

NATURE BASED FLOOD MITIGATION SOLUTIONS

Oroua and Pohangina River Project

GOVERNANCE GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2023 9:30AM – 11:30AM

Horizons Regional Council Boardroom, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Taylor	Jason Griffin	Matthew Carroll	Shayne Harris
Alana Nuku	John Foxall	Michael Taylor	Shelley Dew-Hopkins
Bruce Potaka	Jon Roygard	Oriana Paewai	Stewart Harrex
Dennis Emery	Julia Jung	Phil Teal	Utiku Potaka
George Davis	Kathy Dever-Tod	Ruby Stevens	William Silk
Ian Rasmussen	Logan Brown	Shane Carroll	
Ian Strahan			

1. KARAKIA, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting opened at 09:31AM by Dennis Emery with a karakia. An introduction to the project was given by Jon Roygard. Round-table introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Robert Martin, Rob Maunga, Chris Shenton, Danielle Harris, Hine Pearce, Lucretia Mason, and Manahi Paewai.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Jon Roygard introduced the project opportunity – after the damage from Cyclone Gabrielle, funding has been obtained by Horizons from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). Horizons were unable to engage with partners and stakeholders prior to submitting the funding application due to the last minute decision to apply to the fund and the short application timeline.

Jon Roygard acknowledged the concerns raised by Dennis Emery on behalf of Danielle Harris that Horizons should have engaged prior to submitting the application. Jon Roygard responded that the Pohangina and Oroua Rivers have an impact on the Manawātū River, hence the reason to include the reach of the Manawātū River between the Pohangina and Oroua Rivers.

4. ROOM FOR THE RIVER PRESENTATION

Logan Brown gave a presentation on the Room for the River (RFR) concept:

- Using the RFR guidelines, the management boundaries of a river corridor can be re-drawn to reflect a balance between acceptance of the natural erosion caused by an active river channel, and realistic spatial limitations such as key infrastructure.
- The preliminary RFR principles focus on increasing resilience (ecological, engineering, and financial resilience), and community wellbeing.

A copy of this presentation will be circulated.

5. OROUA AND POHANGINA RIVERS PROJECT PRESENTATION

Logan Brown provided a presentation on the scope of the project.

- Horizons applied for the project funding after Cyclone Gabrielle via a contestable funding round via MfE. The application was successful and received \$300,000 in funding. The funding is for a feasibility study only, i.e., data collection, and will not fund any works.
- The project completion date is June 2025, with six-monthly reporting.

6. PROJECT APPROVAL

Jon Roygard requested a decision from the group as to whether the project should proceed, and asked for confirmation of who will contribute in an advisory capacity.

- Ian Rasmussen proposed that the project include research into how the water storage capacity of catchment headwaters could be increased, to slow water coming down from the Ruahine, including the role of understory vegetation in slowing floodwater velocities.
- William Silk asked what happens to land owners who may lose land if RFR is applied; Jon responded that this can be worked out as part of the project, if the project is accepted. Logan Brown added that this project will just be a report, showing an idealistic channel boundary based on geological features, and a realistic channel boundary based on existing structures. Formally shaping and adopting these lines and what that means for the land within those lines will come afterwards.
- Kathy Dever-Tod confirmed that Palmerston North City Council is supportive of the project; PNCC owns property alongside the Manawatū River, and would like more predictability when investing in infrastructure.
- Dennis Emery commended Horizons for taking the initiative and securing the funding. Dennis also clarified that: iwi expect to be on the advisory panel, and added that Ngāti Kauwhata have people with research to offer; iwi expect a holistic view during this project, and; Māori worldview needs to be taken into account, alongside people themselves. Further to this, Dennis said that consideration should be given to upstream and downstream impacts, and a korero needs to be included regarding history of the Oroua-Manawatū confluence.

It was resolved that all those present at the meeting be included in the governance group if willing.

7. NEXT STEPS

Horizons staff will organise another governance group meeting in the New Year.

The agenda for this meeting shall include:

- Presentation on the technical programme that is underway,
- Communications with the community, including managing expectations around where the boundary lines will go.

Jon Roygard asked those present to send any feedback through to Ruby Stevens (Horizons), including any comments not said in this meeting. A copy of the minutes will be distributed.

8. KARAKIA AND MEETING CONCLUSION

Dennis Emery closed the meeting at 11:30AM with a karakia.

Action Summary:

- Circulate the meeting minutes.
- Reply to Ruby Stevens' email with any comments or feedback
- Organise the next governance group meeting

Ruby Stevens
All attendees
Logan Brown