

Kaituna Catchment Control Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting notes

Commencing:	Wednesday, 13 March 2024, 10.00 am
Venue:	The Orchard Church, 20 MacLoughlin Drive, Te Puke
Chairperson:	Councillor Ken Shirley
Members:	Heather Brake, Roger Hintz, Barry Roderick, Dave Hurst, Graham Thompson, Richard Weld, Dean Flavell (TMOk River Authority Chair) Councillor Andy Wichers (WBOPDC), Colin Bates (Rotorua Lakes Council) and Eric Cawte (Rotorua Lakes Council).
BOPRC staff:	Chris Ingle (GM Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Dan Batten (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Laura Boucher (Communications Partner), Hemi Barsdell (Asset Management Specialist), Jenn Goodfellow (Asset Management Coordinator), AJ Prinsloo (Finance Manager) and Gemma Moleta (Senior Planner – Water Policy).
Public:	Cor Verwey, Nathan York, Noel McLeod and Dave Marshall
Apologies:	Nick Chater (Rotorua Lakes Community Board), Deputy Mayor J Scrimgemour (WBOPDC), Pim de Monchy (Coastal Catchments Manager), Kerry Smith (Area Engineer), Bruce Crabbe (Principal Advisor), Councillors J Nees and K Winters (BOPRC).

1. Opening

Cr Shirley opened the meeting. The following items were tabled:

1. Updated Finance Report
2. Draft Long Term Plan Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme handout
3. Long Term Plan 2024/2034 consultation document.

1.1 Items for General Business

- Rangioru Business Park stormwater ponds – Richard Weld.

1.2. Items for Public Forum

- Cor Verwey - Consenting and compliance issues.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies received as noted above.

2. Previous Meeting Notes

2.1 Kaituna Catchment Control Rivers Scheme Advisory Group meeting notes – 6 September 2023

Resolved:

That the notes from previous meeting held 6 September 2023 are a true and correct record.

**Shirley/Hintz
CARRIED**

2.2 Matters Arising:

- Graham Thompson noted his attendance was not recorded in the meeting notes.

Action Items:

- Meeting notes from 6 September 2023 to be updated with Graham Thompson's attendance.

2.3 Action Items from meeting 6 September 2023

Presented by Kirsty Brown. Action items were acknowledged and opened for discussion.

Discussion:

Action item 2: Confirmed update to be provided during the meeting. It was noted that the RiverSpace's report had only recently been received by staff and is still pending review. Measurements of the Borough Drain areas will be covered in the RAD Operations update section of the meeting.

3. Agenda items

3.1 Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan 2024-2074 proposed changes

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

Key Points:

- Staff's focus has been on balancing affordability and risk while ensuring the continued function of rivers and drainage activities.
- Draft budgets are showing increases in both operational and capital expenditure.
- External pressures such as inflation, increased interest rates and insurance hikes contributing to unavoidable cost increases.
- Capital investment in flood protection has boosted resilience but it comes at a cost.
- Growing need to prepare for change climate and meeting an increased demand for our services.
- Noted that presented budget information based on version 4 of the budget adopted by Council for review by Audit NZ in December 2023 and for the LTP consultation period. Currently working towards a version 5.
- Detailed budgets with loan and rating implications and property examples were presented. Loan interest rates are forecast to rise from 2.5% to 4%, leading to an additional annual cost of approximately \$342,000.
- Overview of predicted version 5 budget movements.
- Staff are still working towards finding further savings.
- Overview of the LTP consultation process provided.

Discussion:

- Clarification that the spike in 2027/28 in the proposed Operational budgets is due to the 5-yearly predicted flood damage event as per the Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan. It was noted that these events are funded from the flood damage reserves so not to affect the rates for the year they are predicted.
- Remediation of Ohineangaanga Stream in Year 1 addresses the 2023 washout of drop structures, bank erosion, and damage to a gas line. Noting that temporary measures have been implemented and that \$1 million allocated in the budget is a placeholder amount only.
- Lake Rotoiti diversion wall concerns. It was clarified that this is a lake structure (water quality) and is not a scheme flood protection asset.
- Risks caused by overgrown trees outside of the scheme maintenance area, upstream of the State Highway on Ngongotahā Stream. It was noted that significant tree removal work has been completed in this area and will remain an ongoing issue.
- Clarification that the river scheme includes lake Rotorua and Rotoiti.
- Changes to the OCR are factored into the interest rate assumptions, advice on predictions are ongoing.
- Concern raised that the drainage improvement works underway at the Ford Road Pump Station was not tendered therefore no market scrutiny. Staff advised that only one contractor was available to

- complete the work with the required timeframe and estimated cost.
- Phase 2 of the infrastructure insurance review to commence in May 2024.
- Ongoing lobbying of central government for capital funding support.

Action Items:

- Update on work upstream of State Highway 5, Ngongotahā in relation to risk posed to the lower catchments.
- Present the difference between rate increase and the inflation increase.

3.2 Capital Works Programme Update

Presented by: Mark Townsend and Laura Boucher
Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Overview of the Scheme's web page provided.
- Action item 3. from the previous meeting notes regarding the analysis to determine whether pump stations have been meeting levels of service. It was noted this will require substantial effort with each pump station having its own catchment area and the need to carry out rain radar analysis. Aiming to have the results available at the next meeting.
- Ford Road Pump Station update: All necessary consents have been obtained. Currently in the process of selecting the appropriate pump. Pump order will take 52 weeks for delivery. The pump station detailed design is due December 2024.
- Modelling work has been completed for the Puarenga Stream. Design work for upgrades is underway but a site meeting with RLC is required.
- Ngongotahā Stream Mitigation Project:
 - There are still overflow issues downstream that will affect housing. Proposed to raise stopbanks and we have consulted with landowners.
 - Southern floodway - Construction is proposed to start in October, and it is intended that it be complete within one construction season. Resource consent is non-notified as the affected parties, A&P showgrounds and Ngāti Whakaeue, have already been heavily involved in the project.
 - High flow bypasses - Design is completed but needs to proceed following the southern floodway as there are downstream effects as a result of the bypasses.
- Seddon Street Pump Station - Construction is underway. Overlay is required behind the stopbank.
- Floodplain settlement - This financial year a network is being setup for the Kaituna flood plains to monitor peat shrinkage. This will be on a 5-year monitoring cycle using a combination of manpower and drones.

Discussion:

- Discussion regarding the rain radar. Gauge corrected rain radar is being used across all forecasting models - more reliable and cost effective. Currently part way through rain analysis work.
- Queries regarding the Armer pump capacity and cost.
- Stormwater modelling of the Bell Road sub-catchment - Have opted to add in the new ponds around the new overpass to try and rectify some anomalies found with pond G. Final report should be completed within a month.

Action Items:

- Mark to have analysis completed on whether pump stations have been meeting their levels of service and prepare a response for a future meeting.

3.3 Maintenance Works Programme

Presented by: Dan Batten. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Seddon Pump Station construction update.
- Mangakakahi Stream - There have been flooding issue around low-lying houses. Stream channel maintenance has been completed and There is a cost share arrangement with the Rotorua Lakes Council.
- Raparapahoe maintenance works - long reach has been used and more planned maintenance will take place this summer 24/25.
- Ongoing desilting works is required on the Ohineannagaanga Canal with large volumes being extracted. Working with adjacent landowners, contractors and WBOPDC to rehome the material to retain capacity of the Canal.
- Desilting issues in the Kaituna scheme canals are a result of heavy rainfall and multiple slips outside the scheme maintenance areas. Adjacent landowners are working with BOPRC. Silt is being used in some capital works projects.
- Upper Scheme floodgate and riverbank erosion inspections - Looking at nature-based solutions for erosion spots. Inspection of critical flood gates every quarter and the remainder are checked annually.

Discussion:

- Explanation of the Armer pump engineering and capacity.
- Clarification of the de-silting location in the Lower Kaituna canals. Historically the desilting would occur ones every 3 to 5 years. In the last year the work has been completed 6 to 8 times. The work is currently staying within the operations budget and will be completed before winter.
- Confirmation that the trees on the landward side of the Kopuaroa canal stopbank are in good health and so are not currently an issue. They are being monitored for future asset defect repairs.
- Thanks to Dan and the team for all their hard work during wet period.

Action items:

Cross section presentation on silt levels in Kaituna River for next meeting.

8 Essential Freshwater update

Presented by Gemma Moleta, Senior Planner (Water Policy)

Key Points:

- Changes to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP) which will result in potential rule changes including:
 - Drain discharges regulated to improve water quality.
 - Regulations on setbacks and stock exclusion from rivers and drains.
 - Guidelines for managing stock on steep land.
 - Regulations against grazing practices that lead to bare soil.
 - Control measures for nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser use.
 - Regulation of scheme works near rivers and wetlands.
 - Amendments to allocation limits and minimum flow requirements for water extraction.
- Council has delayed the release of the draft RPS and RNRP documents due to the recent central government changes.
- Council has extended proposed plan notification date to Sep 2025 (from December 2024)

Discussion:

- There are potentially some reductions in consenting costs and may be some fast tracking.

9 Finance Report Update

Presented by: Kirsty Brown

Report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Revenue and expenditure update for the 6 months ending 31 December 2023.
- Total operation revenue \$72,000 higher than budget.
- Total operation expenditure \$318,000 higher than budget.
- Resulting in an operating deficit of \$246,000.
- Total capital revenue \$766,000 lower than budget. Climate Resilient funding not yet received.
- Total capital expenditure \$3.1 million lower than budget. Before construction season.
- Total reserve funds available \$3.163 million.

- Internal loans closing balance as of 31 December 2023 \$9.991 million.
- Asset valuation as of 1 July 2023 \$92.9 million.

Discussion:

- A query raised regarding the earning on investments.
- Lead time for ordering the Ford Road pump is 52 weeks, the expense will be in the next financial year. There will be an underspend of \$3.6 million this financial year.

Action items:

- Detail of 5 yrs. earnings on investments.

10 Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority update

Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Report taken as read.

Key Points:

- New contract to support Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority
- August 2023 - January 2024 TMoK Biannual Report

Discussion:

- The \$10k co funding is crown funding.
- It was noted that the WBOPDC Cycleway remains uncertain. It was highlighted that the purpose of the stopbanks is flood protection, and this takes priority over the cycleway.

11 General Business

Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Read taken as read.

Key Points:

- Kaituna Minor Ratings review update: there is a delay in completing the final stage of the review for the Te Puke area due to issues with the model. It was noted that Simon Harris from Land Water People Ltd has been engaged to complete the final stage once the revised modelling was available.
- Room for the River overview: it was noted that Room for the River practices are currently not applied to the Kaituna scheme.

Discussion:

- Rangiuru Business Park stormwater ponds: concerns were raised regarding the integrity of the ponds.
- Quayside Investments: work is underway to develop a separate rating formula for the Business Park. This includes a capital contribution towards the Ford Road Pump Station and ongoing operations.
- Pump Station Caretaker Fees: it was noted that caretaker fees for the

pump station have not been paid.

- Stormwater Model: a new stormwater model for the Te Puke area should be completed by July.

Action items:

- Rangiuru Business Park ponds - check for any concerns regarding the bund and boundary and confirm whether the ponds are lined.
- Follow up on pump station caretaker fee payments.

12 Public Forum

- Cor Verwey tabled and read a letter concerning stormwater issues affecting farmers. It was acknowledged that the points highlighted in the letter necessitate a comprehensive response from the Council, as they extend beyond flood protection and fall outside the scope of the advisory group.

Action item:

- Tabled letter to be circulated to relevant Council teams for response.

6. Closing

12:22 pm - the meeting closed.

Action Sheet

Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group Meeting

13 March 2024

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
1. Meeting notes from 6 September 2023 to be updated with Graham Thompson's attendance.	Jenn		
2. Update on work upstream of State Highway 5, Ngongotahā in relation to risk posed to the lower catchments.	Mark		
3. Show the difference between rate increase and the inflation increase	Kirsty		
4. Have an analysis done on whether pump stations have been meeting their levels of service and prepare a response for a future meeting.	Mark		
5. Cross section presentation on silt levels in Kaituna river next meeting	Mark		
6. Detail of earnings on investments 5yr	AJ		
7. Follow up with the business park ponds. Check for issues of concern of bund and boundary. Confirm if the ponds are lined.	Mark		
8. Follow up on caretaker fee payments.	Dan		

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
9. Respond as an organisation re Eastpack and Pukepine - consenting and compliance issues	Chris		