

Taumarere Flood Management Working Group Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Te Pokapu Centre
Te Pokapu Centre
Wynyard Street
Kawakawa
on Thursday 7 May 2026, commencing at 10:00 am - 11:30am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Chairperson, Pita Tipene
Deputy Chair - Far North District Council Councillor, Kelly Stratford
Bay of Islands Vintage Railway, Lau'rell Douglas
Tangata Whenua Representative Riki Ngakoti
Iwi Representative, Waimio Nisha Marsh
Maromaku Iwi Representative, Paul Tipene
Te Puna Aroha Trust, Pamela-Ann Ngohe-Simon
Iwi Representative (Motatau/Opahi/Matawaia) Rowena Tana
NRC Alternate member, Councillor Joe Carr

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Rivers Project Manager, Meg Tyler
NRC Kai Whiri Iwituna - Senior Catchment Advisor, Chantez Connor-Kingi
NRC River Operations Lead, Charles Chaves
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle (online)
Suzie Scott
Shelley Wharton
Peter Woods
F McKenzie
Callum McKenzie
Alan Nilsson
Mike Butler
Walton Davis
Wiremu Keretene
Josie Kemp-Baker

The meeting commenced at 10am with karakia by Walton Davis.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Jacqui Hori-Holt (NZTA), Louisa Gritt (NRC), Barney Brotherhood (NRC), Scott Smith (FNDC), Eric Hennephof (KiwiRail), Tracy Dalton (Twin Coast Cycle Trail)

Record of Actions – 6 September 2025 (Item 3.1)

Presented by: Cr Tipene

Agreed action points:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)

Presented by: Cr Tipene

The committee discussed the incomplete removal of dead willows upstream of the three bridges, noting that while some trees had been removed, others remained due to jurisdictional issues between NZTA and NRC, and the need for further action was agreed upon.

Participants debated the actual risk posed by the remaining willows, with Charles and others explaining that the slow-moving water and current debris management practices reduced immediate risk, but concerns remained about potential hazards if trees fell onto roads.

It was clarified that the responsibility for removing certain willows fell to NZTA, with NRC and local groups supporting where possible, and the need for a renewed action and follow-up with the relevant agencies was established.

The group agreed to document the need for complete removal as a new action item, with support for ensuring the job is finished and a commitment to follow up in the meeting minutes.

Agreed action points:

- **NRC to write a request to NZTA regarding willow removal around the 3 bridges**

Terms of Reference Confirmation (Item 3.4)

Presented by: Cr Tipene

Facilitated introductions and reviewed the committee's terms of reference and membership, clarifying the advisory nature of the group, voting rights, and the importance of community representation.

The working group adopted the current terms of reference but agreed with Cr Carr that we needed to transition to a more holistic, catchment-wide approach with a proposal being put to the full Council as soon as possible.

Clarification was provided on who holds voting rights and the advisory status of the group, with emphasis on open meetings and community input.

Resolution: That the terms of reference be accepted

Pita Tipene/Lau'rell Douglas Carried.

Agreed action points:

- **Working Group members to reflect on the terms of reference**
- **The chair requested the Working Group meet earlier than 6 months for the final meeting of the year (requested July 2026 meeting) Secretariat to confirm availability of the chair and Cr Carr ahead of making the change**

Membership (Item 3.5)

Presented by: Cr Tipene

The chair commented that anyone who comes to this meeting can speak and be heard

Agreed action points:

- **Mike Butler to replace Lau'rell Douglas as the Hundertwasser representative**
- **Sam Davis to be removed**

Budget (Item 3.6)

Presented by: Meg Tyler & Joseph Camuso

Presented a detailed financial report covering operating expenses, capital expenditure, deficits, and funding sources for the 2024-2026 period, with questions addressed regarding legal fees, depreciation, and future funding prospects.

Year-to-date figures showed a small operating deficit, with ongoing capital expenditure and a cumulative deficit of \$219,617, prompting discussion of financial sustainability.

Questions were raised about legal fees, which were attributed to finalising easements for spillway and stopbank structures, and the allocation of costs to specific projects.

Discussed the need for ongoing maintenance funding, the importance of leveraging government grants, and the requirement for NRC to contribute a share of future project costs.

Resolution: That the financial report be received. Pamela-Ann Ngohe-Simon/Rowena Tana - Carried.

CIP - Otiria further works (Item 3.7)

Presented by: Meg Tyler

Reviewed progress on the Kingi Road swale, noting that resource consent had been granted, detailed design finalised, contracts awarded, and construction nearing completion, with remaining tasks including planting, fencing, and stabilisation.

Kawakawa Deflection Bank (Item 3.8)

Presented by: Meg Tyler & Joseph Camuso

Recent works included extending culverts and managing debris accumulation, with before-and-after photos shared to illustrate improvements and ongoing maintenance needs

Agreed action points:

- **NRC to look at tree blockage in stream by Clarkes bus yard in Kawakawa**
- **NRC rivers team to work with Callum (farmer) and Hydrology to have him set up on Alarmist system**

Kawakawa Stormwater floodgate modelling (Item 3.9)

Presented by: Meg Tytler and Joseph Camuso

Stormwater modelling and survey were completed, specifically looking at the stream that runs under the pharmacy in town to the outlet near the Hundertwasser library. The capacity of this system seemed adequate and there is complexity associated with adding a floodgate to the stormwater outlet due to the size and orientation. There is an opportunity to look at the next bridge down from the stormwater outlet to see if adding a flood gate or flow prevention structure would assist with stormwater capacity in the system during a heavy rain event.

Shelley spoke about the current stormwater modelling and investigations in Kawakawa being carried out by FNDC. Pamela-Anne raised the importance of including Moerewa in any stormwater planning

Agreed action points:

- **NRC to investigate flood gate(s) on stormwater outlet network into the Waiomio stream**

Overland flow paths behind bowling club (Item 3.10)

Presented by: Meg Tyler & Joseph Camuso

The working group, with contributions from Meg, Allen, and others, examined stormwater management issues in Kawakawa, including blocked culverts, overland flow paths behind the bowling club, with hydraulic modelling and local knowledge informing proposed solutions.

Members described persistent flooding due to blocked or undersized culverts near the bowling club and Johnson Park, with significant financial impacts on local amenities.

The group discussed the historical and current overland flow paths, the impact of infrastructure changes (such as cycle trails and bridges), and the need to reopen these paths to improve flood conveyance.

Laurell spoke about the need for woody debris catch upstream of bridge #5 on the cycle trail network and requested NRC work with their engineer to assist in the resource consenting process.

It was agreed that further coordination with FNDC, Kiwi Rail and the cycle trail trust is necessary to address drainage and flow path issues, with action items noted for follow-up.

Walton Davis raised the issue of re-establishing the Waiomio River on a historic alignment previously identified to Cr Carr by Richard Cookson who at the time owned the affected land. The current landowner Callum McKenzie joined in the discussion.

Agreed action points:

- **Raise an RFS for the cleaning and possible enlargement of blocked culverts and drains near the bowling club and Johnson Park and consult with Kiwi Rail and the cycle trail**

trust regarding maintenance of the rail drain and lowering sections of the cycle trail to improve flood conveyance in the area. (Meg)

- **Rivers team to connect with cycle trail trust to assist with requirements for consenting a structure upstream of bridge #5 to help with woody debris issues.**
- **Cr Carr to draw up historic spillway plan for farmer Callum McKenzie's land**

River Erosion Item - toe of an "Earth Flow" further up the Ngapipito / Otiria catchment (Item 3.11)

Presented by: Cr Carr

Discussed the broader impacts of flood mitigation works on the catchment, water quality concerns, sedimentation, and the need for integrated, science-based approaches to catchment management.

Questions were raised about how localised flood mitigation projects affect the wider catchment, with observations that some areas now experience different flooding or sedimentation patterns, prompting calls for a more holistic approach.

Participants highlighted ongoing sedimentation problems, particularly from forestry operations, and discussed the need for riparian planting, erosion control, and further scientific study to trace sediment sources and stabilise riverbanks.

Susan advocated for improved water quality monitoring and the establishment of a Hapu authority to enforce better practices among local landowners, especially regarding effluent management and forestry impacts.

The group discussed the need to prepare for future government funding opportunities, emphasising the importance of having ready-to-go projects

Cr Carr spoke to the need for sediment samples to be taken from the Rawhiti channel and the rock types to be identified by a competent geologist (using a microscope) and referenced to the geological mapping of the Taumarere catchment to enable source tracking. Cr Carr referred to the NIWA 2020 survey report that identified over 333,000 tonnes of sediment is discharged annually by the Taumarere River into the BOI.

Agreed action points:

- **Joe Carr to draw up historic spillway plan for farmer Callum McKenzie's land block**
- **Rivers Team to investigate and report back on evidence-based studies that tell us where sedimentation in the catchment is known to be coming from.**
- **Request for sediment samples to be passed on to NRC Science Team**

Any other business (Item 3.12)

Presented by: Cr Tipene

Reviewed data from significant rainfall events in January 2026, highlighting the importance of localised gauges in detecting and responding to flood risks.

It was explained that the hydro team can set up automated alerts for community members based on gauge triggers, improving preparedness for future events.

Nisha and other community members shared updates on local river maintenance projects, including mechanical extraction of crack willow in the Waiomio area, highlighting positive observations for flood reduction and community resilience.

The project demonstrated the benefits of collaboration between NRC, local communities, and hapu, resulting in tangible improvements and increased community engagement.

Agreed action points:

- **Rivers team to send NRC Hydrology team a request from the Waikare community for a river gauge or rainfall gauge to help with early warning systems**
- **Rivers team to complete maintenance of weed spraying on the lower end of the Otiria spillway**

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm with karakia by Walton Davis.

unconfirmed