

Urban Whangārei Rivers Working Group Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Tutukaka-Nui Room
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Friday 4 October 2024, commencing at 10:00am

Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Jack Craw
WDC Mayor Vincent Cocurullo
Iwi representative, Mira Norris

In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Rivers Asset Management Officer, Dale Roberts
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
WDC Acting Stormwater Manager, Andrew Carvell
WDC Representative, Matt De Boer

The meeting commenced at 10.00am with Karakia by Cr Craw

Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Apologies (Item 2.0)

P Geddes, J Gibbard, A Macdonald, B Howse, M Robinson, R Stolwerk, T Shortland, C Lawson, S Charles, S Irwin, D Kerr (resigned), L McKerrow, D Kula, T Burton, B Aperahama

Record of Actions – 18 April 2024 (Item 3.1)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Moved (Craw/Cocurullo)

Agreed action points:

- NRC Secretariat to amend Morning to Morningside (bottom of page 2)

Receipt of Action Sheet - October 2024 (Item 3.2)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- Action from 18/4/24 item 3.3 budget now complete (interest rate on deficit is 3.5% and on positive balance FIR is 5.8%)

- Action from 18/4/24 item 3.6 Master plan for the kotuku dam to be closed, this is a conversation for the Infrastructure committee building a bridge over the reserve land at the Kotuku dam to connect SH1 and SH14
- Andrew Carvell to obtain a picture of Kotuku dam from Jeff Devine and circulate to Mayor Cocurullo

Secretarial notes: Working with Land team on action 1, 3/8/23. Continued discussion on Kotuku Dam – noted the bridge for dam connecting SH-1 to SH-14 was never costed only conceptual alignment provide in Dam easements).

Budget (Item 3.3)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NRC Rivers Asset Manager to confirm what we have insured and if it covers partial or full failure
- NRC Secretariat to share Whangarei Urban Rivers Financial Report and Whangarei River FIR Programme Financial report spreadsheets with working party

Secretarial notes: Currently in quarter one of this financial year. Column 1 is for the close out date end of June. Consultant costs were significant as there were three pieces of work contained within this year's spend: (initiated from the new NZSOLD guidelines) including a full-day workshop with engineers and peer reviewer in Auckland, a dam design review (dam safety assurance programme) and annual inspection (Typically we only have expenditure for annual inspection with 5 yearly review more extensive and requiring a peer reviewer). Going forwards will adjust budget to 20k. Item for Stopbank and Scheme works was maintenance at the dam. Clearance works was work around town e.g. tree removals from river. Rates is \$16k to collect rates charged by WDC. interest is \$235k at 3.5%, total of \$452,770 in operating expenses.

Presented Whangarei River Flood Infrastructure Rate(FIR) Programme Budget for capital works going forward. In year 23/24 funds collected for Tarewa Road flood wall, we are collecting but committee resolved to put this on hold and investigate "the Avenues" work stream.

Works Update (Item 3.4)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NRC Secretariat to circulate PowerPoint slides for the Works Update to working party

Secretarial notes: PowerPoint presentation given touching on scheduled dam maintenance will look at cleaning up trees around some bridges (indicated in the slide) Discussion was had around concerns on noxious weeds in the vicinity of Bernard Street downstream. WDC has a programme of works to eradicate weeds. Accepted the view this is not a flood issue this is a pest weed issue

Avenues and Tarewa Rd flood protection matters (Item 3.5)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- Matt De Boer to share slide on 1 in 100yr rainfall event slide with the working party

Secretarial notes: Discussion about flood risk to the Avenues, in the short-term keeping Wilson drain clean. Over design events modelling will show over land flood paths as risk areas, in the long-term goal would be to reduce development in these places/managed retreat. Matt De Boer shared a slide showing a 1 in 100yr rainfall event – yet to understand the costs or how this would be progressed.

Whangarei Urban Awa project (Item 3.6)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NRC Secretariat to circulate Whangarei Urban Awa closing report to the working party
- NRC Rivers Manager to communicate with comms team regarding a website item for the Whangarei Urban Awa Project – photos of plantings, statements from owners

Secretarial notes: The project is complete, and this is the closing report. Compliments received from the chair; this has been a success.

Fish passage works (Item 3.7)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- No actions

Secretarial notes: Discussion on Raumanga stream. Concluded that grade control structures are important from a bank stabilisation perspective, not cause for concern from a flood perspective. The unused Walking Tracks could be disestablished and rapids to replace pipes, for the well-used walking tracks, pipes could be fitted with fish-friendly “spat rope” or other fish friendly structures. Long term the solution would be replaced with walking Bridges this is not a flooding issue and should be progressed outside of this forum. Culverts have a high velocity and fish have difficulty to swim against currently with high velocity. Grade control is important for stream bank stability but can be done with rocks forming rapids. If being removed, community consultation should take place. Advice to WDC is to remove pipes and leave rocks, WDC want pipes and walking track to remain but be cleaned out, this won’t resolve fish passage concern due to velocity. We want integrated solutions as fish are important, and we don’t want to prevent them moving upstream. No funding at present.

Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy - update (Item 3.8)

Presented by: WDC Acting Stormwater Manager, Andrew Carvell

Agreed action points:

- NRC Secretariat to obtain and circulate the Whangarei Urban Flood Works presentation with the working group

- Andrew to overlay slide 7 onto slide 5 to show the mud plains and circulate to working party members
- Andrew to provide updates to this committee as a standing agenda item for the Whangarei urban flood strategy

Secretarial notes: Discussed flood risk around the city. The urban flood strategy will provide understanding of the risks of flooding in the urban area, this is a joint project between NRC and WDC (with total funding of approx. \$1.3-1.5M), building on the work done in 2006 by URS which focussed on the area north of Raumanga stream and adjacent to Hatea river, the project looks at a wider scope. Project comprises of four phases: 1 is project setup, 2 is setup strategic case to understand tide level and rainfall links to determine worst case scenario, 3 is for technical assessments to look at information and do mitigative options e.g. targets and 4 is to put together a business case, obtain high level costings and develop a work programme for the next LTP. There will be workshops with councils and decisions to be made separately by both councils to approve.

Whangarei District Council flood management projects: Morningside pump and the Tikipunga Repo project - update (Item 3.9)

Presented by: NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso

Agreed action points:

- No actions

Secretarial notes: Building a pump station for Morningside (vertical lift pump) with funding via C.I.P this has a tight timeframe to complete, the public walkway above will remain.

Any other Business (Item 3.10)

Presented by: Cr Jack Craw

Agreed action points:

- To cast the net wider for new members for the Urban Whangarei Rivers Working party, stating the benefits of belonging to the party
- NRC Secretariat to remove Donald Kerr (Morningside representative) from the membership list as he has resigned

Secretarial notes: Mayor expressed concerns about doubling up on work and need for lines of delineation to be clear so rate payers to be aware of responsibilities and what rates collection is contributing towards. WDC has done a lot of work around this leading up to 3 Waters. However, this could also be an opportunity to show NRC & WDC working together for an integrated flood programme for Whangarei.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 11.45am with Karakia by Louisa Gritt