Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting notes

**Commencing:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023, 10.00 am

**Venue:** Ōpōtiki Golf Course, 14 Forrow Road, Opotiki

**Chairperson:** Cr Toi Iti

**Members:** Robbie Petersen (Urban), Barry Hennessy (Urban), Jessica Wiseman (Otara Catchment), Cr Dean Petersen (ODC Elected Rep), Cr Steve Nelson (ODC Elected Rep), Nathan Hughes (ODC staff rep), Kim Douglas (Ngāti Ira), Maude Maxwell (Ngāti Ngahere), Elected Member).

**BOPRC Elected Members:** Cr Ken Shirley, Cr Malcolm Campbell, Chairman Doug Leeder

**BOPRC staff:** Chris Ingle (GM Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Bruce Crabbe (Principal Advisor), Tony Dunlop (Area Engineer), Paula Chapman (Project Manager), Sharleen Augustus (Assets Management Coordinator), Laura Boucher (Communications Partner) Loris Hastie (Management Accountant).

**Public:** Barry Howe

**Apologies:** Karlo Keogh (Finance Support Team Lead), Dave Wilson (Waioeka Catchment), Dan Batten (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager)

1. Opening

Chair opened the meeting and followed with around-the-table introductions.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Previous Meeting Notes

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| **3.1** | **Resolved:**  **That the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group:**  **Confirmed the notes of the meeting held 28 September 2022 are a true and correct record.**  **R Petersen/D Petersen**  **CARRIED** |
| **3.2** | **Matters Arising:**   * No matters arising. |

4. Agenda items

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| **4.1** | **Capital Works Programme Update**  Presented by: Mark Townsend. Agenda report taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * Extremely wet conditions and Cyclone Gabrielle has delayed the capital works programme. In particular the additional geotechnical investigations required at 3 locations on the Waioeka and Otara stopbanks. * For the Climate Change Resilience Waioeka Otara project currently working through identified options to determine what needs modelling. * Once options have been analysed and modelling carried out (if required), an additional workshop will be held to short list the options. Engagement with the wider community will then commence. * Working with agencies in developing evacuation mapping under various scenarios. Will then pass onto CDEM and ODC to lead public consultation on the protocols to ensure general public input.   **Key Points – Members:**   * Evacuation protocols – Marae committees need to be part of the discussion. Iwi and hapū should be involved at an early stage before going to the public for consultation. * Increase in gravel bed levels and the importance of local knowledge about flooding and their impacts. * It was noted that ODC is undertaking spatial planning, and the interface with capacity review findings and river sustainability options is crucial.   **In Response to Questions:**   * Sea level rise and stopbanks - Recent capacity review includes a 100 year sea level rise and climate change impacts for the Waioeka and Otara Rivers and Harbour entrance. * If the amount of rainfall that occurred in Gisborne and Hawkes Bay, occurred here the stopbanks would have overtopped (as it was an over design event). The team needs to have more discussions with ODC about evacuation protocols in relation to this type of scenario. * Evacuation protocols. The Flood Manager provides technical advice on the likely impacts for Ōpōtiki rivers, based on weather forecasting, modelling information and actual rainfall/river levels. ODC Civil Defence use this information to make decisions about evacuations. * The steady level of gravel extraction has helped to keep the rivers stable. Gravel does move around and with regular river bed surveys Council is able to monitor any changes and recommend extraction in areas of build up. * Cr Ken Shirley arrived at 10.37am   **Items for staff follow up:**   * Contact Civil Defence and Emergency Management (Megan Edhouse) regarding involvement of marae in developing excavation protocols. * Present gravel cross sections at the September meeting. |
| **4.2** | **Maintenance Works Programme Update**  Presented by: Bruce Crabbe and Tony Dunlop. Agenda report taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * Exceptionally wet period extending from June 2022 through to late February 2023. Refer to data shared on page 10 of agenda report. * Programme highlights including working with DOC, Eastern Region Fish & Game, hapū and ODC. * Planting native species in conjunction with willow and rock erosion protection. * Enhancement of banded dotterel nesting sites through dearmouring gravel beds. * Working with ODC on protecting the Otara East Bridge. * Working well with hapū in the extraction of gravel on both rivers which has helped with river maintenance. * Rock replenishment planned at Otara River Memorial Park. Flyers have been distributed to residents advising of the work programmed for April and May. * Woodlands Road Outlet – rubbish dumping blocking the floodgate. ODC is looking into installing CCTV. * At risk trees growing on or near the stopbank have been assessed. Plan is to trim the trees initially and come back to remove and rebuild the stopbank at a later stage. Includes trees near the floodwall at Ōpōtiki Wharf. These will be trimmed and roots investigated. * Waioeka River, Whakatōhea and Riverloch 2022 flood damage sites to be repaired.   **Key Points - Members:**   * Thank you to BOPRC for all the work that is being done. |

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| **4.3** | **Gravel Extraction Update**  Presented by: Paula Chapman. Agenda report taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * The updated Natural Environmental Regional Monitoring Network (NERMN) report for River and Stream Channel Monitoring is now available on Council’s website. * Surveys are carried out regularly on 15 rivers and streams which helps with the understanding in relation to the movement of gravel in the river systems of the Bay of Plenty region. * The quantity of gravel extraction considered sustainable for the Waioeka is 20,000m3. * Data collected since 2007-2008 showed that the gravel supply rate is expected to average between 20,000 to 25,000m3 for the Otara River. * Gravel extraction is now at a healthy and sustainable level. |
| **4.4** | **Upcoming Long Term Plan, Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan and Infrastructure Strategy Review & Presentation**  Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Agenda report is taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * Three yearly reviews of Council’s Long Term Plan, Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan and Infrastructure Strategy are due to commence. * Central theme will be supporting communities to be more resilient and our schemes to be more sustainable. * Requires a shift in thinking for ongoing and future flood and river works to enable the river to behave more naturally. * Sought feedback from members how they would like to contribute to the review process, either have a separate meeting or extend the meeting in September.   **Discussion:**   * As previously discussed, the delay in the optioneering process will affect other interfaces (ODC spatial planning) and how those should be managed, noting that the LTP is the best place to do this. * Members agreed to set extra time aside at the next advisory group meeting in September. * Noted that Freshwater Management Units (FMU’s) engagement and other central government reform is occurring at the same time and is interrelated. Potential to include FMU’s at September meeting.   **Items for staff follow up:**   * Staff (Nicola Green) to provide a Freshwater Management awareness update at the next meeting to be held on 27 September? |
| **4.5** | **Finance Report Update**  Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Report taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * Revenue and expenditure update for the 6 months ending 31 December 2022. * Total operating revenue is $27,000 higher than budget due to gravel management fees. * Total operation expenditure $73,000 lower than budget. * Total operating surplus of $100,000. * Total capital revenue $445,000 higher due to final insurance pay out for the April 2017 flood event. * Total capital expenditure was $28,000 lower than budget. * Total funds available in reserves as at 31 December 2022 was $1,091M. * Internal loans had a closing balance as of 31 December 2022 of $4.1M. * Asset valuation as of 1 July 2022 of $56M.   **Discussion:**   * Scheme is funded 20% general rates and 80% targeted rates. The 20% contribution is a combination of general rates and investment income from Quayside Holdings ($40M). * It was noted that the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme has the highest rates per capita when compared to other schemes. Councillors represent your region but councillors across the region need to understand other locations and their challenges. * LTP – Revenue and financing policy are up for review in relation to rates. |
| **4.6** | **General Business**  Presented by: Kirsty Brown and Laura Boucher. Agenda report taken as read.  **Key Points:**   * Expecting significant impact on the cost and availability of infrastructure insurance coverage following the Auckland floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. * Careful monitoring and analysis of the insurance market and Council’s asset risk is required. Members will be kept informed, and more information should be available at the September meeting. * Open letter from Eastern Bay Advisory Group members requesting Council commissions an extensive independent forest condition survey and pest animal inventory of Te Urewera and the adjoining Department of Conservation estate. * Report going to the next Monitoring and Operations Committee meeting around forest slash (industrial waste) and following consent conditions. * Communications update – important to get the right information to the right people at the right time. Contact the Communications team at any time. |
|  | **Items for staff follow up:**  Initial survey of satellite imagery to be undertaken and reported back at September meeting. |

Public Forum

* Thank you to Tony Dunlop for the work he does in the area.
* Query regarding the requirement to undertake gravel surveys prior to extraction. Staff to follow up with Waiotahi Contractors.

**11.55am – the meeting closed.**

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**Action Sheet**

**Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting**

**5 April 2023**

| **Action** | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** | **Comment** |
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| 1. Contact Civil Defence and Emergency Management regarding involvement of marae in developing evacuation protocols. | Mark Townsend | Underway | CDEM advised. Meeting with ODC to share proposed evacuation maps. |
| 1. Present historic river x-section information for discussion. | Mark Townsend | Progressing | Update to be provided at September 2023 meeting. |
| 1. Look at inviting relevant staff member(s) to discuss Essential Freshwater Management changes at the September meeting. | Kirsty Brown | Progressing | Update to be provided at September 2023 meeting. |
| 1. Undertake a high level investigation via satellite imagery to determine river scheme impacts of potential deterioration of eastern bay forests. | Mark Townsend | Progressing | Update to be provided at September 2023 meeting. Initial analysis of aerial photography did not reveal anything. |