

MINUTES of a meeting of the Waters Governance Board of the Waikato District Council held in Committee Rooms 1 & 2, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2020** commencing at **9.45am**.

Present:

Ms R Schaafhausen (Chair)
Mr D Wright
Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive, Waikato District Council)

Attending:

Mr I Cathcart (Special Infrastructure Projects Manager)
Mr S Toka (Pouhono Iwi ki te Haapori | Iwi and Community Partnerships Manager)
Mr C Bailey (Finance Manager)

Ms S Danks (Waikato Business Manager, Watercare)
Mr R Kumar (Commercial Advisor, Watercare)

Mr B Stringer (Democracy Manager)

The Iwi and Community Partnerships Manager opened the meeting with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT an apology be received from Mr Dibley and Ms Colliar.

CARRIED

WGB2002/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 February 2020 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 6 which shall be discussed with the public excluded;

AND THAT the Board resolves that the following item be added to the open agenda as advised by the Chairperson:

- Register of Interests

AND FURTHER THAT the following item be discussed at an appropriate time during the course of the open meeting:

- Waters Bill

CARRIED

WGB2002/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Tabled Item: Register of Interests

The Board members present provided updates to their interests noted in the Register.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Register of Interests, as updated, be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/03

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Ms Schaafhausen/Mr Ion)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Friday, 20 December 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

WGB2002/04

REPORTS

Actions Register
Agenda Item 5.1

The following updates were provided by the Chief Executive:

- Minister of Local Government would now attend the Board's March 2020 meeting. Mr Wright would attend this part of the meeting via Skype.

- Briefing to Minister to include:
 - Council's arrangement with Watercare – learnings and successes to date.
 - Waters Bill – likely compliance costs which would be levied on local ratepayers.
 It was suggested that the Board members meet with staff prior to the March Board meeting to discuss the presentation to the Minister.
- Draft submission on the Waters Bill – to be circulated to Board members by email for approval given submission timeframes.
- Chief Executive to review staff resources to ensure there was capacity to deal with work required by the Board.
- The Chair suggested that a training session was tagged on to each Board meeting in relation to Maaori perspectives on water.
- Other outstanding actions deferred to March 2020 Board meeting, unless otherwise specified.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the report from the Special Infrastructure Projects Manager be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/05

Agenda Item 5.3 was presented after the above item to accommodate staff present.

Presentation on Cultural Implications of the Raglan Wastewater Consent - Verbal
Agenda Item 5.3

The Iwi and Community Partnerships Manager presented an overview on the history and Te Ao Maaori in relation to Whaingaroa. He highlighted:

- the degradation to Ngaati Tamainupoo land and waterways caused by development in the region over many years;
- the need for ongoing discussions between the Council and mana whenua to ensure the environment was protected for future generations.

The Special Infrastructure Projects Manager and Ms Danks (Waikato Business Manager, Watercare), supported by the Chief Executive, noted the following matters in relation to the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plan consent project:

- The Council had approved additional funding recommended by the Board. The interface between the Board and Council was discussed.
- Two key meetings with iwi in January 2020, which were positive.
- Discussions with BECA in relation to issues raised by mana whenua.
- Exploration of potential solutions, including pilot options, continued. The Board acknowledged that it was important that the community was included in that work.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the verbal report from the Iwi and Community Partnerships Manager be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/06

The Board then considered Agenda Item 5.2.

Roles and Responsibilities – Schedule and Timelines

Agenda Item 5.2

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the report. He noted that some of the delegations to the Board had been completed as part of the contract completion. The following matters were discussed:

- MoU – ensure the higher level governance responsibilities were captured. The Chief Executive to report back to the Board on progress against MoU, with the intention that the Board and Watercare’s Board would then consider this at a joint meeting
- The last two action points in the report’s attachment (page 21 of the Agenda) to be included in the proposed training discussions to be scheduled before Board meetings.
- The vision and strategy of the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act should be brought to the top of the table. A workshop to be held to coincide with the April 2020 Board meeting to discuss vision and strategy.
- Cultural and Carbon Impact considerations should be included as part of decision-making framework in reports presented to the Board.

Resolved: (Ms Schaafhausen/Mr Ion)

THAT the report from the Chief Executive be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/07

Waikato District Council Three Waters Performance Report December 2019 to January 2020

Agenda Item 5.4

Ms Danks, supported by the Special Infrastructure Projects Manager, spoke to the report, highlighting, and responding to questions, on the following matters:

- Health & Safety – issue with employee who had slipped into a treatment pond; exploration of potential barriers to be installed.
- KPIs – lead Health & Safety indicators included.
- Recruitment of key positions at Watercare.
- Other than areas serviced by Hamilton City Council, no water restrictions required to date despite higher demand.
 - This could change due to Waikato Regional Council’s water conservation plans regarding the Waikato River.
 - Pipeline between Huntly and Ngaruawahia enabled ‘top up’ of water supply between communities, if required.

The Board suggested some positive public communication on the above matters would highlight the benefits of the relationship between the Council and Watercare.

- Theft issue (e.g. Meremere) - potential link to unregistered truck drivers.
- Letters to customers who are taking water against bylaw provisions – highlight the impact on communities.
- Planning
 - A report would be presented to the April Board meeting on the Meremere WWTP.
 - Mid Waikato Servicing Strategy commenced and due to be completed by end of May 2020; connected to FutureProof.
 - A report would be presented to the March Board meeting on the Te Kauwhata WS consent, and solutions for the Board’s consideration. A meeting with the Te Kauwhata Waters Association and Watercare was scheduled for 12 February 2020.
 - Synlait Factory, Pokeno – workshop held on 10 February 2020. Expected that additional capacity from the upgrade due for completion at the end of 2020 would be exhausted within two years. Further discussions with key wet industry stakeholders continued.
- Abatement Notice Resolution
 - Consent strategy for Te Kauwhata WWTP.
- Older reservoirs in Huntly and Ngaruawahia leaking – a strategy to deal with this was being considered.
- Transition to Watercare’s digital system to commence in April 2020.
- Water supply agreement with Hamilton City Council still required resolution.

The Board's role in relation to the Hamilton to Auckland corridor work, as it pertained to water issues, was discussed. It was expected the Board should input into the Subregional Three Waters study that was being drafted.

The Board requested that an overview of Watercare's full extent and implications of plans for water services along the Waikato River be presented during 2020.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the report from the Special Infrastructure Projects Manager be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/08

The Board meeting adjourned from 11.10am to 11.20am.

Risk Register Update

Agenda Item 5.5

The Special Infrastructure Projects Manager, supported by Ms Danks, spoke to the report, highlighting, and responding to questions, on the following matters:

- The register presented was the Council's Risk Register; Watercare's Risk Register was included in the December 2019 Board agenda.
- Risk #19 (HIF)
 - update provided on meeting with MBIE on 10 February 2020 and information to be provided to MBIE by the end of February 2020; MBIE indicated proposed drawdown approach was feasible.
 - report would be presented to the Board at the appropriate time on the loan facility for the waters' component of HIF.
- Risk#25 (Laboratory testing and sampling services)
 - it would be a decision for other Waikato territorial authorities whether they would want to access Watercare's services instead of via the Waikato LASS.
 - Staff would provide a report to the April 2020 Board meeting to update the Board on the Council's extraction from the Shared Services arrangement.

Staff would consider how treatment plans/mitigations are recorded in the Register where the Gross Risk Factor and Residual Risk Factor were recorded as the same.

Resolved: (Ms Schaafhausen/Mr Wright)

THAT the report from the Special Infrastructure Projects Manager be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/09

Stormwater Management

Agenda Item 5.6

The Special Infrastructure Projects Manager spoke to the report, highlighting, and responding to questions, on the following matters:

- Identified in Risk Register (#39)
- Large number of improvement actions that would need to be undertaken before September 2020.

A draft plan would be presented to the Board in March 2020.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the report from the Special Infrastructure Projects Manager be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/10

Waters' Bill - Discussion

Add. Item

The following matters were discussed:

- Summary circulated to Board members by Ms Colliar at the end of 2019.
- Mr Wright spoke to the *Three Waters Review* presentation provided to the Wellington Water Committee.
- Regulatory impact and costs to territorial authorities, particularly for district councils with a small ratepayer base. The Board requested that ratepayer (cost) impact be included in the briefing to the Minister for the March 2020 Board meeting.
- Council's responsibility in relation to water standards (vis-à-vis Te Kauwhata Water Association and private rural bores).

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the verbal update on the Waters' Bill be received.

CARRIED

WGB2002/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 6

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the report from the Chief Executive be received;

AND THAT the public be excluded from the meeting to enable the Board to deliberate and make decisions on the following items of business:

Confirmation of Minutes dated 20 December 2019

REPORTS

a. Actions Register

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

Reason for passing this resolution to withhold exists under:

**Section 7(2)(b)(ii)
Section 7(2)(j)**

Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution is:

Section 48(1)(a)

b. Rates and Rebate and Financial Hardship

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

Reason for passing this resolution to withhold exists under:

Section 7(2)(h)

Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution is:

Section 48(1)(a)

