

# Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group

## Meeting notes

<b>Commencing:</b>	Wednesday, 6 September 2023, 10.00 am
<b>Venue:</b>	Waiariki Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 1118 Fenton Street, Rotorua
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Cr Ken Shirley
<b>Members:</b>	Heather Brake, Roger Hintz, Barry Roderick, Richard Weld, Graham Thompson Nick Chater (Rotorua Lakes Community Board), Cr Andy Wichers (WBOPDC), Dave Hurst.
<b>BOPRC elected members:</b>	Cr Kevin Winters (late)
<b>BOPRC staff:</b>	Chris Ingle (GM Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Dan Batten (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Bruce Crabbe (Principal Advisor), Kerry Smith (Area Engineer), Pete Hennessey (Communications Team Leader), Kelly Sarjeant (Executive Assistant), Laura Boucher (Communications Partner), Loris Hastie (Management Accountant), Hemi Barsdell (Asset Management Specialist).
<b>Public:</b>	Cor Verwey, Nathan York, Kelsey Weld, Colin Armer, Noel McLeod.
<b>Apologies:</b>	Dean Flavell (Tapuika and Te Maru o Kaituna), Cr J Nees, Cr M MacDonald, Cr T Iti, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour (WBOPDC).

### 1. Opening

Items noted for public forum:

- Stormwater consents in Te Puke.
- BOPRC rates increase letter.
- Pollution in the drain area below Te Puke.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies were received as recorded above.

## 3. Previous Meeting Notes

### 3.1 Resolved

**That the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group:**

**Confirms the Advisory Group meeting notes – 15 March 2023 as a true and correct record.**

**Shirley/Weld  
CARRIED**

### 3.2 Matters Arising:

- Marshall/Vercoe Farms: Staff confirmed that drainage improvements have been made, and property owners are satisfied.
- Closing Okere Gates to improve gravity drainage: R Weld questioned the possibility of a trial closing of the Ōkere Gates to allow improved gravity drainage for the lower Kaituna farmland. Staff advised that closing the gates is not currently possible under the existing consent conditions. Further concern was expressed regarding the impact of development in the upper Kaituna, runoff, and high lake levels.

## 4. Agenda items

### 4.1 Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan 2024-74

Presented by: Kirsty Brown and Hemi Barsdell.  
Agenda report taken as read.

#### Key Points:

- The proposed budget figures are currently in their initial stages and will undergo further refinement following members' feedback.
- External pressures such as Central Government regulations, inflation and climate change contributing to unavoidable cost increases.
- Budget forecasts aim to achieve an appropriate balance between affordability and service provision, including appropriate risk management and alignment with national standards.
- The proposed operational expenditure is comparative to previous years, with proposed increases for asset defect remediation, Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws compliance and monitoring, ecological offset work, electricity, and diesel.
- Potential future financial impacts to be aware of:

- The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management could result in significant additional expenditure requirements for the scheme, particularly regarding drainage water discharge quality and scheme maintenance.
- Aon Ltd has indicated that there could be a significant increase in infrastructure insurance premiums due to recent national and international weather events.
- Detailed comprehensive budgets with rating implications will be presented to the Advisory Group during the March 2024 meeting.

**Discussion points:**

- Acknowledged the financial pressures being faced across the region, staff working hard to find savings where possible without compromising service.
- Central Government's Essential Freshwater reforms will be significant for farmers. Members were encouraged to get involved in the consultation process. Information brochures available in meeting room.
- Additional budget for Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws implementation enables better management of risks associated with people's activities in the vicinity of flood protection and drainage assets.
- Members risk tolerance was gauged regarding the suggestion to reduce levels of service for certain stopbanks within the scheme, to potentially reduce future capital expenditure, particularly in cases where a 1% AEP design level may no longer be suitable. The Maketū Estuary stopbank was identified as a potential situation for this approach. After a discussion, it was decided that the Engineering team will collaborate with Roger Hintz to conduct an analysis and develop options, which will then be presented to the members.
- An overview of the proposed communications plan was provided. Feedback was encouraged to ensure all future communications are clear.

**Item for staff follow up:**

- Collaborate with Roger Hintz to evaluate the potential to reduce levels of service for certain stopbanks. Overtopping impacts, options, and cost/benefit analysis to be presented at March 2024 meeting.

## **4.2 Capital Works Programme 2023-24**

Presented by: Mark Townsend, Engineering Manager.  
Agenda report taken as read.

**Key Points:**

- Ford Road pump station replacement update:
  - Overview of works planned for 2023-24 include obtaining resource consent, selecting pump type (noting 52-week delivery time), complete station design, relocate farm race, widen the internal and Cruickshanks Drains, and installing box culverts.
  - Pump station capacity does not need to be increased for Rangiora Business Park.
  - Contributions from the Business Park towards the pump station will be determined based on volume and is currently being modelled.

Operations and maintenance rating requirements and classifications being worked through.

- Ngongotahā Stream mitigation project update: Agreement has been reached with the A&P Showgrounds. Components of the project and program timelines was discussed.
- Seddon Street Pump Station update: The layout has been designed, and the program timeline is in place, with completion of works expected in the late summer. Ecologist recommended a 2-stage riparian design that includes a shallow filtration area to improve water quality of pump station discharges.

### **Discussion points:**

- Confirmation that electrified pump stations will have back up diesel generators.
- Member queried formal agreements on access, maintenance and responsibilities in the area. Staff advised that easement powers for monitoring and maintaining river scheme assets are provided under legislation.
- Members queried weed/silt/spoil removal from drains, staff explained this process.
- Member raised issue that these pump designs are to drain and flood protect this catchment but does not address drains flowing in from the Te Puke urban area. Staff responded Roger Waugh from River Space has been contracted to investigate Borough Drain and other urban areas that contribute to this catchment to look at other ways of efficiently getting water out directly to Ohineangaanga or the River. Bruce to follow up on timeline.
- Member queries additional pumps being installed on western side of the river, farmers had spent a lot of money on pumping and whether they received compensation. Staff responded these additional stations are in areas outside of original pumped areas. Pump performance at the original scheme stations has been very good considering the quantity of rain however there appears to be some new areas needing pumping now, particularly downstream of Te Puke urban area.
- Member queries mitigation on Vercoe property. Staff responded no permanent solution has been agreed, but reactive pumping is continuing as needed.
- Member (Barry Roderick) queried whether Council can develop an economic policy/planning process/structure to remedy whereby there may be support available for landowners should prolonged water on their property affect revenue long term. Staff responded that the Asset Management Plan has level of service the Scheme is intended to provide and is driven and guided by that.
- A question was raised whether the LOS was being met over the 2022/23 year. Mark to get analysis done and prepare a response for a future meeting.
- No correlation between Rangiora Business Park/Ford Rd pump station and Ngongotahā works/MHub.

11:45 - Councillor Winters entered the meeting.

**Items for staff follow up:**

- Follow up on RiverSpace investigation: Confirm progress and timeline for completion by February 2024 regarding the drainage issues raised by Colin Armer, specifically addressing the flow of water from the Te Puke urban area into the catchment.
- Mark to get analysis done on whether pump stations have been meeting their levels of service and prepare a response for a future meeting.

**4.3 Maintenance Works Programme 2023-24**

Presented by: Dan Batten, Kerry Smith, and Bruce Crabbe.  
Agenda report taken as read.

**Key Points:**

- Overview of maintenance works programme for 2023-24.
- 26 of 47 culvert installations have been undertaken to improve machinery access and maintenance efficiencies.
- Desilting and bank stabilisation works planned from Te Puke Quarry Road to the Kaituna River.
- Investigations underway into electrification of Marshalls, Armers and the Bell Road C diesel pump stations. Estimated cost for Bell Road C is \$300,000 but significant cost savings overtime are possible with a shift from diesel to electric.
- Programme budget of \$1,387,500 for 2023-24.
- Staff are recommending the purchase of a surplus land parcel adjoining the Waingaehe Floodway, that has many potential uses including materials storage, planting, and wetland development for water quality improvements.

**4.3 Finance Report Update**

Presented by: Kirsty Brown  
Agenda report taken as read.

**Key Points:**

- Revenue and expenditure update for the 12 months ending 30 December 2023.
- Total operating revenue \$526,000 higher than budget.
- Total operating surplus of \$2,041,000.
- Total capital revenue \$398,000 lower than budget.
- Total capital expenditure \$957,000 lower than budget.
- Total reserve funds available \$2.9 million.
- Internal loans closing balance of \$9 million as of 30 June 2023.
- Asset valuation as of 1 July 2022 \$85 million.

#### **4.4 Update from the Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority**

Presented by: Kirsty Brown  
Report taken as read.

#### **4.5 General Business**

Presented by: Kirsty Brown  
Report taken as read.

##### **Key Points:**

- 2023 Terms of Reference for all river scheme advisory groups was adopted at the 9 August 2023 full Council meeting.
- Second three-year term of ratepayer membership is due to conclude in October 2023. The public nomination process is scheduled for November.
- Room for the River - entering a period of change for river management, with evolving principles and best practices, along with central government reforms and policy changes. Room for the Rivers is used globally to restore the natural flow path of rivers. It is expected that, overtime, this approach will play a pivotal role in future decision making for river management.

##### **Discussion point:**

- Conflict of interest in relation to the Terms of Reference clarified.

##### **Item for staff follow up:**

- Barry Roderick requested an analysis of the Kaituna river system in terms of 'Room for the River' concept. Staff responded this is more relevant to other Schemes than the Kaituna. Kirsty/Mark will provide this analysis.

### **5. Public Forum**

#### **5.1 Stormwater consents in Te Puke - Cor Verwey**

- Dissatisfied that in order to get a replacement culvert he was asked to allow an easement over his property for a weather station, noting BOPRC lost a \$400k investment in the process.
- Questioned why expanding industrial business sites such as Eastpack and Pukepine do not have consents in the Collins Lane/Washer Road area.
- Acknowledged ratepayers cleaning up after Pukepine.

##### **Item for staff follow up:**

- Chris Ingle notes consents for industrial businesses are out of scope for the Advisory Group and will advise Pim de Monchy and Regulatory Services staff to make contact with Mr Verwey.

#### **5.2 BOPRC rates increase letter - Richard Weld/Dave Hurst**

- Concern raised by members at the 20% rates increase for 2023-2024. The difficult economic situation and pressure on farmers with recent weather events was noted and discussed.

**Item for staff follow up:**

- Chris/Kirsty to review letter, figures and whether this is based on capital works programme for current year. Kirsty will clarify figures by email to members.

**5.3 Stormwater retention - Colin Armer**

- Nearby development consented to a 3-day retention of stormwater. Raised concern about being inundated for weeks. Staff responded discharge after 3 days is a significant step in right direction.

**5.4 Stormwater Modelling - Nathan York**

- Query on when the stormwater modelling status associated with the upper catchment and Bell Road will be complete. Staff responded the upper catchment stream model is in its final stages. The Bell Rd report is in its final review stage.

**Item for staff follow up:**

- Nathan York suggests if any members wish to query an item on the agenda they are able to flag their query prior to the meeting, allowing for considered responses from staff. Chair and members agree. Going forward Kirsty will invite members to flag items in advance of meeting.

**5.5 Review of Kaituna Scheme - Dave Hurst**

- Member queried why an independent review he suggested several years ago on the Bell Rd sub-catchment has not been done. Chair noted Council are mindful of development, actively involved and highly aware of the challenges. An independent review was not considered worthwhile given extensive work undertaken by staff and the clear signs of climate change. Staff have reports available.

**Item for staff follow up:**

- Update at the March 2024 meeting on the minor rating review undertaken by Simon Harris, PLW.

**12.40 pm - the meeting closed.**

**CONFIRMED**

**Shirley/Hintz  
CARRIED 13/06/2024**



## Action Sheet

6 September 2023

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
1. Collaborate with Roger Hintz to assess potential service level reductions for specific stopbanks. Present overtopping impacts, options, and cost/benefit analysis at the March 2024 meeting.	Mark Townsend	Underway	Mark to update in meeting
2. Confirm progress and timeline for RiverSpace Ltd's investigation on drainage issues for (Borough Drain and other urban areas).	Dan Batten	Completed	Commentary on report to be provided at the meeting
3. Mark to get analysis done on whether pump stations have been meeting their levels of service and prepare a response for a future meeting.	Mark Townsend	Underway	This will be covered in a presentation update
4. Room for the River overview for the Kaituna River (1 pager).	Kirsty Brown Mark Townsend	Completed	Information provided in General Business report
5. Request Pim de Monchy and Regulatory Services make contact with Cor Verwey as resource consents queries are not a role for the Rivers and Drainage team.	Chris Ingle	Completed	Queries passed on to Regulatory Services - Compliance
6. Review rating letter, confirming alignment with current year's capital works program. Email members to clarify.	Kirsty Brown	Completed	Members emailed on 12/02/2024, with a more detailed explanation of the rates increase, causes and justification
7. Update of the minor Kaituna Rating Review.	Kirsty Brown	Completed	Covered in General Business.

1. Flag agenda items in advance - pre-flag items prior to meeting.