

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Venue:** Tararua Room  
Horizons Regional Council  
11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North

---

## **MANAWATU RIVER USERS' ADVISORY GROUP AGENDA**

---

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Chair** Cr FJT Gordon  
Members of the Public

**Michael McCartney**  
**Chief Executive**

Contact Telephone: 0508 800 800  
Email: [help@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:help@horizons.govt.nz)  
Postal Address: Private Bag 11025,  
Palmerston North 4442

**Full Agendas are available on Horizons Regional Council website  
[www.horizons.govt.nz](http://www.horizons.govt.nz)**

for further information regarding this agenda, please contact:  
Julie Kennedy, 06 9522 800

<b>CONTACTS</b>	<b>24 hr Freephone :</b> <b>0508 800 800</b>	<b>help@horizons.govt.nz</b>	<b>www.horizons.govt.nz</b>	
<b>SERVICE CENTRES</b>	<b>Kairanga</b> Cnr Rongotea & Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Rds, Palmerston North	<b>Marton</b> 19-21 Hammond Street	<b>Taumarunui</b> 34 Maata Street	<b>Woodville</b> Cnr Vogel (SH2) & Tay Sts
<b>REGIONAL HOUSES</b>	<b>Palmerston North</b> 11-15 Victoria Avenue	<b>Whanganui</b> 181 Guyton Street		
<b>DEPOTS</b>	<b>Levin</b> 120-122 Hokio Beach Rd	<b>Taihape</b> 243 Wairanu Rd		
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS</b>	Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442			
<b>FAX</b>	06 9522 929			

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Apologies and Leave of Absence	5
2	Confirmation of Minutes Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group meeting, 1 December 2020	7
3	Harbourmaster's Report <i>Report No: 21-60</i>	9
4	Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS) - River Management Update <i>Report No: 21-61</i>	15
5	General Business	
6	Next Meeting – Provisionally Tuesday, 7 December 2021	



## AGENDA

1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

At the close of the Agenda no apologies had been received.



Minutes of a meeting of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group held at Tararua Room, Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 December 2020.

**PRESENT** Crs FJT Gordon (Chair), SD Ferguson (via audio visual link), Mr B Culley (River Warden), Mr I Taylor (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club/Honorary Enforcement Officer), Mr B Sprozen (Manawatu Power Boat Club), Mr B Cottrill (Manawatu Marine Boating Club), Mr R Anderson (Jet Boating New Zealand), Mr K Lane (Manawatu Estuary Trust), and Mr C Thomas (Area Engineer Central).

**IN ATTENDANCE** Manager Emergency Management Mr I Lowe  
Engineering Officer Central Ms J Buchanan  
Committee Secretary Mrs JA Kennedy

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **APOLOGIES**

**Moved** **F Gordon / Anderson**

*That the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group receives an apology from Mr D Scott (Manawatu Freshwater Anglers Club).*

**CARRIED**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** **Anderson / F Gordon**

*That the Committee:*

**confirms** the minutes of the Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group meeting held on 3 December 2019 as a correct record, and notes that the recommendations were adopted by the Council on 17 December 2019.

**CARRIED**

## **HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT**

*Report No 20-169*

Mr Lowe (Manager Emergency Management) took Members through the report which provided an update on matters relating to navigation and safety on the Manawātū River and its tributaries. He summarised the river event activities, highlighted Horizons Regional Council's participation in the Maritime NZ led 'No Excuses' campaign as part of the Safer Boating forum, commented on the 5 knot speed restriction at Foxton Beach, and noted that the process to review the navigation safety bylaw had been delayed due to the Covid-19 response.

Mr Anderson (Jet Boating New Zealand) summarised his report and commented on the various activities undertaken by the Central Districts Jet Boating club, including upcoming anniversary celebrations.

**Moved**

**F Gordon / Sprozen**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-169.

**CARRIED**

## **LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME (LMS) - RIVER MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

*Report No 20-170*

Ms Buchanan (Engineering Officer Central) updated Members of the Lower Manawatu Scheme management issues that may have some impact on the recreational use of the river over the period December 2020 to June 2021. She highlighted the work associated with the removal of railway irons from the river, explained why gravel activities in the Manawatū River had ceased, and commented on the continued work to monitor and repair damage to assets caused by 4WD users.

Ms Buchanan commented on the Alligator Weed incursion in the Mangaone Stream and explained how it was spread, what it looked like, and the methods used by Horizons to control it.

**Moved**

**Anderson / Lane**

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

a. receives the information contained in Report No. 20-170.

**CARRIED**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Following an invitation from the Chair, Members provided their views around what they considered to be the key benefits of the advisory group meeting, and provided areas of interest they would like to see covered in future meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Confirmed

\_\_\_\_\_  
MANAGER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR



Report No.	21-60
Information Only - No Decision Required	

## HARBOURMASTER'S REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide members of the **Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group (MRUAG)** with an update on matters relating to navigation and safety on the Manawatu River and its tributaries.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-60.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no direct financial impact arising from matters discussed in this item.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item and therefore Council may deem this to be sufficient to advise the public.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk from matters discussed in this item.

### 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. This report covers the period December 2020 to May 2021.

### 7. RIVER EVENTS

- 7.1. The annual meeting and BBQ for Honorary Enforcement Officers and support organisations was held Tuesday 8 December 2020 at the **Manawatu Marine Boating Club (MMBC)**. Another good turn out to this annual event, and a great opportunity for all those involved to get together and reflect on the year.
- 7.2. The Welly Paddlers are holding an event on Sunday 22 August 2021, starting from the boat ramp on Harbour Street Foxton. This event is due to start at approximately 10.00am and finish at 12.30pm. Chester Burt, organiser, has been in contact with the MMBC and has Coastguard assisting with traffic coming out of the loop and back in to it again. Participants will be using the area opposite Wharf Street so the boat ramp will not be required to be blocked off for public access. The organiser has been directed to liaise with the Horowhenua District Council regarding any requirements that they may have.
- 7.3. Due to unprecedented low river conditions, JetBoat NZ have had to postpone a number of events.
- 7.4. Over the next 3 – 4 months they are hoping to hold planned events on the upper and lower Oroua and upper Manawatu, as well as a few runs planned on the mid-section of the Manawatu river through the city reach.
- 7.5. The Harbourmaster has not received notification of any further events planned at this time.

**8. GENERAL COMMENT**

- 8.1. Horizons Regional Council has recently worked with NZTA regarding hazard signage at the Ashhurst Bridge and Ferry Reserve to warn public of the Manawatu river bridge works for Te Ahu a Turanga.
- 8.2. The signs are located at the Manawatu river access in Ashhurst and the Woodville Ferry Reserve. The pictures below show the locations of the signs, and the signs themselves.





- 8.3. Over the summer months the Coastguard team again installed the speed restriction buoys 200 metres upstream and downstream of the boat launching ramp at Foxton Beach. These buoys have now been removed and will be installed again next summer.
- 8.4. Applications are now open to apply for funding from Maritime NZ to deliver recreational boating safety programmes. Horizons is currently working through the funding application

process and delivery options of the programme. The focus will be on monitoring, education and compliance.

## **9. MONITORING OF SURFACE WATER ACTIVITIES ON LOWER MANAWATU RIVER**

- 9.1. During December of last year Horizons Regional Council received multiple reports and enquiries from members of the public regarding behaviours of water users in the Manawatu Estuary and Whirokino areas.
- 9.2. In response to this Ross Brannigan, former Harbourmaster and employee of Horizons, was engaged to undertake on-site monitoring and education services of the water users in those areas particular areas.
- 9.3. Overall, Mr Brannigan's presence and discussions with river users was well received and acknowledged. In addition Mr Brannigan distributed material to support the monitoring programme such as bylaw summary brochures. Maritime NZ promotional items such as waterproof cell phone pouches, floatable key rings, dry bags, and 3 PFD's (Personal flotation devices) were also issued to users who were observed conducting excellent adherence to Maritime rules.
- 9.4. Mr Brannigan's observations were that there was a large increase in water users in comparison to previous years, and this was mainly Jet Ski users.
- 9.5. Some of the common concerns raised and confirmed via the monitoring activities were:
  - Excess speed within 50 metres of other people in the water;
  - Excess speed within 50 metres of another watercraft;
  - Non-adherence to 5 knot speed restrictions where these are set;
  - Children under 15 years of age having control of a watercraft (jet skis);
  - Vessels towing water skiers/flotation devices not using an observer;
  - General unsafe use of a watercraft;
  - A lack of educative Bylaw and Maritime Rules signage at the locations;
- 9.6. A positive that was identified throughout the monitoring activities was that there was 100% compliance in PFD use.
- 9.7. Aligned to the findings of the monitoring programme, measures are being undertaken to update the Bylaw and Maritime rule signage at Foxton boat ramp and Whirokino boat ramp.
- 9.8. As discussed in 8.4, the funding from Maritime NZ will focus on monitoring and education around the other concerns noted above.
- 9.9. Brendan Tootell (AFC Motorcycles) and a MMBC member, are leading the process to get a Jet Ski adjunct formed within the Manawatu Marine Boating Club. Brendan is being assisted by a number of other local Jet Ski enthusiasts. The intent of the group is to monitor and educate other Jet Ski users around navigation safety and adhering to the Maritime Rules, and in providing a forum where they can link in and work with statutory authorities to prevent injuries on water. It will be useful for us to link into this group.

## **10. CENTRAL DISTRICTS JET BOATING NZ MANAWATU RIVER USERS GROUP REPORT**

- 10.1. Central Districts Jet Boating Club would like to thank Rangitāne, Horizons and Palmerston North City Council for their support in celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our branch and 40 years of Jet Sprinting.

- 10.2. The weekend was a success both on the Saturday, with a poker run held between Fitzherbert Bridge and Ashhurst, with approx. 40 boats on the water, and Sunday, with spectators able to view the on-water action from vantage points along the river.
- 10.3. There was a good variety of the old pre-1962, and the latest 1500 HP super boats.

**Richard Anderson, Central Districts Branch**

## **11. REVIEW OF NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW**

- 11.1. The review of the navigation safety bylaw is now underway with meetings being held with iwi partners and river users in February and March of this year.
- 11.2. Following on from extensive discussions with these groups it became apparent that some parties believed that there were other areas outside of navigation safety that should be considered as part of the bylaw review process.
- 11.3. As a result of this, and to provide clarity around the scope of the bylaw review, a legal opinion was sought regarding the following:
- The status of the current bylaw and timeline before it lapses;
  - To clarify the intent of the legislation (Maritime Transport Act) in regards to making of navigation bylaws;
  - With the intent of the Act in mind, confirm its suitability (and the ability) to manage wider matters under the Navigation bylaw such as potential environmental effects resulting from surface water activities;
  - To seek advice as to Councils ability to enable external agencies outside of Council to carry out enforcement activities under the bylaw, and any inherent risk in that.
- 11.4. At the time of writing this agenda the final legal opinion had not been received, however it is expected by late May. Once the legal opinion is received we will be in a position to recommence the review process and the associated engagement with iwi and other stakeholders. Members will be further updated at the June meeting of the User Group.
- 11.5. Given the pause in the process due to the legal opinion being sought, a draft bylaw is still to be created for iwi and river users to review. Once this process is complete we are required to send it to the Director Maritime New Zealand for review before it can be publicly notified.
- 11.6. Subject to the Directors approval of the draft bylaw, Horizons will then publicly notify it for a period of 20 working days to give the public an opportunity to provide submissions.
- 11.7. Once the public submission period is over a hearing date will be scheduled, if required.

## **12. SIGNIFICANCE**

- 12.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Jeanie Boost-Turner  
**HARBOURMASTER**

Ian Lowe  
**MANAGER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Ged Shirley  
**GROUP MANAGER REGIONAL SERVICES  
& INFORMATION**

**ANNEXES**

There are no attachments to this report.

Report No.	21-61
Information Only - No Decision Required	

## LOWER MANAWATU SCHEME (LMS) - RIVER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to inform members of the **Manawatu River Users' Advisory Group (MRUAG)** of **Lower Manawatu Scheme (LMS)** management issues that may have some impact on the recreational use of the river over the period December 2020 to June 2021.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-61.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no direct financial impact arising from matters discussed in this item.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. This is a public item and therefore Council may deem this sufficient to inform the public.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk impact from matters discussed in this item.

### 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. It has been business as usual over the last six months, with relatively settled weather conditions throughout summer. Staff have been able to continue concentrating on vegetation and stopbank maintenance and some gravel management activities.
- 6.2. Erosion repairs are easily seen from the river when just completed, but will be covered in vegetation when established. Railway irons are used to anchor tree works and rock or concrete rip-rap to protect the toe of the bank. These assets may be submerged and care should also be taken if approaching banks on the outside of bends.
- 6.3. Contractors will be engaged at various sites on the Manawatū River to undertake vegetation management work. Recent work has been completed along reaches of the Manawatū just below Palmerston North City. Vegetation maintenance works will recommence in the coming months above and throughout Palmerston North City. These works will be undertaken from the river banks. Any disruption to recreational river users should be minor and staff will endeavour to keep any impacts to a minimum.
- 6.4. Railway irons from old river protection works are still being discovered in the Manawatū and the Oroua Rivers. Whenever these are found, they will be removed as soon as conditions allow. River users are urged to remain vigilant for these hazards when using the river. All visible irons have been removed, however there is a chance that some irons may have been missed and care must be taken. Any such hazards observed should be referred to Horizons River Management staff.

- 6.5. Of particular note are the railway irons that form the river training works adjacent to Hoult's Yard on the Manawātū River. Hoult's Yard is located opposite Te Matai Road, on the true left bank at river distance 90km, with Fitzherbert Bridge at river distance 79km. Previous attempts to remove these irons failed. Irons have been painted to keep them visible and staff encourage contact to be made when these markings need repainting.
- 6.6. There has been no known decision made by the contractor and Waka Kotahi (NZTA) around the removal of the old Manawatu River Bridge at Whirikino. If removal is the chosen outcome, the contractor has not finalised the methodology for removing the existing bridge, but believes it is unlikely that a temporary bridge will be built, preferring the option of working from the river edge.
- 6.7. Access to the Whirikino boat ramp will remain open at all times during the works.
- 6.8. The Foxton Beach Boat Club Wharf repair works will be starting shortly. As per a Horizons media release on the 11 May 2021, various groups have come together to fund the project and Horowhenua District Councils Development Group will manage the project.
- 6.9. Since gravel extraction activities ceased in the Manawātū River above the city due to degradation in the channel, gravel levels are being restored to previous levels. In some locations the gravel beaches have grown so much they are causing a large amount of erosion opposite banks. To try to resolve this issue, planning is continuing to undertake gravel extraction in a selection of locations above the city. This process is looking at how this activity fits in with current resource consent permissions and restrictions and working on agreements with contractors. Works has been undertaken in the meantime at some locations, particularly above the city, to create high flow channels to relieve some of the pressure on outside bends and help retain river alignment. These works should have minimal to no effect on river users.
- 6.10. The works at Ashhurst Domain are establishing well with plantings between the rock groynes stabilising the gravel beach. The upstream rock groyne continues to take the brunt of the Manawātū River flow and will continue to be monitored and repaired when required. The most recent plantings were watered during particularly dry periods over summer and seem to have survived as a result. The bund across the upstream end of the high flow channel of the Pohangina River to reinstate the rivers alignment back to its previous channel continues to be monitored. Concrete blocks were added earlier in the year to bolster the bund and rock has been stockpiled onsite ready to be placed as bed armouring around the rope and rail groynes. This work, and some channel clearing works was planned to be completed concurrently with debris removal from the rail bridge, unfortunately delays have ensued with gaining consent from Kiwi Rail to have plant near their asset. Horizons, and the contractor are still hoping this work can be completed before winter river flows return.
- 6.11. The Manawātū River and Pohangina River banks in this area have been bolstered with rope and rail groynes and rock works in an attempt to stop the top rock groyne from being outflanked. River users should be careful when navigating this reach.
- 6.12. With river access being restored to vehicles from the state highway bridge there has been a significant increase in vehicle use and unfortunately, damage and fly tipping, including dumping and burning of vehicles. The creation of additional access tracks and ramps throughout the area is continuing which can either damage erosion protection assets or put them at significant risk. Staff continue to monitor and repair damage to assets and have attempted to discourage these activities with limited success.
- 6.13. Significant work is continuing by Horizons staff to try to eliminate the invasive pest plant Alligator weed from our waterways. The weed was first seen in a tributary to the Mangaone Stream in Palmerston North City during lockdown last year. Since then significant amounts of work and monitoring has been undertaken in an attempt to remove the species from our waterway system. Alligator weed grew rapidly over the summer months with this growth



starting to slow with the onset of colder weather. The Mangaone Stream is wadded once a month with only one plant being found during the last inspection. Another jet boat inspection of the Manawatū River is planned for late May with staff also keeping an eye out for another newly discovered pest plant, Sagittaria.

- 6.14. River users are encouraged to make themselves aware of what these plants look like and to contact Horizons immediately if they think they may have seen them while out enjoying our river environment.

## 7. SIGNIFICANCE

- 7.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Jenna Buchanan  
ENGINEERING OFFICER CENTRAL

Craig Grant  
ACTING GROUP MANAGER RIVER MANAGEMENT

## ANNEXES

There are no attachments to this report.