

JOBS FOR NATURE

Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

Governance Group Meeting

Tuesday 23rd July 2024, 1807, Ante Room (HDC) and Zoom.

MINUTES

In Attendance

Governance Group: Rachel Keedwell (Co-Chair), Sam Ferguson, Dean Wilson, Bernie Wanden, Di Rump, Quentin Parr (via Zoom), Bryan Smith, David Allen.

In attendance: Shannon Johnston, Logan Brown, Daniel Haigh, Lisa Gooch.

1 Welcome

Rachel welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dean opened with karakia.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jon Roygard, Siobhan Karaitiana, Clinton Hemana, and Jon Proctor.

3 Conflicts of Interest

No new COI were registered.

4 Minutes from previous minutes

The draft minutes from the 9th and 28th November 2023 meetings were provided.

Resolution: The Governance Group accepts the meeting minutes from the 9th and 28th November 2023 meetings.

Rachel/Sam
CARRIED

Matters arising from previous minutes:

- Renting of the Arawhata Rd property – the property is to be rented out to the lessee of the farm. Some maintenance works are being undertaken prior to the tenancy commencing to meet rental requirements.
- Potential subdivision of the Arawhata Rd property – this has been placed on hold while the Fast Track consenting process is being undertaken.

5 MakoMako Road walkway proposal

Brendan Duffy, Jo Mason, and Stuart Prescini presented a proposal to put a walkway through the Makomako road block of the Arawhata farm.

General notes from the presentation included:

- The original plan was to have a pathway that went around the lake however, after discussions with parties they decided to look wider. Approaches were made to HDC, and then Horizons (via this group);
- The project is asking for access to land and not funding opportunities;
- There are options to connect to Lake Waiwiri, Hōkio Beach, and Waitarere however, not through the wetland itself;
- The pathway has the potential to go out to the golf club and then from the golf club to Waitarere via an unformed public road; and
- Option to connect to the proposed pathway (Stage 3) through the Arawhata wetland otherwise the Arawhata wetland pathway goes nowhere.

There were questions asked around roading and it was noted that for Moutere Rd no works were required, and for Hōkio Beach Rd it was dependent on the access from landowners as to what work may be required.

The team presenting the pathway proposal left the meeting at 1848.

There was a general discussion around the proposal noting at a high level:

- The project driver is around water quality outcomes and the use of surplus land to the constructed wetland project should be for water quality outcomes. We can't compromise on the driver for the original project;
- As long as the pathway doesn't affect the ability to build/construct a water quality intervention;
- In principle support the idea however, can't give permission yet as we don't have full understanding of the use of the surplus land.

Rachel was to provide feedback to Brendan noting that we encourage the group to continue engaging with all other parties that would need to be involved with the walkway project. However, at this stage due to the uncertainties around the potential use of the land for water quality improvement interventions permission can't yet be provided.

Action: Rachel was to email Brendon with the outcomes of the discussion held around the pathway proposal.

6 Reporting

During the reporting period the focus has been on fulfilling the requests for information (RFI) from the expert panel considering the application. An update on this is provided below.

Resolution: The Governance Group accepts the annual report for submission to the Ministry for Environment and notes that the financials are provisional and may change prior to submission.

Action: The final report will be sent to the Governance Group.

Resolution: The Governance Group approve the project team working with MfE to vary the work plan to June 2025 to provide additional time for delivery.

Bernie/Sam
CARRIED

7 Arawhata wetland consenting update

A general discussion was held around the consent processing and some of the requests that have come through from the expert panel considering the application through the Fast Track process.

Invited parties had been asked to make submissions on the proposal, in total 10 parties provided comments with common themes in the submissions. These being:

- Flooding – groundwater and surface water;
- Supportive of the project;
- Water takes; and
- The existing environment.

The panel have appointed their own groundwater expert. The panel appointed expert is to consider flooding (surface and groundwater).

The requests for information from the panel had requested further information around:

- Process;
- The water take;
- Adaptive management;
- Groundwater flooding;
- Surface water flooding;
- Archaeological,
- Plant efficiency;
- Legal existing environment;
- Existing sediment trap construction;
- Condition refinement; and
- On-going monitoring.

There was discussion around the removal of the slide gate in the consent application on the existing sediment trap culvert in the lower Arawhata Stream. It has been identified that the existing sediment trap's potential contribution towards the overall project objectives could be optimised through *additional* modifications that will likely be beyond the scope of the application currently before the Panel. Rather than proceed with the current slide gate configuration in advance of those works, it has been decided to undertake all works together in a different work programme. This decision has been communicated to the Panel, with the sliding gate for the existing sediment trap culvert removed from the consent application.

Water quality outcomes still remain the driver for the decisions that were made in relation to the project.

At this point in time the expected decision date for the application is 6th August 2024.

8 Other business

The Governance Group requested that regular updates (monthly) are received on the progress on the project.

Action: Project team to send regular updates as the project progresses.

Request to shift the next meeting date.

Action: Logan to move the next meeting date to the following week.

9 Karakia

Dean closed the meeting with a karakia at 1951.

Action Summary

1	The final report will be sent to the Governance Group.	Logan
2	Rachel was to email Brendon with the outcomes of the discussion held around the pathway proposal.	Rachel
3	Move the next meeting date to the following week	Logan
4	Project team to send regular updates as the project progresses	Project team

Appendix 1 - Register of Interests

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Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions Governance Group

Register of Interests

Rachel Keedwell	
Position	Horizons Regional Council Chair
Responsibilities	Co-chairperson and voting member
Interests	NA

Sam Ferguson	
Position	Horizons Regional Council Councillor
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	Private home – [REDACTED] s 7(2)(a)

Bernie Wanden	
Position	Horowhenua Mayor
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	Fellow Rotarian with Geoff Kane

Aoife Broad	
Position	Ministry for the Environment lead contact
Responsibilities	Non-voting member
Interests	

Di Rump	
Position	Muaūpoko Tribal Authority CE
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	Chair of Horowhenua takiwa prototype

Clinton Hemana	
Position	Lake Horowhenua Trust Chair
Responsibilities	Co-chairperson and voting member
Interests	NA

Dean Wilson	
Position	Lake Horowhenua Trustee
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	NA

David Allan	
Position	Horowhenua Deputy Mayor
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	

Bryan Smith	
Position	Ministry for the Environment
Responsibilities	Non-voting member
Interests	NA

Jon Procter	
Position	MTA board member
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	

Quentin Parr	
Position	Te Runanga o Raukawa representative
Responsibilities	Voting member
Interests	