

JOBS FOR NATURE

Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

Community Stakeholder Group meeting

Thursday 27th June 2023, 1810, Rimu/Totara Room, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin

NOTES

In Attendance

Community Stakeholder Group members:

Sam Ferguson (Co-Chair), Charles Rudd, Vivienne Bold, Phil Teal, Trevor Hinder, David Blackison, Dan Touhy, Michael Kay, Christine Moriarty.

Support: Logan Brown and Charlotte Minnis.

Apologies:

Dean Wilson, Michelle Sands, Peter Matich, Mike Campbell, Jay Clarke, Geoff Kane, Adam Duker.

1 Welcome

Sam opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Project update

Logan provided a project update via a powerpoint presentation (to be included with the minutes of the meeting).

3 Update general discussion/feedback

Lease discussion:

There was concern raised by Michael Kay that growing maize will be bad for the soil properties. The concern was that phosphorus will be drained from the soil and that if the soil is drained of nutrients as a result of the from maize the wetland will die.

Phil noted that the group could make no changes to the current lease as the lease has already been entered into and this was an update on the process. Logan noted that the current rate of leaching is 25kg/ha (under the previous lease arrangement) and the new lessee has reported that they will be under 15kg/ha. If the land was left with no grazing until the entire farm is in wetland then it was become overtaken by weeds, requiring on-going weed control and a loss of income towards the project. This income is being used to undertake works on the property.

Trevor noted that he thought the leaching rate was still too high. He noted that Overseer is not good because it looks at averages so essentially they could leach a lot over a short period of time and then not leach anything for a while and still comply.

Logan – Overseer has many advantages and disadvantages. It is the best tool we have currently and the new farming system will be less intensive than the last.

Charles/Vivienne asked a question around what and where are the plants in the Arawhata bush block?

This was addressed at the last meeting but Charlotte will send out the full list of plant species planted.

- **Action:** List of plant species that were planted and where they were planted (Charlotte).

Christine enquired as to whether there would be soil sampling in the wetland on an on-going basis i.e. 6 monthly testing. This would enable us to see the trends in the soil quality. Project team are to check with experts as to whether on-going monitoring would be useful.

- **Action:** Take it back to wetland experts around ongoing soil sampling (Logan).

5 Logan provides an update on future work that has been commissioned

Charles – where are the sediments traps going to be?

These are to be on all of the inlets drains on the eastern side (Kohitere, Joblins, and Wheelans).

Phil – what is being done to ensure integrated catchment management for sediment?

This is outside of the scope of this project but there other processes addressing this and industry discussions.

Phil noted that he thought industry is not doing enough with only a few players actually doing anything and the majority aren't.

6 Fast track application

Where is it/when will we be notified?

The acceptance of the fast track process will need to be gazette by the 8th of July 2023. The Ministry for the Environment asked some questions in relation to the application and we are waiting for the decision.

Vivienne noted that the river management of Horizons had done a good job of clearing drains around the farm and surrounding areas.

- **Action:** Email around gazette notification (Charlotte).

Phil - requested a timetable for consenting and construction once we know if we can use the fast track process.

7 General design discussion

Trevor – from the Jacobs report it appears that the budget has blown out?

Logan - Yes the budget for the project is very tight – planning, effects assessments and modelling are very expensive. Additional assessments are being required to be undertaken that weren't envisaged at the time of the proposal such as inland wetlands etc.

Christine – Is there any way we can get more money?

Logan – the project will be putting a paper to the GG around funding avenues that could be pursued.

Sam – Can we have some clarification around the difference between groundwater and surface water modelling and why we need both?

Logan – there is farm scale modelling being done and due to the complex relationships between ground water and surface water flow in this area both water sources need to be considered. High groundwater tables last winter have provided helpful data for modelling.

Mike felt that the scale on the engineer’s cross section drawings was confusing and could be misleading. This information is to be passed onto the design team.

Phil – Would like clarification on a few things:

- What are the total loads that are expected to be going into the lake vs how much is going in now?
- Water quality data from 1990 to 2020; and
- Confirmation on flows that have been used in any of the model outputs for the wetland treatment.

Viv stated that we shouldn’t be chipping the poisoned trees – they were poisoned so they can’t be good to be used for anything.

Logan – there is a difference of opinions on the safety of the trees that were poisoned to prevent re-shooting once cut down. We are comfortable that they are safe to use. The main concern for the bioreactors is the species of trees that are best for the chip as some are softer wood and will break down too fast.

Christine – Feels as though racecourse drain is still not being addressed.

Logan- through community engagement there were some suggestions around racecourse drain. Some suggested that the water is diverted though Whelan’s drain. There are also a few other options that are being looked at.

Trevor – can Horizons fine HDC for the stormwater pollution?

Logan – There is a consenting process happening currently around HDC stormwater.

Christine noted that if the racecourse drain is diverted into Whelans which will have a sediment trap it will contaminate the sediment in the trap which will change what can be done with sediment when it is cleared from the trap

Charles noted that there should only be one cultural impact statement for the application.

Logan noted that we have currently commissioned two.

- **Action:** Put the minutes online and deliver to Charles (Charlotte).

8 Sam closed the meeting at 1940.