

NATURE BASED FLOOD MITIGATION SOLUTIONS

Oroua and Pohangina River Investigation

GOVERNANCE GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21TH FEBRUARY 2024 9:30AM – 11:30AM

Caccia Birch house, 130 Te Awe Awe Street,
Hokowhitu Palmerston North 4410

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Taylor	John Foxall	Oriana Paewai	Stewart Harrex
Alana Nuku	Jon Roygard	Phil Teal	Utiku Potaka
Chris Shenton	Julia Jung	Ruby Stevens (<i>minutes</i>)	William Silk
Hamish Waugh	Logan Brown	Shane Carroll	
Jason Griffin	Matthew Carroll	Shayne Harris	

1. KARAKIA AND WELCOME

Meeting opened at 09:31AM.

Jon Roygard provided a brief project re-introduction.

Utiku Potaka opened the discussion with a karakia, and round table introductions were made.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Ami Coughlan, Danielle Harris, Dennis Emery, Ian Strahan, Kathy Dever-Tod, Lucretia Mason, Manahi Paewai, Mariah Petera, Michael Taylor, Rarite Mataki, Robert Martin, and Sara Bell.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGISTER

A Stakeholder Register will be formed to record any Conflicts of Interest. No Conflicts of Interest were raised at the meeting. Any members with potential interest(s) please email Ruby Stevens within the next two weeks to register their interest(s).

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS

No new agenda items were raised.

5. PROJECT CONTEXT REFRESHER

Logan Brown presented further details of the project:

- The project is a feasibility study, for which \$300,000 of funding has been secured. The project end date is 30 June 2025 – however, this is not the end date for any potential implementation.
- The Room for the River methodology was summarised, alongside examples of the concept in reality, and the types of data that are being collected to inform the study.

Feedback was requested for the draft benefits/goals of the project, which were presented at the previous Governance Group meeting. No feedback was supplied at the meeting, but any feedback can be sent to Ruby Stevens for discussion at the next Governance Group. Phil Teal requested that in future, any materials that the Governance Group are asked to provide feedback on be circulated before the meeting.

General support was expressed for the data collection. Phil Teal and Hamish Waugh requested that the coverage of LiDAR for the project area be shared – Ruby will share the link to the LINZ LiDAR index with the group.

Alan Taylor queried the relevance of historical data to predict future river behaviour in the context of climate change; Logan Brown explained that the supporting data sources, e.g., geology, come into play at that point. Jon Roygard explained that flood modelling work is being carried out separately to this project. Logan suggested that this be included as supporting data for this project.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, as well as access to the Room for the River guidelines, will be made available to the Governance Group via the Portal. Alan Taylor also requested that any reporting be circulated, to which Logan agreed. Any members wishing to receive meeting documents as email attachments, rather than through the Portal, can email Ruby.

6. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Logan Brown presented an indicative project workflow, which can be found in the PowerPoint.

7. PROJECT SOCIALISATION PLAN

William Silk raised concerns that people who are impacted by river management in the project area were not present at the meeting, and that this may result in more tension as the project progresses. Logan Brown expressed that discussions still need to be had, even if there is tension.

Suggestions were made as to the best way to contact relevant communities.

- Matthew Carroll suggested that the Pohangina Catchment Care Group email list be utilised.
- Alan Taylor suggested that any gaps in the community be identified, and offered that councillors may be able to assist as key conduits e.g., Bruce Gordon and Gordon McKellar.
- Utiku Potaka advised that individual whānau who own land along the rivers should be kept informed, and that iwi and hapū will be operating at another level. Chris Shenton also added that iwi will want to touch base with each other.

It was recommended that the wider community be provided information around the Room for the River concept alongside the project, to increase general awareness and understanding.

- Stewart Harrex advised that Forest & Bird has a helpful resource – Ruby will make this available.
- Jason Griffin recommended engaging one-on-one with farmers or holding meetings in halls to providing upskilling in the Room for the River concept.

Recommendations were made as to the content shared with the community.

- Matthew Carroll recommended that any project information that goes out be carefully worded to be as transparent and productive as possible. Shane Carroll advised that it needs to be clear that this project will not impose things on the community.
- Phil Teal suggested that the project be framed as a study of what we have, using the best available knowledge. Chris Shenton advised that despite the project only being a study, it can still be perceived that decisions are being made. Stewart Harrex suggested that the project name be changed, e.g., from "project" to "investigation" or similar.

Matthew Carroll suggested that the project be advertised somewhere visible to the public. Logan suggested that a website – similar to the one for the Horowhenua Jobs for Nature project – be created and made publicly available. It was agreed that all meeting documents be included on the publicly available website.

Chris Shenton noted that iwi would have preferred to be involved in the genesis of the project.

The group generally recommended engaging as much of the community as possible, and sooner rather than later. It was decided that anyone with ideas for key conduits/contacts in the community or further suggestions for the project socialisation will email Ruby.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was decided to defer the finalisation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) to the next Governance Group meeting, so that everyone has more time to review it. Any comments on the draft TOR can be sent to Ruby, in preparation for the next meeting. This meeting will also seek to adopt a Chair for the group.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Gravel extraction in the project area was briefly discussed.

- William Silk raised concerns that the current river management practices in the project area are not cost effective, and that the project area is in a vulnerable state and not prepared for another large flood event.
- John Foxall responded that these comments have been taken on board, and that if too much focus is given to reactive work, then maintenance work falls behind.
- Jon Roygard noted that in the Pohangina/Oroua, it appears that the funding to enable channel maintenance is not enough to meet some landowner's expectations.
- Matthew Carroll noted that perhaps a better business-as-usual maintenance programme is needed.

A discussion around current gravel extraction in the upper Oroua and Pohangina catchments would take place separately from the Governance Group meeting.

It was decided that the Governance Group will meet again in one month's time. Ruby will organise the next meeting and notify the group.

10. KARAKIA AND MEETING CONCLUSION

Meeting closed by Utiku Potaka with a karakia at 11:31AM.

Action Summary:

- Governance Group**
- Register any Conflicts of Interest by emailing Ruby (Ruby.Stevens@horizons.govt.nz) within the next two weeks.
Provide any suggestions for project socialisation or key community contacts to Ruby.

- Ruby Stevens**
- Circulate:
 - A copy of the minutes
 - Logan's PowerPoint
 - LiDAR coverage information
 - Room for the River guidelines
 - Forest & Bird report
 - The most recent project report
 - Book the next meeting.