

JOBS FOR NATURE

Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

Hōkio community meeting

Thursday 17th November 2022, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin

NOTES

In Attendance: Christine Moriarty, Peter Thompson, Viv Bold (for half of the meeting).

Horizons staff:

Logan Brown, Charlotte Minnis, Lizzie Daly, Eric Fa'anoi.

Supporting:

Cr Sam Ferguson.

Welcome

Logan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introduction and Oranga wai: (Lizzie Daly)

- Oranga wai is about community vision/s and values for freshwater management and planning (regulatory and non-regulatory actions) to work towards achieving those values and visions.
- The presentation outlined the changes in the RMA and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and Horizon's responsibility as environmental regulators to incorporate these changes into our Regional Plan to improve freshwater quality in the region.

Questions and comments:

- Lake SPI – why does Lake Horowhenua not have a Lake SPI value? - The protocol required for a Lake SPI assessment cannot be fulfilled given the size of the lake however, given the macrophyte species present and there coverage it would most likely sit in the D band.
- Why does Lake Horowhenua have an N/A status for *E. coli* on the LAWA website? **Response:** For the a Lake to be assigned a status for *E. coli* in the NPS-FM the Lake must have had a minimum of 60 *E. coli* samples over a maximum of 5 years, collected on a regular basis regardless of weather and flow conditions. However, where a sample has been missed due to adverse weather or error, a attribute state may be determined using samples over a longer timeframe. Because this protocol has not been met, the Lake cannot be assigned a status. As a result, most Lakes in New Zealand do not have an assigned *E. coli* status.

- WECA would like be to invited to engage around the contact recreation monitoring.

Key issues

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEKA would like to be proactively approached around contact recreation.
Action: Lizzie to follow up. |
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Vivienne Bold left the meeting (7.15pm)

Horowhenua Wetland Project: (Logan Brown)

- Update on the Jobs for Nature work in the Waiopahu catchment to date.
- Background to the wetland complex project, project partners and the selection of the constructed wetland complex site.
- The phases of the wetland complex construction and the environmental outcomes that the wetland is going to achieve for Lake Horowhenua.
- The wetland complex is one part of our freshwater management/interventions required for Lake Horowhenua and its catchment. A number of interventions will be required to restore the health of Lake Horowhenua.

Comments/Questions

- Christine Moriarty
 - The sedimentation issue needs to be prioritised higher than what it currently is in the plan. The whole farm should be made into sediment traps.
 - Sediment traps seem to be underutilised in the overall design of the wetland, especially in the proposed phase one.
 - The problem is the sediment loads during high flows, if the wetland does not plan to address the sediment during high flows then it will not improve the water quality of the lake.
 - The Hōkio Road drain is not being addressed and we would like some sort of treatment/consideration given to this drain. For example the water to be moved uphill on the farm to be put through the wetland.
 - The farm that is not used in phase one should not be farmed in any capacity. The weeds should be left to grow as weeds are effective at removing nitrates.
 - The current sediment trap is a failure and is not effective.

Key feedback/issues

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sediment control within the design. • Horizons and wetland designers do not seem to understand that high flow scenarios are when the lake is most vulnerable and the wetland should be designed to mitigate these flow conditions. With a focus on sediment during these periods. • Lack of treatment of the Hōkio Road drain. |
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