
MINUTES for a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting of the Waikato District Council held via Audio Visual Conference on **TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2022** commencing at **10.04am**.

Present:

Mr D Wright (Chair) *via Audio Visual Conference*
Ms R Schaafhausen *via Audio Visual Conference*
Mr G Dibley *via Audio Visual Conference*
Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive, Waikato District Council)
Ms J Colliar (Intern) *via Audio Visual Conference (from 11:00am)*

Attending:

Ms C Nutt (Waters Contract Relationship Manager)
Mr K Martin (Waters Manager)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager)
Ms Z Al-Khaleefa (Three Waters Contract Engineer)

Mr M Horsfield (Acting Democracy Advisor)

Mr M Telfer (Watercare)
Mr M Bourne (Watercare)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT apologies from Mr Dibley for non-attendance and Ms Colliar for lateness be received.

CARRIED

WGB2207/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 July 2022:

- a. be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting, with the exception of those items detailed at Agenda item 7, which shall be discussed with the public excluded;
- b. all reports be received;
- c. Board resolves that the following items be added to the agenda as a matter of urgency, as advised by the Chairperson/Chief Executive: Water Submissions Services Entity Bill during the open meeting.

CARRIED

WGB2207/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Ms Schaafhausen noted that she was a member of the Three Waters National Transition Unit.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Ms Schaafhausen)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 7 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

WGB2207/03

REPORTS

Actions Register
Agenda Item 5

The Waters Contract Relationship Manager noted the following matters:

- Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant – Council and Watercare have started the work on the report regarding the plant upgrade.
- Board meeting with Nga Muka – A site visit was planned for 10th August 2022 with the Te Kauwhata wastewater consultation group. Representatives from Nga Muka will meet with the Water Governance Board after the next Board meeting in August.
- Port Waikato and Onewhero Options Assessment was due in September 2022. Feedback from Te Akau South Community Group was received highlighting costs, with additional historical information dating back to the Franklin District Council.

ACTION: Information to be circulated to the Board regarding those to be in attendance for the site visit and the separate meeting with Nga Muka.

Resolved: (Ms Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Actions Register be received.

CARRIED

WGB2207/04

Three Waters Governance Report – June 2022
Agenda Item 6.1

Mr Telfer noted the following matters:

- All performance measures were met in June. There had been one compliance issue due to a sensor failure at Raglan.
- There was a break-in at the Huntly Water Treatment Plant. It was believed that people were attempting to steal equipment to manufacture drugs. Fencing will be improved.
- SCADA implementation was on target to be completed on August 3rd 2022.
- Central District Reservoir Cleaning and assessment had been completed with no issues. Huntly Reservoir will be the next tank to be assessed.
- Backflow testing had progressed well. The number of backflows that need to be fixed is lower than expected.
- Te Kauwhata Wastewater Project – the first slab was poured in June, with the second slab completed last week.
- Water Meter Installation – Waikato District Council (WDC) will be taking action against seven (7) properties. Council had been unable to contact the property owners. Council will be undertaking a public notice, which may result in a public hearing if they object further.
- Recent Heavy Rainfall – the increased rainfall caused issues at the Ngaruawahia and Huntly Treatment Plants. In Raglan, there was a wastewater discharge to the harbour on the outgoing tide, which had resulted in testing to assess the impact of the event.

At the Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) there had been enormous flows with the river impacting the network, with river water entering the plant which required pumping. Council and Watercare kept in contact with Waikato Regional Council regarding the problems associated with the weather event. At the peak of the storm 500 cubic metres was being processed where the plant was designed to handle 250 cubic metres. On a normal day, 2000 cubic metres of wastewater is processed, but the plant was processing 12,000 cubic metres.

Staff did discuss the event with local iwi and the effects on the river, but there was no discussion regarding implementing a rahui. A rahui was discussed with hapuu in Raglan. River levels and flooding will be considered during the development of the Huntly WWTP.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Ms Schaafhausen)

THAT the Three Waters Governance report be received.

CARRIED

WGB2207/05

Health and Safety Audit - 2022
Agenda Item 6.2

Mr Telfer noted the following matters:

- Watercare engaged IMPAC, who completed the health and safety audit. There were other safety audits undertaken across the year. The outcomes for the areas assessed were very high. Several recommendations had been produced and the report was well received.
- Vehicles – the audit noted that vehicles were not being inspected prior to being used. Watercare did have procedures in place, but they needed to be reinforced.
- Does management accept the findings and what timeframe was set to rectify issues? Management supports the recommendation resulting from the audit, and Watercare was working on processes to resolve the issues highlighted.

ACTION: A brief report to be provided at the next meeting showing the progress being made on the audit's recommendations.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Waters Governance Board

- a. receives the report;**
- b. notes the recommendations in the Impac Services report and requests that staff ensure the implementation of these recommendations with Watercare.**

CARRIED

WGB2207/06

Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Recommendations
Agenda Item 6.3

The Waters Manager noted the following matters:

- It was important to continue the strong relationships that had been established. Compliance requirement will be a significant area of focus with investigation underway for the Huntly WWTP upgrade.
- Council was hoping that the full upgrade can be done with the funding we have, however that situation was unlikely. Council will continue to proceed with works. Staff will go back to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to discuss further Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF).
- Funding solutions were available but will need to be released from the LTP.
- Council will ensure that planning and works for the plant can continue under the new Entity B.
- There had been communications from the Chief Executive with Nga Muka regarding historic grievances. Staff were very open to continuing developing the relationship Nga Muka.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Ms Schaafhausen)

That the Water Governance Board recommends to Council:

- a. to approve a reduction in the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant design capacity, subject to receiving support for the project scope change from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; and**
- b. to endorse the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade Option 2, which is the dual lane MABR/MBR, providing recommendation (a) is achieved that Watercare awards the tender to the successful company; and**
- c. that any budget for this project not spent, along with costs not forecast in 2022/2023, be moved or phased to future budgets.**

CARRIED

WGB2207/07

Pokeno/Tuakau Wastewater Network Upgrade

Agenda Item 6.4

The Waters Manager noted the following matters:

- The report outlines the continuation of work within the funding envelope available. There were several developments waiting for the sewer line along Whangarata and Bollard Road. There were several upgrades in the pipeline but funding falls short. Stages Two (2) and Three (3) be undertaken within the funding envelope.
- The Gravity Trunk Sewer initially only serviced the Whangarata business/industrial area. It will now continue through to Pokeno.
- This was a work in progress and there was further work required for the new engineering review so that we can see what savings can be made. It was difficult to fund the whole programme, so staff need to look at what options are on the table.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

That the Waters Governance Board recommends to Council that:

- a. **The following work be approved to proceed:**
 - i. **the upgrade of the Tuakau interceptor wastewater pump station mechanical and electrical capacity;**
 - ii. **resilience improvements;**
 - iii. **constructing a new low gravity trunk sewer from Whangarata Road to Bollard Road;**
 - iv. **increasing the capacity of Market Street pump station in Pokeno; and**
- b. **The upgrades outlined in Stages 3 to 7 are incorporated into the 2024 LTP to ensure that infrastructure delivery is planned to support growth aspirations whilst maintaining levels of service.**

CARRIED

WGB2207/07

Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw

Agenda Item 6.5

The Three Waters Contract Engineer provided an update:

- Early Engagement Feedback – Over 120 stakeholders were emailed and the feedback received was helpful. Feedback was included in the proposed bylaw. There was particular interest for views on mortuary waste, as some stakeholders wanted land-based disposal. However, one funeral home was concerned about the costs to do this.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Ms Schaafhausen)

That the Waters Governance Board:

- a. receive the report on Trade Waste and Wastewater Bylaw;**
- b. notes the changes proposed by Council and Watercare staff and feedback from early engagement.**

CARRIED

WGB2207/08

Three Waters Reform Project Update – July 2022

Agenda Item 6.6

The Three Waters Reform Manager noted the following:

It was noted that Ms Schaafhausen was a member of the Three Waters National Transition Unit.

- The Water Services Reform bill will outline service delivery areas and governance. Council was seeking feedback from Councillors and staff at this time to submit on the Bill. For the Asset Management Working Group, nominations had been put forward from Hamilton City Council and Waipa District Council. WDC supported their nominations to reflect the views of the region.
- There had been recognition from Central Government for the work that WDC were undertaking. The Associate Minister of Local Government will announce that \$44 million will be distributed to Councils for transition costs. This amounts to \$800,000 to WDC in quarterly payments.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

That the Waters Governance Board:

- a. receive the report.
- b. note that the project management for Three Waters reform is ongoing.

CARRIED

WGB2207/09

Water Services Entity Submission
Agenda Item 6.7

The Chief Executive noted the following:

- There had been approximately 1400 submissions to the Bill.
- Generally WDC was supportive of the need for reform.
- Council was wanting to submit a high-level submission, to tell WDC's story, including the creation of the Waters Governance Board that allows independent decision-making, and the history of the contract with Watercare. It was important that the public had their say on the Bill, and there was concern that the longer the transition period lasts, the more challenging the process will be for all parties. Staff were already being taken from Watercare and Council, which creates problems with the ability to deliver Three Waters services during the transition period.
- The submission will also note that WDC was trying to make long-term decisions with growth, with the metro wastewater projects and the Sleepyhead development. The submission will stress Council's support for co-governance and Te Ture Whaimana and Te Mana O Te Wai.
- There was concern that with an independent board running the new entities, projects may not receive the priority they need.
- It was important that WDC and Watercare had the ability to make decisions after the Bill had received royal assent during the transition period.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 7

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Item number PEX 1 Confirmation of Minutes Item PEX 2.1 Actions Register Item PEX 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 May 2022 Item PEX 3.2 Three Waters Reform Project Update – July 2022 Item PEX 3.3 Environmental Insurance Item PEX 3.4 Tuakau/Pokeno Wastewater Network Upgrade Cost Escalation Review	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item No.	Section	Interest
Item PEX 1 Confirmation of Minutes	7(2)(a)	Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.
Item PEX 2 Actions Register	7(2)(a)	Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.

Item 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 May 2022	7 (2) (b) (ii)	To protect information that would otherwise unreasonably prejudice a person's commercial position.
	7 (2) (h)	To enable commercial activities to be carried out without prejudice or disadvantage.
Item 3.2 Three Waters Reform Project Update	7 (2) (c) (i)	To protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open, when it is in the public interest for it to do so.
Item 3.3 Enviromental Insurance	7 (2) (c) (i)	To protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence and to ensure the information avenue remains open, when it is in the public interest for it to do so.
Item 3.4 Tuakau/Pokeno Wastewater Network Upgrade Cost Escalation Review	7 (2) (i)	To enable negotiations to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage.
	7 (2) (b) (ii)	To protect information that would otherwise unreasonably prejudice a person's commercial position.
	7 (2) (J)	To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage.

AND THAT Mr Telfer and Mr Bourne be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of Watercare. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because of Watercare's role and responsibility for those matters.

CARRIED

WGB2207/10

