
MINUTES for 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, 10 OCTOBER 2023** commencing at **10.00AM**.

Present:

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

Attending:

Ms M May (Service Delivery General Manager)
Mr D Sharma (Three Waters Reform Project Manager)
Mr J Baldwin (Waters Engineering Manager)
Mrs S Bolt (Waters Contract Support Coordinator)
Mrs H Coalter (Acting Growth & Analytics Manager)
Mr W During (Strategic Mayoral Manager)
Mr M Telfer (Operations Manager Waikato – Watercare)
Mr J Turner (Watercare)
Mr P Crabb (Watercare) – *from 10.39am*
Mr R Pullar (Watercare) – *from 10.39am*

Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the apology for:

- a. non-attendance from **Ms R Schaafausen** and **Mr K Martin (Waters Manager)** be received.

CARRIED

WGB2310/01

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, 10 October 2023**:

- 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.

CARRIED

WGB2310/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

A non-financial interest was declared by Ms J Collier who is a new Director of Citycare.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved: (Mr Dibley/Mr Ion)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the **Waters Governance Board Meeting** held on **Tuesday, 5 September 2023** be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

WGB2310/03

ACTIONS REGISTER

Agenda Item 5

The Three Waters Reform Project Manager spoke to the report which was taken as read and highlighted the following key points:

- A response was received from the Department of Conservation (DOC) in regards to the Ngaaruawaahia Reservoir in the Hakarimata Ranges. There is no risk or asset management plan in place that they are aware of and noted that it could be an oversight on their part which they are going to review.
- A discussion around liability took place and what this means for Council? There has been no timeframe given from DOC as to when they are going to review this but a response has been requested in the next two weeks by Council.
- What is the mitigation in place if there is a major storm event at Ngaaruawaahia? What is the plan for managing adverse weather events if the Reservoir becomes compromised? These are questions that need to be asked of DOC.
- It was noted by the Chief Executive that this item needs to be escalated further up the chain to formalise the request for information – emails are fine but a formal request should be given.
- It was noted that DOC are aware of the new Dam regulations but there has been no confirmation to date as to whether these are being adhered to.

ACTION: The Chief Executive to prepare a formalised letter to the Department of Conservation (DOC) to request further information on both risk and asset management planning and provide a copy to the Board for review.

- It was noted that staff are continually working with the Communications Advisor at Council for Project Communications and will keep providing updates to the Board.
- Catchment Management Plan work has been completed and a paper has been included in the Public Excluded agenda from Council Staff.
- It was noted that a Compliance and Abatement update will be provided to the Board in January/February 2024.

ACTION: Compliance and Abatements – The Board is to be updated of all compliance actions and activities moving forward and each asset with a non-compliance is to be identified along with the non-compliance activity highlighted and the actions that have been taken to date to rectify. This reporting is to be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis.

- Quantify river quality – It was noted that Watercare are still working on what that looks like and how it will work moving forward. A paper will be provided to the Board.

ACTION: Watercare to include in the Governance Report at the next Board meeting information regarding the Rural & River quality changes along with providing separate paper that outlines the plans for Rural & River water quality.

- How does the Water plan for the Long Term Plan fit into the other services like Rooding? What does the overall picture look like? Council are considering all of the Asset Management Plans over the next two days and will be weighing these things up. Council staff have been through a process with Elected Members on the bigger picture and what investments can be made.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

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

CARRIED

WGB2310/04

REPORTS

Three Waters Governance Report – September 2023

Agenda Item 6.1

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

Key Highlights:

- The removal of the Hopuhopu reservoir has been completed with really positive engagement with Waikato Tainui throughout the process.
- Revaluation has been completed along with the external audit; it was noted that there were some challenges but staff got there in the end. There will be some “lessons learned” sessions had to reflect on the process.
- Residual FAC (Free Available Chlorine) results have changed from 0.2 to 0.1 – these are the new standards which most Councils have not met. Watercare are currently looking at what the new flushing cycle will have to be to achieve the new standard and what the costs associated with this will be.
- A brief discussion was held on the recent event in Queenstown. It was noted that all Watercare plants are compliant but it has not yet been determined who was at fault.

Questions/Discussion:

- A question was raised around Subdivision development and what assessments are staff doing to avoid getting into a position that sees pressure and strain on the water network which is something that Taupiri is experiencing. If the networks are not meeting the level of service what are the plans in place to pre-empt or even avoid this issue?

ACTION: Subdivision Development – The Three Waters Reform Project Manager to come back to the Board and provide further information about any plans or active work being done to pre-empt or avoid strain on the Water network.

- It was noted in relation to the project at Riverview Road in Huntly that 20 weeks seems like a long time to replace one kilometre of water pipe – is this reasonable? There have been no complaints to date but staff will continue to check in with the team.
- Design standards for small urban communities – should we be looking at the life of an asset and the development that could potentially happen when we are planning projects? It was noted that in small urban communities like Maatangi the water flow is low however providing assets that will withstand potential growth in a community is something that should definitely be looked at so assets aren't being replaced after a short period of time.
- It was queried whether staff are being proactive with their engagement with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and mana whenua with the progress been made to date and work that is being done on the abatement notices? It was noted that communication with both WRC and mana whenua is constant and they have been regularly updated and engaged in the work being completed.
- Ms J Colliar noted her non-financial conflict of interest (Nga Muka) for the next discussion item on the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The Chief Executive provided the Board with an update on the Te Kauwhata Wastewater Project and engagement to date with Nga Muka. A meeting with Nga Muka took place last week along with a representative from Ngaati Ngahou. A great engagement opportunity and BECA are also doing work in this area.
- The Chief Executive made it clear at the meeting of the Boards desire to have lake discharge off the table and Mr R Bax also reiterated that it's still showing as an option but will come off.

Resolved: (Mr Wright/Mr Ion)

THAT the Waters Governance Board receives the Three Waters Governance report for September 2023.

CARRIED

WGB2310/05

Three Waters Reform Project Update – August 2023
Agenda Item 6.2

The Three Waters Reform Project Manager spoke to the report which was taken and read and no further discussion was held.

Resolved: (Mr Ion/Mr Wright)

THAT the Waters Governance Board receives the Three Waters Reform Project Update Report.

CARRIED

WGB2310/06

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 Waikato Waters Contract Financial Report – August 2023 | | |
| Item PEX 3.2 Capital Delivery Programme Overview – September 2023 | | |
| Item PEX 3.3 Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade | | |
| Item PEX 3.4 Huntly Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade | | |
| Item PEX 3.5 District Flood Mapping | | |

- 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 | Refer to the previous Public Excluded reason in the agenda for this meeting. | |
| Item PEX 3.1 Waiakto Waters Contract Financial Report – August 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 Capital Delivery Programme Overview – September 2023 | 7(2)(h) | To enable commercial activities to be carried out without prejudice or disadvantage. |
| | 7(2)(i) | To enable negotiations to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage. |
| Item PEX 3.3 Raglan Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade | 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. |
| | 48(1)(d) | To enable deliberations in private on a decision or recommendation in any applicable proceeding |

