
MINUTES for a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting of the Waikato District Council held via audio-visual conference on **TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at **10.00am**.

Present:

Ms R Schaafhausen (Chair)
Mr D Wright
Mr G Dibley
Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive, Waikato District Council) (*until 12:27pm*)
Ms J Colliar (Intern)

Attending:

Cr E Patterson

Ms J Pickrang (Taumata Arowai)

Mr R MacCulloch (General Manager Service Delivery)
Ms C Nutt (Waters Contract Relationship Manager)
Mr K Martin (Waters Manager)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Ms C Wratt (Principal Planner)
Ms L Cilliers (Management Account)
Ms Z Al-Khaleefa (Three Waters Contract Engineer)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)

Mr M Telfer (Watercare)
Mr A Boldero (Watercare)
Mr D Hurdle (Watercare)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the agenda for the meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 1 February 2022 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.

CARRIED

WGB2202/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Ms Schaafhausen advised the Board that she was appointed to the Three Waters Transition Unit and that she will step down as Chair of the Waters Governance Board but remain on the Board.

Mr Wright advised the Board that he was appointed as the Interim Chief Executive of Horowhenua District Council and noted the removal of Interim Chief Executive Officer – Central Economic Development Agency from the Register of Interests.

ACTION: Democracy Team to update the register of interest to the changes to Mr Wright's roles.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Dibley)

THAT the minutes for the meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

WGB2202/03

REPORTS

Actions Register
Agenda Item 5

The Waters Contract Relationship Manager and Mr Telfer noted the following:

- Resource Consent Status Overview – Draft report was ready, however the release of the district plan will mean the report requires revisions and be presented during the March meeting. Noted it was important to include where unbudgeted funds are coming and the effects on other projects that are being substituted.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the Actions Report be received.

CARRIED

WGB2202/04

Drinking Water Standards & Compliance Requirements – Small Water Schemes
Agenda Item 6.1

Ms Pickrang provided a verbal report and noted the following matters:

- Taumata Arowai was currently undertaking public consultation, seeking feedback for a number of documents relating to three waters.
- 97% of District Councils were registered in Hinekorako – a self-service online portal for drinking water suppliers and laboratories.
- 30% of District Council supplies had been verified by Hinekorako.
- Unregistered drinking water suppliers had three years to register with Taumata Arowai.
- There was a focus on a cultural shift which was wide reaching, from water safety plans to continuous risk management planning.
- Water suppliers must prepare and implement a source water risk management plan as part of their drinking water safety plan. To identify hazards and reduce and manage risks.
- Taumata Arowai will provide information to local authorities on the location of drinking water abstractions points for verification.
- Drinking water suppliers were currently confirming information with Taumata Arowai, which will include a number of aspects such as Source ID and Source Water Type.
- Taumata Arowai wastewater and stormwater functions will not commence until October 2023, to ensure they can prioritise drinking water regulation.
- Drinking water suppliers had a responsibility to make sure the water they provide is safe.
- If the public believe their drinking water may not be safe, they can notify Taumata Arowai through Hinekorako.
- In the situation where a drinking water supplier proposes to stop supplying drinking water to consumers, or where there is a significant problem with their ability to keep doing so safely, the supplier must notify Taumata Arowai.

- During a drinking water emergency, Taumata Arowai can exercise special powers and work with suppliers and other agencies to make the water safe as quickly as possible – both for water quantity and water quality.
- There had been drinking water quantity emergency exercises, with plans for a water quality emergency exercise.
- Is there obligation for a territorial authority to take on a small water scheme? There needs to be an assessment completed, but yes there is an obligation. Obligation may be transferred to the new three waters authority.
- Question raised regarding what approach had Taumata Arowai undertaken to get feedback for acceptable solutions from small and private water suppliers. Taumata Arowai had spread the net wide, with webinars operated through Water NZ and trying to work as many channels possible.
- There will be financial assistance for Maraes to meet the new standards for registered suppliers.

ACTION: Council to circulate the link of the Taumata Arowai webinars to the community.

- Council does not have a stocktake of small water schemes (and their condition) within the district.

ACTION: Staff to build a register of small water schemes in the district.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the verbal report from Ms Pickrang be received.

CARRIED

WGB2202/05

Proposed District Plan Verbal Presentation

Agenda Item 6.2

The Principal Planner noted the following matters:

- Proposed District Plan (PDP) implemented the National Planning Standards. This included a different structure, definitions, zone names, maps and colours and symbols, designations and also removed parking requirement.
- The Proposed District Plan has primacy over strategic directions.
- There were a number of new zone categories introduced. There were special purpose zones added for areas such as the Corrections zone and Mercer Airport zone.
- Commercial Zone – Key issue was to protect industrial land for industrial purposes.

- Future urban zone – Indicates those areas that are suitable for urban development once constraints or timing is resolved. Similar to the rural zone, needs Schedule 1 plan change to change zoning.
- Medium density residential zone – new for the district. Enables increased density in and around town centres. Three residential units per site were permitted for Tuakau, Pokeno, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Raglan.
- Rural Zone – Enable farming and seasonal worker accommodation for sites over 20ha. Increased size of minor residential units 120m². Focus on high quality soils in terms of subdivision provisions.
- Zoning patterns – Modest extension to most towns and includes new special purpose zones.
- Tangata Whenua - There were now five chapters incorporating Tangata Whenua within in the district plan. This includes the Tangata Whenua Chapter, Maaori Land, Maaori values and Maatauranga Maaori, Te Ture Whaimana and Sites and Area of Significance to Maaori.
- Natural Hazards – Modest changes to the notified version. Deletion of the Coastal Sensitivity Area from the rural coastal areas.
- Significant Natural Areas (SNA) – Panel had taken the SNA off the district plan maps, but retains the mapping for areas which had been verified, have a covenant or were publicly owned.
- Enabling Infrastructure – Recognises the importance of regionally significant infrastructure. There were 10 infrastructure chapters.
- Enabling Infrastructure – Resource Consent was required for stormwater ponds or wetlands that serve more than one sites, outfall structure located within identified areas for example.
- Infrastructure and Landuse – Service connections for infrastructure. All new lots created must be designed and located so that provisions are made for service connections up to the boundary, such as wastewater.
- Wastewater discharge to land – Permitted on large land lots.
- Appeals for the PDP will close on the 22nd March 2022.

ACTION: Report to come to the Water Governance Board understanding the implications proposed changes within the District Plan on three waters.

- Wet Industries – Very few rezonings for industrial zones. The District Plan decision doesn't make any distinction between wet or dry industries.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Proposed District Plan decisions presentation be received.

CARRIED

WGB2202/06

Three Waters Governance Report - January 2022 Agenda Item 6.3

Mr Telfer noted the following matters:

- Health & Safety – No injuries had been recorded. Health & Safety focus for January 2022 was hydration in heat and driving speeds, with good results. Mates in Construction was scheduled to meet with field staff in December 2021, but this had been deferred to a later date. Watercare had reviewed their criticality of all staff relating to Omicron, to minimise interaction with the wider team. Field teams had been split into three groups (North, Central & South). Plans were underway for how work will be managed with reduced staff.
- Looking at getting the abatement notice for Meremere Wastewater Treatment Plant lifted, with the consent for the plant making progress.
- Barrier installation for all reservoirs had been completed. Work was underway to install cathodic protection for the reservoir tanks.
- Working with Watercare Auckland for the installation of the wastewater meter at the Pukekohe plant.
- New water restriction approach methodology (more proactive approach) had been put in place and is going well.
- All performance results were achieved in January 2022.
- Department of Internal Affairs projects going well.
- The demolition of the Hopuhopu Water Treatment plant begins today, and due to be completed by the 15th February 2022. No concern had been raised.
- Stormwater – Noted it was important to enforce the relationship with development engineers and Watercare, and the transition to swales instead of hard piping and maintenance. Swale can look untidy if not maintained. Full costs need to be included in the Long Term Plan for maintenance of systems such as swales.
- If quarter to a half of staff weren't available due to self-isolation, is there a plan to maintain critical services with limited staff? Watercare had been in discussions with Sydney Water to hear from their experience. Work would be restricted to reactive works in this situation, and utilising resources from Watercare Auckland.

- Rapid Antigen Testing – Will they be an option? Watercare was looking to source the tests. Water NZ is collated the detail of all critical workers within the water business so that rapid antigen tests can be made available to all critical workers.

ACTION: Mr Telfer to provide further information regarding Rapid Antigen Testing for staff before they come onto the workplace.

- Question raised regarding whether Watercare offers safety workshops for staff when they return to work after the holiday break. Mr Boldero confirmed that staff do attend safety start-up workshops upon returning to work.
- Had there been any contract work undertaken regarding delays and additional costs for projects?

ACTION: Mr Telfer to provide further information regarding the impacts on projects for additional costs and delays due to COVID.

- Concern noted whether staff in the Waikato would be redirected to Auckland, when Waikato is already reduced due to Covid and self-isolation.
- Complex meter project – Were there other areas in the district other than Raglan where complex meters exist? Majority of complex works were now in Ngaruawahia and Huntly, and it was planned to have the project completed by July 30 2022, however there were often challenges with land owners for entry to properties.
- Raglan Wastewater Overflow Incident – Initially crew flushed the line to remove blockage, however the overflow returned two weeks later. There was a significant amount of fats in the line that required additionally jetting. The pipe was now on a routine schedule. The property does have an invert on the pipe, but its not the cause of the overflow.
- What is Council doing to educate the community to conserving water? There is a series of posts on social media regarding water conservation. A video is also on the Council website to locate and check water leaks.
- What is low-risk compliance? Its different for every wastewater plant, for Raglan, its suspended solids, and for Huntly its nitrogen and suspended solids.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the Three Waters Governance Report – January 2022 be received.

CARRIED

WGB2202/07

Stormwater Update - January 2022 Agenda Item 6.4

Mr Telfer noted the following matters in relation:

- Consent Compliance – 2022 Stormwater Report completed and submitted to Waikato Regional Council in October 2021. No feedback had been received from Waikato Regional Council.
- Compliance summary – Increase of average compliance rating increased from 75% to 76%. It is tracking in the right direction., Once projects begin, compliance will increase.
- Abatement notice in Raglan – Cambrae Flood mitigation is the only outstanding item.
- Port Waikato had significant coastal erosion issues. Community considered lack of stormwater management was an issue which was not supported in the peer review. Currently scheduling in maintenance works. The village had a high water table that provides difficulties.
- Pokeno – Updated the hydraulic model shows flooding was an issue – all upper catchment development needs to manage flows to 80% of pre-development.
- Huntly – Local pond had several complaints due to the aesthetic and smell. Watercare had met with community representatives. Positive response from proposed work at Hakanoa Street. Hakanoa stream erosion project had been awarded and will commence in the near future with construction budgeted in the Long Term Plan for 2022/23. Stormwater Asset Condition CCTV programming had commenced – renewal programme was needed once CCTV completed.
- Raglan – Abatement notice will be closed out once Cambrae Road flooding project was completed. Awaiting finalized design from Stantec before applying for consent to undertake construction. Property owners appear happy with the outcome. Business case for updated catchment management plan in Raglan was drafted and tendered. Community meeting undertaken with Waikato Regional Council in attendance at the end of January 2022.
- Watercare development of engineering standards – First draft complete and currently in use. Update currently being completed.
- Council and Watercare presented to the Three Waters Waters Steering Committee November 2021.
- Level of service document – scope still being defined.
- Stormwater process and tools review – Initial flow charts had been completed – work continuing before presenting to the wider team.
- Water quality investigation about to commence, and had been awarded and contract signed.

- Current consent – How do the current provisions of the current consent compare to how it stacks up with the current consent standards today? Consents reference Waikato Regional Council’s urban sensitive design, which were considered best practice. However enforcement was challenging.
- Consent requirement currently are fairly loose. Design standards tend to be removed when there are physical constraints in retro fitting. Existing stormwater infrastructure is a major factor in poor stormwater quality.
- Noted that further cooperation with Hamilton City Council and Waipa District Council would be beneficial for education and other areas.
- May need to look at how to embrace the requirements from Taumata Arowai, which remain unclear, so work was not wasted to meet new regulations.
- Concern noted regarding spending when assets will be transferred to the new three waters entity, however work must continue to deal with immediate growth.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the Stormwater Update - January 2022 presentation be received.

CARRIED

WGB2202/08

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Item 7

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Ms Schaafhausen)

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
<p>PEX Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes</p>	<p>Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987</p>	<p>Section 48(1)(a)</p>
<p>PEX Item 2</p>		

Action Register	
PEX Item 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 December 2021	

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
PEX Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes		Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.
PEX Item 2 Action Register		Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting.
PEX Item 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 October 2021	7 (2) (b)	Protect Information where the making available of the information:
	7 (2) (b) (ii)	Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; or
	7 (2) (i)	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations); or Prevent the discourse or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.
	7 (2) (j)	

AND THAT Mr Telfer and Mr Hurdle be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of her 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

WGB2202/09

Mr Ion left meeting during the above item at 12:27PM.

Resolutions WGB2202/10 – WGB2202/13 are contained in the public excluded section of these minutes.

Having resumed open meeting and there being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 1:01pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2022.

Rukumoana Schaafhausen
CHAIRPERSON