

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS INVESTIGATION

Oroua and Pohangina Rivers

GOVERNANCE GROUP MEETING

MONDAY 25th MARCH 2024 1:00PM – 3:00PM

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

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Alan Taylor | Jon Roygard | Manahi Paewai | Oriana Paewai | Shane Carroll |
| Alana Nuku | Julia Jung | Mariah Petera | Phil Teal | Stewart Harrex |
| Chris Shenton | Kathy Dever-Tod | Matthew Carroll | Ruby Stevens | William Silk |
| Danielle Harris | Logan Brown | Michael Taylor | (Minutes) | |
| | | | Sara Bell | |

1. KARAKIA AND WELCOME

Meeting opened at 13:04PM with a karakia from Manahi Paewai.
Jon Roygard welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the proposed meeting agenda.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Ami Coughlan, Bruce Potaka, Dennis Emery, Ian Passey, Ian Strahan, Jason Griffin, John Foxall, Lucretia Mason, Robert Martin, Shayne Harris, Te Kenehi Teira, and Utiku Potaka.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of Interest are updated in the Register of Interest included at the back of the minutes.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS

No additional agenda items were raised.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Wednesday 21st February 2024 meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Phil Teal/Alan Taylor
CARRIED

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Jon Roygard asked for nominations for Chairperson. Shane Carroll nominated Alan Taylor for Chair, and Alan Taylor nominated Te Kenehi Teira for Vice-Chair. No other nominations were received.

Alan Taylor was therefore elected as Chair, and Te Kenehi Teira as Vice-Chair.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Jon Roygard explained that the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) uses a standard template provided by the Ministry for the Environment. Danielle Harris expressed disappointment that the draft TOR does not mention the Te Tiriti.

The following changes were made to the draft TOR on-screen by Logan Brown during the discussion:

- Addition of reference to Te Tiriti, Te Mana o te Wai, and Mātauranga Māori in the Purpose, and a statement in the Membership Expectations allowing iwi to “agree to disagree” on some things, as suggested by Danielle Harris.
- Inclusion of honouring iwi management plans under Function (F) of the Role of the Governance Group as suggested by Kathy Dever-Tod and Danielle Harris.
- Setting of the meeting frequency to three-monthly, with a monthly update on the work programme provided via email by the Project Team, and maintenance of the project portal.
- Addition of a minimum notice period of five working days for out-of-cycle meetings. Meetings will continue to be held within business hours, and a video call link be provided for meetings going forward.

The group generally expressed support for members to be considered as individuals, rather than representatives of their respective organisations due to many of the members having a range of interests.

Alan Taylor raised concerns around the conflict of interest resolution process in the draft TOR, and suggested that individuals should decide whether to declare their own conflicts with the understanding of the perils of not declaring actual/perceived conflicts. Shane Carroll declared a potential conflict of interest, due to the potential of the project to financially affect his interests as a landowner/ratepayer – Alan Taylor responded that this presents no greater conflict than for any other ratepayer, and given that the project is limited to a feasibility study there will be no impact.

It was decided that the number of members required for a quorum be equal to half of the total number of Governance Group members, plus one. Ruby Stevens will draft a list of Governance Group members and the organisations they represent, and circulate this to the group for confirmation.

8. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

9. Danielle Harris provided a reformed version of the draft Project Objectives in the form of principles, with a shift in focus from managing the river to instead strengthening the awa. Danielle also suggested that iwi meet before the next Governance Group.

The following changes were made to the adapted draft Project Objectives on-screen by Logan Brown during the discussion:

- Addition of a principle for promoting the health of people along the river and preserving social and historical connectedness, as suggested by Shane Carroll and Kathy Dever-Tod.

- Amendment of the purpose to include the reach of the Manawatū River that is part of the study area, as suggested by Jon Roygard.
- Inclusion of general food gathering in Principle I, as suggested by Phil Teal.
- Inclusion of the promotion of preventative spending, efficient use of funding, minimisation of lifecycle costs, and preventative works rather than repairs, as suggested by Matthew Carroll.

Manahi Paewai stated the importance of leaving rivers in their paths, and developing/building around them instead. Danielle Harris suggested that this is covered under Principle A of the adapted draft Project Objectives.

Matthew Carroll commented that community resilience is important, as the livelihood of farmers is integral to the community, and suggested that communities be supported to continue to exist as they do (with some give and take). Kathy Dever-Tod recommended that community and financial resilience should be kept separate.

Shane Carroll raised concerns around the inclusion of prioritising the removal of structures in the floodplain in the adapted draft Project Objectives. Alan Taylor advised that a defined floodplain will be developed as part of this investigation.

Alan Taylor suggested that the Project Objectives be considered a living document that can be modified over time. Phil Teal queried whether the adapted draft Project Objectives give enough flexibility to comply with the funding requirements, which Logan Brown confirmed, explaining that they are more to provide guidance to the Project Team as to what is provided to the Governance Group.

It was decided that the draft Project Objectives be replaced by the adapted draft Project Objectives/Principles. The adapted draft Project Objectives are to be adopted.

10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Logan Brown provided an update on the current work programme.

Logan Brown is currently in the process of commissioning parts of the investigation, and the work streams are progressing. Kathy Dever-Tod queried the end date of the work plan; Ruby Stevens responded that this is based off a project milestone of the completed report due date of 30 June 2025.

Shane Carroll queried whether Horizons has a record of its assets; Jon Roygard responded that all assets put in post-Cyclone Gabrielle have been mapped, and work is being undertaken to map historic assets.

11. PROJECT SOCIALISATION

Logan Brown advised that the project website is being developed by the Horizons communications team. The project website will be a publicly-available website dedicated to the project, where all information will eventually be accessible.

Matthew Carroll suggested that the direction of the project be further defined before the project is socialised. Jon Roygard advised that there is a section in the Horizons Long Term Plan about this project, and that discussion will be needed before lines are drawn on a map in November/December 2024.

Discussion was had around current gravel management:

- Jon Roygard advised that energy is being focussed into assessing where gravel extraction can safely occur. Julia Jung added that it is very hard to reverse gravel degradation – a previous study showed

that the Lower Manawatū was trending towards gravel degradation, which can cause structures e.g., bridge piers, to be undermined if not managed carefully.

- Jon Roygard advised that previous attempts to lock up gravel in the Ranges have resulted in some places being starved of gravel, and that gravel studies are being undertaken and will be included in the overall investigation.
- Jon Roygard explained that work in the Pohangina and Oroua is continuing while this study is carried out, and the Long Term Plan works out future river management works. Jon added that there is a potential for gravel management in the Pohangina near the Saddle Road bridge, and Horizons is working through the consenting process so these works will potentially occur in spring.

12. HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

Logan Brown advised that some other Governance Groups receive Hazard Management Plans, and asked whether the group would also like to receive these plans; it was decided that the group only need be provided an update if there is a potential impact on the investigation.

13. KARAKIA AND MEETING CONCLUSION

Ruby Stevens will circulate the draft Governance Group member list, which everyone can respond to with confirmation of whether or not the list is accurate.

Ruby will also circulate the Terms of Reference and Project Objectives.

Meeting closed at 14:51PM with karakia from Chris Shenton.

Nature Based Solutions – Oroua and Pohangina catchments

Register of Interests

| Alan Taylor | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Position | Horizons Regional Council Councillor |
| Responsibilities | Chair of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Te Kenehi Teira | |
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| Position | Horizons Regional Council Councillor |
| Responsibilities | Vice Chair of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Danielle Harris | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Chris Shenton | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Phil Teal | |
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| Position | Wellington Fish and Game |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Kathy Dever-Tod | |
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| Position | PNCC |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Manahi Paewai | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| Mariah Patera | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| Matthew Carroll | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| Michael Taylor | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| Alana Nuku | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Sara Bell | |
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| Position | Department of Conservation |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | |
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| Shane Carroll | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
| Interests | Landowner/ratepayer in the catchment |
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| Stewart Harrex | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| William Silk | |
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| Bruce Potaka | |
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| Ian Passey | |
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| Ian Strahan | |
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| Shayne Harris | |
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| Jason Griffin | |
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| Robert Martin | |
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| Utiku Potaka | |
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| Lucretia Mason | |
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| Ami Coughlan | |
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| Position | |
| Responsibilities | Member of Governance Group |
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| Hamish Wayne | |
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