

Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting notes

Commencing:	Wednesday, 4 September 2024, 10am
Venue:	Waiariki Room, BOPRC Rotorua office, 1118 Fenton Street, Rotorua
Chairperson:	Councillor Ken Shirley
Members:	Heather Brake (Rotorua Urban), Roger Hintz (Lower Kaituna Basin), Barry Roderick (Lower Kaituna Basin), Dave Hurst (Lower Kaituna Basin), Graham Thompson (Lower Kaituna Basin), Richard Weld (Lower Kaituna Basin), John Scrimgeour (Deputy Mayor WBOPDC) Andy Wichers (WBOPDC Alternate)
BOPRC elected members:	Chairman Leeder, Councillor Nees, Councillor Winters, Councillor Thurston, Councillor White.
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), Kerry Smith (Area Engineer), Jenn Goodfellow (Asset Management Coordinator), AJ Prinsloo (Finance Manager), Hasi Silva (Senior Management Accountant) Peter Hennessey (Communications Partner), Paula Chapman (Project Manager) and Kathy Thiel-Lardon (Environmental Engineer)
Public:	Cor Verway, John Meikle, Colin Armer
Apologies:	Jo'el Komene (Chair Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority) and Colin Bates (Rotorua Lakes Council staff)

1 Opening

Councillor Shirley opened the meeting. The following item was tabled:

- Draft Revenue and Expenditure report.

1.1 Items for General Business

- Kaituna River Road – drilling of holes in stopbank.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2 Previous Meeting Notes

Resolved:

That the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group:

Confirms the notes from the previous meeting held 13 March 2024 are a true and correct record.

**Shirley/Brake
CARRIED**

3 Action Items from meeting 13 March 2024

Action items from the previous meeting were taken as read and then opened for discussion.

Discussion:

- Action Item 2: Out-of-scheme work upstream of State Highway 5, Ngongotahā was 75% funded by Central Government as part of the Shovel Ready Covid Recovery.
- General rule for development to allow for increased hard surfaces is that stormwater retention is based on a 100-year design event, where post-development run off should be 80% of pre-development levels, unless an approved stormwater model exists for the development and indicates something different.
- Clarification was provided regarding the flood prediction allowance included in the Finance Report, noting that it is a non-cash entry.

4 Agenda items

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

Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Main topic at the March 2024 meeting was the draft Long Term Plan (LTP) and Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan (AMP) budgets.
- Feedback led to further cuts in operational and contractor budgets.
- LTP and AMP was adopted by the Council on 26 June 2024.

- Agenda report provides an overview of capital and maintenance budgets but excludes recently confirmed central government funding.

Action Items:

- Circulate the capital expenditure split between upper and lower Kaituna scheme as per the LTP.

4.2 Capital Works Programme Update

Presented by: Mark Townsend. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

Central Government Funding - Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

- Before the Deluge 2.0 includes \$8.42 million for the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme (60% grant) for three projects: Ford Road pumpstation, Kaituna Stopbank Upgrades and Te Puke Stormwater Upgrade (Seddon Street Pump Station).
- Funding will reduce the reliance on loan funding.

Central Government Funding - Cyclone Recovery Capability Fund

Further central government funding has been granted to accelerate recovery efforts following the 2023 North Island weather events. This funding supports the Ohineangaanga Stream restoration project and the geotechnical investigations for the Kaituna River stopbanks.

Pump Station Analysis

The Engineering Manager presented an analysis of pump station and rainfall information in the lower Kaituna drainage area during the period February 2022 to October 2023. The discharges from the pump stations are mainly pumped as gravity discharge has not been possible due to high Kaituna River levels.

Kaituna River cross-sections

Key Kaituna River cross section information was presented which showed level changes from 1992 to 2023. Discussion around the river bed level adjusting following dredging of the bed to construct stopbanks. The next capacity assessment will use the 2023 cross-sections.

Kaituna Rivers and Canals Geotechnical investigations

The 2025/26 work programme includes stopbank upgrades in the canals identified from the capacity review, with funding from the RIF. The geotech investigation covered 15 sites from Maketu to just downstream of the railway bridge, identifying eight medium-risk sites and the rest as low risk. Further investigation is planned for the eight medium-risk sites.

Bell Road Catchment Modelling

New LiDAR data has been used in the updated Bell Road catchment modelling. This has removed a number of anomalies from previous Lidar results. Using the new Lidar now indicates that the Bell Rd Scheme largely meets its level of service. There are however some low-lying areas that do not. With projected climate change and floodplain settlement these areas will increase in time.

Ohineangaanga Stream Remediation

The 2023 Anniversary Weekend storm event damaged the gas line, bridge abutments and the drop structures downstream of the Te Puke Highway Bridge. The drop structures are to be removed and the channel reinforced with rock armouring due to high flow velocity and scour issues. Vegetation was not a viable option in this situation. The work has involved collaboration with the FirstGas, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Kiwi Rail.

Ngongotahā Stream Mitigation

The desired outcomes from the mitigation options were to:

- Convey 1% AEP past the urban area
- Account for climate change.
- Adopt an adaptive approach
- Maintain environmental and recreational values.

The original work estimate has significantly increased, resulting in the need to investigate alternative options. Surveying is currently underway, and there has been communication with 155 households in the residential area for floor-level assessments.

Engineering Manager to present options, with costs, to the BOPRC Rotorua Councillors prior to sharing with the Ngongotahā CRG.

Ford Road Pump Station replacement

Project Manager Kathy Theil-Lardon reminded the group of the project objectives and stages. It was explained that engagement with Rangiorua Business Park delayed the project design. An Archimedes Screw pump is recommended due to its total cost over the asset's life. A report will be presented to the Council meeting on 12 September 2024 to address the additional costs since 2021 (due to inflation and the pump change) and the funding granted through the RIF.

Discussion:

Pump Station Analysis

- It was noted that the graphs presented did not reflect saturation levels, which also impacts performance during rain events.
- High river levels over the past year have been impacting the efficiency of gravity drainage.

Kaituna River Cross-Sections

- A summer maintenance program focusing on de-silting activities will include the clearing of silt build up around floodgates.
- The RAD Operations team continues to monitor and clear log traps throughout the scheme.

Ngongotahā Stream Mitigation

- Community concerns regarding the time taken for flood mitigation efforts were acknowledged, with heightened anxiety stemming from past flood events.
- Council is actively progressing with mitigation works, and the area is under close observation during flood events.

Ford Road Pump Station

- Concerns were raised about future costs, ongoing delays, alternative solutions, and compliance with water quality plan changes.
- An Archimedes Screw pump was recommended as the most cost-effective long term solution.
- Clarification of targeted rate percentages for upper and lower catchments.

Action Items:

- Data requested for where river levels are at pump stations currently compared to the level in February 2022.

5 Maintenance Works Programme Update

Presented by: Kerry Smith. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Kaituna River: Focus on maintenance near the confluence of Mangorewa River, addressing erosion.
- Kopuaroa Canal: Plan to replace culvert, headwall, and floodgate flap, with additional bank stabilisation and erosion protection.
- Kaituna River various sites: Addressing erosion by replacing trees with rock armouring as a less preferred but necessary solution.
- Bell Road Pump Station C: work underway converting the pump station from diesel to electricity, retaining the diesel pump as a backup. Completion expected in the next few months.

Discussion:

- The drain from Bell Road Pump Station C has not been cleared annually as required.
- Discussion on the manpower and burden required to complete clearing the screens.

- The RAD Operations team will clean out the drains at the beginning and end of flood events, as this is more efficient and addresses the periods of the highest buildup.

Action Items:

- Follow up with the landowner to complete the clearing of the drain from Bell Road Pump Station C.
- Communications will be distributed regarding the removal of debris from the flood plains.

6 Essential Freshwater Update

Presented by: Nicola Green. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- The region faces significant freshwater management challenges, and the Council is actively working on solutions.
- A draft change to the Regional Natural Resources Plan will be released in November-December, along with a discussion document on reducing farming contaminants for feedback.
- The draft plan proposes a controlled discharge activity rule requiring consent for the scheme's pump discharges, with no public notification.
- A scheme management plan will be required as part of the consent application to show steps to reduce adverse effects.
- Estuaries in the scheme are very sensitive to changes in water flow and contamination from their surrounding areas.

Discussion:

- Council faces challenges in achieving environmental outcomes, with potential major changes to the RMA noted.
- Emphasis was placed on the duty of care to the environment, followed by discussions on potential methods to clean up waterways.
- Pump drainage discharge will change from a permitted activity to a controlled activity requiring consent. This will be non-notified but supported by the scheme management plan, which includes involvement and input from tangata whenua.
- Concerns were raised about distinguishing between drainage and flood discharge when testing water quality.
- Council will be responsible for obtaining the discharge consent on behalf of the scheme, under the Integrated Catchments Group.

Action Items:

- Provide reports on the contaminates from dairy studies.
- Provide information on the draft plan in November/December. A meeting to be scheduled to provide feedback.

- A farmer feedback plan will be put into place once the discussion document has been created.

7 Finance Report Update

Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Draft revenue and expenditure statement for the 12 months ending 30 June 2024. This remains a draft until adopted by the Council.
- External Interest Income was \$139,000 higher than budget due to higher interest rates.
- Other Expenses was \$239,000 higher than budget due to prolonged rainfall events.
- Total Operating results in a deficit of \$69,000.
- Capital Funding was \$1.6 million lower than budgeted due to the timing of Kanoa funding.
- Total capital expenditure is \$5.2 million lower than budget:
 - Kaituna Pump Replacements \$423,000 lower than budget due to design delays.
 - Ford Road Pump station is \$4.6 million lower than budget due to delays in pump selection and consequent detailed design. However, Stage One drain improvement and bridge works are well underway.
 - Ngongotaha Stream \$824,000 lower than budget due to delays in finalising an affordable design and landowner consultation.

8 Added in update

Verbal update provided.

Key Points:

- Jo'el Komene has been appointed as the new chair of Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority

Discussion:

- Context
- An invitation to be involved in the River Scheme Sustainability Project was extended to the members. A reference group is being established. A presentation to be provided in March.

Post meeting note: Richard Weld and Barry Roderick nominated.

Action Items:

- The Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority meeting update will be circulated.

11 General Business

Key Points:

- Kaituna Minor Rating Review is now in its second phase. Simon Harris from LWP Ltd has been re-engaged by the Council to continue the review.
- An internal review of the scheme's infrastructure insurance is underway, to investigate potential cost savings.
- Overview of recommended best practices for drain management. Ongoing work is focused on enhancing the drainage system.

Discussion:

- Questions were raised regarding how the recommended best practices for drain management have improved water quality in the drains.
- Members were asked for feedback on the advisory group meetings' effectiveness and value. There was general agreement that the meetings are a key platform for discussing issues. Members supported increasing landowner membership to represent various perspectives. Additionally, they raised concerns regarding the communications with scheme stakeholders about the advisory group meetings.
- Richard Weld queried the construction works underway near the Kaituna River Road area, specifically the digging of large holes near the stopbank. It was advised that this work should be covered by a Bylaws Authority, which includes conditions to ensure the integrity of the stopbank is not compromised. This matter will be investigated and reported back to members.

Action Items:

- Provide information on how the Council reports on advisory group meetings to scheme stakeholders.
- Circulate an update from the Bylaws team on the work currently being completed in the Kaituna River Road area, including excavating large holes.
- Circulate any information/reports of water quality improvements following implementing drain management best practice.

14:05 pm - the meeting closed.

Action Sheet

Kaituna Catchment Control Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting

4 September 2024

Action	Person Responsible	Status	Comment
1. Circulated the capital expenditure split between upper and lower Kaituna catchment.	Kirsty	Closed	An email was sent on 21 October 2024 detailing the capital expenditure split for Years 1 to 3, as well as the combined expenditure for Years 1 to 10.
2. Data requested for where river levels are at pump stations currently compared to the level in February 2022	Mark	Closed	An email with the requested data was sent to members on 22/11/2024
3. Follow up with landowner to complete the clearing of the drain from Pump Station C	Dan		.
4. Communications will be distributed regarding the removal of debris from the flood plains.	Dan		
5. Provide reports on the contaminants from dairy studies.	Nicola		
6. Provide information on the draft plan in Nov/Dec - sub-group to be contacted when the draft is released. A meeting will be scheduled to provide feedback.	Nicola		
7. Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority meeting update to be circulated.	Chris		

Action	Person Responsible	Status	Comment
8. Provide information on how the Council reports on advisory group meetings to scheme stakeholders	Pete		
9. Circulate an update from the Bylaws team on the work currently being completed in the Kaituna River Road area, including excavating large holes.	Kirsty		
10. Circulate any information/reports of water quality improvements following implementing drain management best practice.	Kirsty		