

MINUTES of a meeting of the Waters Governance Board Meeting of the Waikato District Council held in the Councillors Lounge, Waikato District Council Head Office; 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2023** commencing at **10.02am**.

Present:

Mr D Wright (Chair)
Mr G Dibley
Mr GJ Ion (Chief Executive, Waikato District Council)
Ms J Colliar (Intern)

Attending:

Ms M May (Service Delivery General Manager)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager)
Ms P Pandiarajan (Waters Contract Support Co-ordinator)
Mr M Telfer (Operations Manager – Watercare)
Mr J Sinclair (Chief Corporate Services Officer - Watercare)
Mrs B Pappachar (Watercare)
Mr R Pullar (Watercare) – *from 11.08am*
Mr P Crabb (Watercare) – *from 11.08am*

Ms E Saunders (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

That the apologies for:

- a. non-attendance from **Ms Rukumoana Schaafhausen** and **Mr K Martin (Waters Manager)** be accepted.

CARRIED

WGB2305/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Dibley)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the **Waters Governance Board Meeting** held on **Tuesday, 2 May 2023** 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.

CARRIED

WGB2305/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ACTION: An amendment to be added to the minutes to reflect the question that was raised during discussion on the Agenda Item 6.5 – Maramarua Treated Wastewater Disposal Field Upgrade. This amendment will be added to the Confirmation of Minutes resolution as requested.

Resolved: (Mr Dibley/Mr Ion)

THAT the minutes of a meeting of the **Waters Governance Board Meeting** held on **Wednesday, 29 March 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record, with the following amendment to the minutes:

- ***Agenda Item 6.5 – Maramarua Treated Wastewater Disposal Field Upgrade:***
 - i. It was noted that Ms J Collier asked during discussion on this item if mana whenua could be invited to observe the installation of the irrigation system because of it's relevance to marae.***

CARRIED

WGB2305/03

REPORTS

Actions Register Agenda Item 5

Mr Telfer spoke to the report which was taken as read and highlighted some key points:

Cambrae Road – Flood Remediation:

- Concern raised by Cr L Thomson that works would further exacerbate flooding around 8 Cambrae Road where the walkway accesses Lorenzen Bay and an impact assessment has been requested.
- Watercare has looked at this risk and do not have any concerns that additional flooding will occur. Mr Telfer met with the property owners last Friday to discuss the project works with them and they are overall quite positive about the works to be done which are expected to begin in November/December 2023.
- The issue regarding access is still needing to be resolved along with some small issues raised by the property owners but Watercare will be looking to progress with works as quickly as possible now that the Resource Consent is in place. This will resolve and close out a long standing issue along with the abatement notice.
- Ms Collier raised a question around whether the Resource Consent condition that states Council is responsible for any upstream flooding issues has been looked into further and been reviewed? This is a very high risk condition that might be worth investigating further.
- Mr Telfer advised that he would review the consent condition prior to the next Board meeting but did note that he had discussed this issue with the property owners. Action Register to be updated to include the review of the consent condition.

ACTION: Cambrae Road – Flood Remediation Action to remain on the register with an additional action point to review the Resource Consent condition relating to upstream flooding and Councils responsibility.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Waters Governance Board receives the Actions Register to April 2023.

CARRIED

WGB2305/04

Three Waters Governance Report – March 2023

Agenda Item 6.1

Mr Telfer spoke to the report which was taken as read and further discussion was held.

Key Highlights:

- There were site visits to both Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants in March – one with representatives from Taumata Arowai and other visits with Community Board representatives to plants in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Te Kauwhata.
- The site visit with Taumata Arowai was a great engagement opportunity and very well received by representatives.
- Ms Collier wanted to acknowledge both Council and Watercare staff for hosting mana whenua and staff members from Hamilton City Council in site visits to Te Kauwhata, Pukekohe and Meremere.
- A further site visit to Treatment Plants in the Northern part of the district will be happening with the Mayor and Elected Members in July and the invitation will be extended to the Water Governance Board members.
- Recruitment of new staff members has been concluded for the production team with the exception of the Cadet role. There is a very good mix of both experience and school leavers in the team and is progressing well.
- Mr Telfer has discussed with the Waters Manager the need for a Stormwater Planner. There is a need to fill the gap in this space and the next budget will have allowances for this. It was acknowledged that recruiting good staff is a challenge at this time but there is good support in place for the new recruits and particularly for school leavers.
- A brief update on staff retention for the Three Waters Reform was given with confirmation that all staff have now received their letters of guaranteed employment.
- Inspections of the Timber Reservoirs is now completed and the inspections of the Concrete Reservoirs is expected to be completed in the next 2-3 weeks.
- The Reservoir at Pokeno is coming back online this week after a 10 week period of being closed for repairs.
- The Asset Loading project is really starting to pick up pace now and work is continuing to try and get as many loaded before June 2023.
- The Ngaruawahia Pipeline project is progressing well.
- The Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant temporary Ultra filtration plant has been installed and is now operational. Initial 2 test results showed an improved treatment performance for suspended solids.
- Mr Ion gave an update to the Board on a site visit that was undertaken to Te Kauwhata with representatives from Nga Muka, Waikato Tainui and Waikato Regional Council. There were a number of questions being asked around Compliance and information has been provided. It was a good opportunity to show representatives the work that has been undertaken to date and the end goal is really starting to take shape. Waikato Regional Council acknowledged the progress that has been made.

- Ms Collier acknowledged the good work that staff are doing around engagement with mana whenua. Ms Collier asked for feedback from mana whenua on how they feel the project is progressing and in particular around the discharge options and the feedback to date is positive but they are just waiting to get into the detail on the options.
- There was a question raised from mana whenua around capacity of the plant and the decision to install a smaller capacity. How is this going to affect growth in the area? Mr Telfer confirmed that the ultimate original decision had a capacity for 9000 population but the improved activities that are happening now are for a capacity of 6000 population which accounts for current growth figures.
- Ms Collier asked about the two blocks of Investment for Te Kauwhata in the Capex information that has been shared - what are these blocks of investment for? It was confirmed that this is for the capacity improvements.
- There was one injury caused by a Wasp sting to a staff member however there was no time lost and a doctors visit was completed.

Questions/Discussion:

- A question was raised around staff morale at this time with the uncertainty over the Three Waters Reform announcement. It was confirmed that overall the morale amongst staff is quite positive. Watercare are working with NTU to provide training for staff on coping with change. Watercare are keeping staff as informed as they can and doing their best to ensure that there are no surprises.
- A question was raised around the Ngaruawahia Pipeline and the picture on Page 32 of the agenda – is the scaffolding around the pipeline steel? It was confirmed that it is indeed steel and not rope.
- A question around the Tuakau Buckland Road sample point (Compliance) was raised in regards to the reactive works that have been completed. Mrs Pappachar explained to the Board the process around the reactive works and the flushing/cleaning that was completed. The resampling was undertaken in response to notification of the issue and was done as a validation sampling.
- A query was raised with the Backflow Testing results in the Customer & Billing section of the report. The current total of tests undertaken is 3962 and the work for the past year has been completed and work underway now is for the new cycle.
- A further query was raised about the planned replacement of water meters over 15 years of age and Mr Telfer is going to ask the team to break the numbers down further to provide a clearer picture to the Board of the works that have been completed.

Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant Resource Consent Application Preparation:

- A question was raised in regards to the Raglan Wastewater consent application preparation and the reference made in the report to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Has an MOU been signed at this stage and what is the MOU actually for? It was confirmed that the MOU has not been signed as yet but progress is being made towards this. The MOU is not a guarantee but more of an understanding with the landowner to work together towards a solution.

- The MOU will hopefully give more confidence for Council to invest in additional investigations to progress this project further.
- Who gets to see the MOU once it is signed? Is this a document that has to be approved by Council first or do the Board get to see this at all? It was confirmed that the Waters Manager would be involved in the process and Mr Telfer would confirm with relevant staff if the MOU will be brought back to the Board or Council to review once it is ready to be signed.
- The Resource Management Act (RMA) process requirement for the establishment of subsurface drip irrigation with a relief valve on private land as the best practical option was discussed further by the Board. Mr Telfer is going to get further clarification on this point from relevant staff and provide that to the Board.
- It was advised that the consenting process for the Raglan discharge option had been ongoing for some time. The consent application was lodged over 3 years ago and is under review but monthly engagement sessions with key stakeholders and mana whenua remained positive. There is a need to manage expectations with the public whilst also showing that we have done everything we can to get this project right.
- The Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is progressing now with an interim design of the solution to get the plant compliant. Instruction has been given to progress with the ultimate design.
- There was an acknowledgement from the Board that this report was a great update and presented well.

ACTION: Confirmation to be provided to the Board on the delegation level for signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent application.

Resolved: (Mr Dibley/Mr Ion)

THAT the Waters Governance Board receives the report.

CARRIED

WGB2305/05

Three Waters Compliance Update
Agenda Item 6.2

Mr Telfer spoke to the report which was taken as read and further discussion was held.

Wastewater:

- A table outlining the compliance status for each Wastewater Treatment Plant was provided to the Board and Mr Telfer briefly spoke to each update recorded in the report.

- Two of the key issues for the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant have been addressed. Progress is being made to get the abatement notice lifted which would be a positive milestone.
- The project is underway at the Maramarua Wastewater Treatment Plant and is looking to be finished by the end of the calendar year.
- Ngaruawahia Wastewater Treatment Plant issues are well known by the Board but it was confirmed that as staff work their way through the solutions for the Huntly Plant they will look to see if those same solutions can be used at Ngaruawahia.

Water:

- The Port Waikato Water Treatment Plant main compliance challenge is aluminium. Work is being done with Waikato Regional Council to review the consent conditions.
- The Huntly Water Treatment Plant is fully compliant but it was highlighted that the 2021-2022 audit is yet to be completed by Waikato Regional Council.
- It was noted that it would be useful if an additional column could be added to the Compliance table which highlights what work is being undertaken to address any compliance issues? The table highlights what the issues are but does not indicate what is being done to address them.
- The Ngaruawahia Water Treatment Plant non-compliance issues relate to total aluminium and suspended solids. The levels of aluminium used usually depends on the quality of the river.
- A brief update was also provided on the Onewhero and Te Kauwhata Water Treatment Plants with the key notes highlighted in the report.

Questions/Discussions:

- It was confirmed that a Compliance Report will be given to the Board on a quarterly basis.
- It was noted that Te Ture Whaimana is one of the key objectives of the contract between Watercare and Waikato District Council and with all the physical works that have been undertaken to date, the investment in the different plants and the tracking of the compliance issues over time it really tells a powerful story of how Council are giving effect to Te Ture Whaimana and Te Mana o te Wai – is there anyway this journey that has been undertaken is captured in a report or is there any record that shows this journey?
- It was asked if a report could be presented to Council and key stakeholders that really speaks to this journey and highlights the work that has been done? An action will be noted for Waikato District Council to look into this further.

ACTION: Waikato District Council to look into different options for reporting on the successes and key highlights of the Council & Watercare agreement.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Waters Governance Board receives the Three Waters Compliance Update Report.

CARRIED

WGB2305/06

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; and

- a. 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 PEX 1 Confirmation of Minutes | Good reason to withhold exists under Section 6 or Section 7 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 | Section 48(1)(a) |
| Item number PEX 2 Action Register | | |
| Item PEX 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 March 2023 | | |
| Item PEX 3.2 Three Waters Reform Project Update | | |
| Item PEX 3.3 Capital Projects Update | | |
| Item PEX 3.4 Helenslee Road Watermain Extension Report | | |

- b. 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 | | |
| Item number PEX 2 Action Register | | |
| Item PEX 3.1 Waters Financial Results to 31 March 2023 | 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 PEX 3.2 Three Waters Reform Project Update | 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. |
| | 7(2)(j) | To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage |
| | 7(2)(i) | To enable negotiations to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage |
| Item PEX 3.3 Capital Projects Update | 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. |
| | 7(2)(j) | To prevent use of the information for improper gain or advantage |

CARRIED

WGB2305/07

The meeting adjourned at 12.15pm for lunch and resumed at 12.30pm.

Resolutions WGB2305/08 – WGB2305/18 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 2.00PM.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

David Wright
CHAIRPERSON