

Waikato Regional Council
Waihou-Piako Flood Protection Advisory Subcommittee
OPEN MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 12 August 2020, 10:00 am
Location: Diprose Miller, 53-61 Whitaker St, Te Aroha

Members Present: Cr S Husband - Chair (Waikato Regional Council)
Cr K Hodge (Waikato Regional Council)
Cr D Arnold (Alternate - Matamata-Piako District Council)
Cr P Buckthought (Hauraki District Council)
Mayor S Goudie (Thames Coromandel District Council) (from 10.05am)
C Buchanan (Landowner targeted ratepayer)
S Clarke (Landowner targeted ratepayer) (from 10.08am)
Robert Cookson (Landowner targeted ratepayer)
R Hicks - Chair (Landowner targeted ratepayer)
R Hunter (Landowner targeted ratepayer)
P Le Heron (ex-Chair - Thames Valley Drainage Advisory Subcommittee)
L Gardner (Iwi Representative - Ngaati Haua) (from 10.04am)
M Ruri (Iwi Representative - Raukawa) (until 11.32am)
H Daine (South Waikato District Council)

Others Present: T Harrison – Chief Financial Officer, Ngāti Hinerangi

Staff Present: A Munro – Manager Hauraki/Coromandel
M Flanagan – Zone Manager Hauraki/Coromandel
K Growden – Operations Team Leader Hauraki/Coromandel
A Blunt – Works Supervisor Te Aroha
L Van Veen - Democracy Advisor

1. Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members and supporting staff introduced themselves, advising of their interests in the Committee.

WPPF20/1

Moved By: R Hunter

Seconded By: P Le Heron

RESOLVED (Section A):

That the apologies from Cr H Vercoe (Waikato Regional Council), Cr J Thomas (Matamata-Piako District Council), A McGiven (Landowner targeted ratepayer) and S Edmeades (Landowner targeted ratepayer) and that the apologies for lateness from Mayor S Goudie

(Thames Coromandel District Council) and that the apologies from M Ruru (Iwi Representative - Raukawa) for early departure were accepted.

The motion was put and carried

2. Confirmation of Agenda

WPFP20/2

Moved By: D Arnold

Seconded By: Robert Cookson

RESOLVED (Section A):

That the agenda of the meeting of the Waihou-Piako Flood Protection Advisory Subcommittee of 12 August 2020, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

A member disclosed that they held a grazing licence within the catchment scheme.

4. Final Quarter Status Report

The report was presented by M Flanagan (Zone Manager Hauraki/Coromandel). Refer Doc# 16881735 for the PowerPoint presentation. The following was noted:

- Staff advised that the majority of the high budget variance for the Waihou Zone annual plan operational budget at the Kuaaiti forest harvest block (Kuaaiti forest) was due to timing of harvesting versus revenue received by Council. Once harvesting was completed in September 2020, the revenue would balance out most of the high variance. Members requested a breakdown of how much of the variance related to the delay in revenue from the Kuaaiti forest. Staff undertook to provide this.
- Staff advised that the recently notified Forestry National Environmental Standard (NES) placed higher standards for planting on steep land prone to erosion and would result in some areas of the Kuaaiti forest being unsuitable for future planting and harvesting. The exact affected areas would be determined once the September harvesting was completed. A staff report was planned which would be brought to the Subcommittee for advising on the most appropriate way forward for use of the affected areas, particularly considering the possible loss of revenue as a result.
- A member highlighted that the original reason for the Kuaaiti forest being planted was to protect the overall Waihou catchment scheme from silt erosion and that the forest harvest revenue was a secondary benefit of this.
- In response to a member's query regarding the reason for the delay of the Mill Road Pump 2 replacement, staff advised that the delay was a result of delays in delivery of parts from Germany, due to Covid-19.
- A member queried how reliant Council infrastructure was on overseas supply, particularly when failures occurred. Staff advised that most pump parts were transferrable to others across the region which meant there was low risk if failure occurred. Staff advised that a reliability engineer had been employed to ensure Council infrastructure was backed up across the region, particularly with regards to innovative designs and that this would safeguard against risk of failures.
- A member questioned whether Council infrastructure held suitable back up if the Shovel Ready approved Archimedes Screw replacement pumps failed. Staff advised they were

yet to see the detailed design of the pumps and undertook to investigate this in order to email advice to members.

- In response to members questions regarding where the Shovel Ready approved Archimedes Screw pump for the Waihou scheme would be placed, staff advised that scoping work was currently being undertaken to determine this and that recommendations would be brought back to the members once this work had been completed. Staff highlighted that these types of pumps along with improved pump control technology would provide power use and other associated operational cost savings to the zone over time. The pumps would also provide improved fish passage benefits. Staff undertook to send the report that went to the 21 July 2020 River and Catchment Management Committee regarding the pumps to the members.
- Discussion was held regarding the review of land licence fees being undertaken by staff currently. The five yearly review had been rolled over with a one-year extension in order to take into account new requirements under Plan Change 1 and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Management. Members expressed that resolution of stopbank degradation as a result of stock grazing on stopbanks was best achieved through farmer education, rather than stricter licence fee conditions. Members also noted that more diligent policing of stock grazing breaches needed to be undertaken by staff. Staff undertook to meet with the concerned members to incorporate their concerns into the review of land licence fees project. It was also noted that recommendations from the review would be brought to the Subcommittee for consideration prior to a final Council decision being made.

11.32am Marian Ruri left the meeting.

- Members highlighted that habitat enhancement planting undertaken through use of the Shovel Ready funding needed to be undertaken with protection of the flood scheme in mind. Staff advised that this was at the forefront of the project, with flood protection taking precedence over biodiversity enhancement for areas where this was needed.

11.40am Mayor Sandra Goudie left the meeting.

- Staff advised on the holistic approach being taken to ensure low risk with regards to removal of silt from waterways and the drying of this silt in order to re-use the material for top up stopbanks.
- A member queried regarding the comment under paragraph 23 of the report regarding replacement of flood gate infrastructure being put on hold. Staff advised that this was to allow time to undertake the flood gate rationalisation project which involved combining three floodgates into one.

WPFP20/3

Moved By: R Hicks

Seconded By: Richard Cookson

RESOLVED (Section A):

That the report Final Quarter Status Report (Waihou-Piako Flood Protection Subcommittee 13 August 2020) be received.

The motion was put and carried

WPFP20/4

Moved By: Cr S Husband

Seconded By: Cr P Buckthought

RECOMMENDED (Section B):

That staff liaise with the identified Waihou-Piako Flood Protection Advisory Subcommittee members to incorporate their concerns into the review of the land licence fees project and ensure satisfactory recommendations are incorporated into the final report for the River and Catchment Management Committee's consideration.

The motion was put and carried

5. Topics for upcoming meetings

The Chair requested that members provided feedback on items they would like included in the Subcommittee agendas going forward. The following was requested by members.

- Members highlighted that improved management of Koi Carp needed to take precedence before habitat enhancement could effectively be achieved. Staff highlighted that the Department of Conservation (DoC) held the mandate for management of Koi Carp. Members recognised that in order to achieve real gains in the eradication of Koi Carp more advocacy with DoC and central government was required. Staff undertook to follow up with DoC to ensure their attendance at future Subcommittee meetings.

The meeting closed at 12.09pm

WPPF20/5

Moved By: Cr D Arnold

Seconded By: Cr P Buckthought

RESOLVED (Section A):

That the report Topics for upcoming meetings (Waihou/Piako Flood Protection Subcommittee 12 August 2020) be received.

The motion was put and carried