme river advisory group meeting.

Circulate to advisory group members the upcoming Te Maru o Kaituna (TMoK) River Authority meeting dates.

Russell Knutson advised that Council is keen to work with landowners who have an interest in collaborating to improve water quality in the river scheme, particularly when the scheme overlaps with one of the focus catchments.

10 Best Practice Drain Management

Staff spoke to the best practice drain management report.

Key points:

- Dairy NZ has best practice standards for lowland drain management that can be followed.
- Under new RMA regulations, all farms over 20 hectares will be expected to have a certified Freshwater-Farm Plan by 2025. Currently the BOPRC can provide financial assistance to support upgrades to private drains, noting this funding will not be available once regulations are formalised. Outside the focus catchments the maximum BOPRC can contribute is 25%.
- To assist in data collection, a new partnership project is underway on the Te Arawa Lakes Trust dairy farm in Maketū to monitor the changes when best practice upgrades are implemented.
- It was noted that Te Maru o Kaituna has adopted an action plan “Te Tini a Tuna” which includes a focus on improving drain management and water quality.

Questions/Discussion:

- Russell Knutson commented that BOPRC is very appreciative of farmers and particularly Te Arawa Lakes Trust farm who are taking up this opportunity. Russell also mentioned that BOPRC is planning a field day in May on the Te Arawa farm for further conversations. Details surrounding this day will be sent out to members.

ACTION:

Circulate to advisory group members information about the Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) field day.

- Barry Roderick questioned what percentage of nitrogen would be reduced with the work going into drain upgrades. He commented that farmers need to know that there are good results through the work being done. Russell commented that the science is not perfect that is why the upgrades on the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Farm will be monitored.
- It was then questioned whether results from other similar situations were available. Russell responded there wasn't at present, commenting that this is because the concept is relatively new. Members noted that they had concerns that farmers will get forced into making these changes only to find it doesn't really work.
- Members also had queries around what constitutes a drain. It was advised anything bringing water into the main drains managed by BOPRC is constituted as a drain.
- Barry Roderick questioned maintenance costs during the planting's lifespan. Russell Knutson commented that landowners take on the cost of maintenance once planted.

11 Online Survey Feedback and Current Terms of Reference Review

Kirsty Brown spoke to the agenda report and provided a presentation.

Key points:

- Improvements are being made based on survey results including:
 - Information sharing e.g website notifications.
 - Improving the connection between TMoK and the advisory group.
 - Addressing other concerns e.g., barriers to meeting attendance.
- A Council endorsed review of the advisory groups Terms of Reference (TOR) is underway. The purpose of the review is to ensure the groups remain appropriate and to consider how they might assist with achieving LTP strategic impacts areas of Partnership with Māori, Climate Change and Community Participation.
- A draft TOR will be circulated to advisory group members for comment.

12 General Business Report

Kirsty Brown spoke to the general business report provided in the agenda pack.

12.1 Infrastructure insurance review

The recent flood risk assessment undertaken by Aon and Tonkin & Taylor Ltd has determined that currently the best option is to remain with market insurance. Careful monitoring and analysis of the infrastructure insurance cover by staff will be ongoing.

12.2 Review of the April 2017 flood repair project

Christen Consulting has undertaken an in-depth review of the programme of flood repair work completed following the April 2017 flood event.

The final report highlighted that the project management process was done very well which is evident by the claim funding received from insurance and central government.

For future flood events, the report highlights that more involvement from wider stakeholders and technical disciplines will be required, specifically the mandated obligations to work with iwi partners.

ACTION:

Circulate a copy of the Christensen Consulting Ltd final report on the April 2017 Flood Repair Project.

12.3 Update on Kaituna Rating Review

- Formalise LWP's recommended minor modifications to the reviewed rating classifications to meet 2022/23 Annual Plan timelines.

12.4 Update on Safeguarding our Stopbank project

Staff have been working with three property owners on the Waingaehe Floodway to restore landowners' encroachments back to the legal boundary (as discussed in the Operations update).

13 Public Forum

No items raised.

Meeting closed at 12:25 pm