

Matamata Piako and Patetonga Flooded Landowners Meeting Notes

Date: 23rd November 2017 10.15am

In Attendance:

WRC:

Adam Munro, Kenny Growden, Karen Botting, Cr Stu Husband (councillor)
Maggie Catford (notes)

Members of Parliament:

Tim van de Molen, Scott Simpson

HDC:

Ian McLeod

MPDC:

Donna Arnold

Landowners:

Megan Potter (Awarua Farm), Stu and Michelle Clarke, Steven Hill,
John Bubb, Simon Pearce (Aitchson Farms), Phil and Myra Hill

Apologies: Cr Hugh Vercoe

Meeting:

Cr Stu Husband opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Stu acknowledged the low landowner attendance which most likely reflected that concerns has eased and amount of work undertaken since the events to address the issues.

Adam Munro ran through the agenda and housekeeping. He explained that this meeting was a follow-up to the previous meeting held on 23 May, as agreed with the landowners.

Kenny walked the group through a PowerPoint presentation (WRC Doc #11432323) and explained the slides in more detail including the below points.

Key topics addressed during the PowerPoint presentation were:

The Kerepehi extension stop bank:

- It was surveyed in 2015.
- The flooding in April squashed the peat effectively closing of the Kerepehi Cut off drain, this was reinstated under emergency works in May 2017 and is not back to original design.
- This stopbank hasn't previously had a design level associated with it and during the Piako Model design review this was addressed. with a new flood design level of RL 2.1 being the 50 year flood design level, we will be workshopping this with the catchment committee and looking to put additional free board on this bank up to proposed RL 2.43, but this still needs approval and final design, works are still scheduled to be completed in the 2017/18 season pending these approvals.

Telemetry sites and gauging:

- WRC is looking at adding more real time stations to the network to fill in gaps.
- Gauge boards have been rationalised and a number are being programmed for reinstatement this financial year. All sites have been reviewed for the best locations to collect this information during flood events which will assist with future modelling requirements.

- The more data that goes into the scheme review allows us to become better prepared for future events.
- The last flood was in the 1960's so the information we had was the best available at the time.
- Some Waitoa silt traps were removed from the previous scheme review as they had no effect on flooding, however they needed to be reviewed for river management purposes. This information will then be discussed with local landowners adjacent to these traps.
- In 2016, 84,000 m3 of silt was removed from the lower reaches of the Piako and Waihou rivers and will be dried out for use as part of the stop bank programmes. The cost to do this is approx. \$1.80 per tonne compared to approx. \$4.00 per tonne to buy it ex quarries. That quantity is expected to be closer to 112,000 per tonne over 2017/18.

ABCD Flax Block:

- The land is owned and managed by DOC who are working closely with WRC to put a management plan in place for the area including weirs, water levels, catchment, assets, vegetation etc.
- WRC will manage the assets and are currently waiting on consent and the outcome of the scheme review - DOC will manage the land.
- An agreement between WRC, DOC and IWI will need to be developed for an agreed Management Plan for this area.
- WRC is working on the resource consent for the moat, Waikaka track and the remaining Castellation drains, but no work will commence until outcome of the 2d model and option scenarios for the ABCD Flax Block.
- Spraying of the Moat has been completed by Department of Conservation and the Waikato Regional Council have opened a small number of the Castellation drains and future work is awaiting outcome of model as above.
- Upper land use – we acknowledge there are issues, there is no magic bullet that will change or better this situation as WRC and District Councils work together on these consents.

Whakahoro Canal Stop Bank / Spillway Bank:

- Some cropping has occurred on this private bank which has accelerated settlement, we are working with landowners to remediate this and the requirements going forward. This is a district wide issue and is being worked through with the legal team.
- Comments were made regarding sections of banks that had again had crops grown on them. This has been inspected and was found to be accurate so WRC are working on solution to this issue.
- Some of the stop banks are on private land and WRC's rights to manage the land has been lost over the years and the WRC is working with private landowners to make sure these assets are managed.
- The stop bank will be rebuilt to design level once scheme design levels are approved, dependant on timing for this, it may be during the 2017/18 season. If the rebuilding doesn't start during the 2017/18 season, the WRC will get the design and contract documentation sorted to start early in the 2018/19 season.

Bancroft's Drain and Elstow Canal Maintenance:

- Looking at options as the area is currently being surveyed and looking at what it looked like vs what it looks like now.
- Once WRC has the necessary data, they will present it to, and consult with the land owners about the options. These may include maintain the status quo and clean existing drains, or alternative scheme and design changes in this area.
- It's better to get the silt to pass through rather than to accumulate in the wetland.

Kopuatai – Water Levels and Weirs:

- WRC and RUD have received the initial draft report for the Kopuatai water levels and weirs with the final report due in a couple of weeks' time.
- The report will be a public document and made available to affected landowners should they request a copy.
- WRC, DOC and Councils are working well together and having regular catch-up meetings regarding flood protection/river scheme.
- Kenny explained how the scheme design works and the differences between a tidal flooding reach and a river flooding event and how improvements have been made since last scheme review.
- Concerns were raised why EPZ 1 did not spill at same time as EPZ 2. This was due to it not being a tidal flood but rather a predominantly Waitoa flood so the scheme acted as it should during these events.

Piako Scheme Performance:

- The Piako Scheme Review was started 18 months ago, it needs to go through council and the stop bank heights will be reviewed around the new design.
- The scheme design was completed prior to the climate change policy and, as it is modelled every 10 years, a recommendation will go to council to review the scheme design at next scheme review for actual changes. It's been predicted that sea level rise of .8mtr by 2090 due to climate change.

Mangawhero Area Assets:

- WRC and still working with Hauraki District Council on a proposed hand over of some assets including a section of Central Canal, Mangawhero and Kaihere Roadside drains and Tako's Stopbank.
- Central Drain desilting started at the beginning of November and is planned for completion by end of December.
- Takos stop bank has been started and will be completed prior to end of Dec 2017.
- Kaihere Stream has needed desilting a couple of times since the flooding due to road gravel getting into the waterway.

Kenny ran through a recap of the flood event and summarised why it happened. He discussed the Piako Scheme Review in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation and explained that the ABCD Flax Block wasn't completed yet, but it is at the next stage of the review, and that will start soon. Once this is completed and ready to present to the group, WRC will set up meeting to Workshop this with landowners and Councillors.

Upgrade to Piako Model discussed with new catchments and reality check against actual flood levels recorded between Feb to April 2017.

There was a section in the PowerPoint presentation with data and graphs explaining the 50 Year ARI data for the Waitoa and Piako rivers.

In summary the Piako River Scheme Review – What did we learn?

- Confirmation the April 2017 Waitoa peak flow was a >160 year event.
- Model aligns with actual surveyed flood levels from 2017 event.
- The Waitoa River reaches were overwhelmed.
- Last major events in 1961 & 1962 there was minimal river flow, flood extent and flood level information to support a scheme review.
- Kopuatai Peat Dome can act as a contributor when full, this incorporated into the model by reflecting additional catchment areas.
- Stop banks without design heights have been included in model (eg: Kerepehi extension, Carters).
- Advances in modelling technology and captured data, have allowed for these improvements.

The floor was opened to a Q and A session with the following discussed:

A belief that the weir at the bottom of the ABCD Flax Block should be lowered to RL 1.2 and the area dried as the water entering into the system can't work its way through – the bank on the eastern side of the river (ABCD Flax Block). This was discussed and some thought's around solution, however the scheme review has shown that the current level of service can be achieved with the current standards so, any addition changes above the level of service would need the level of service changed and have that would have a rating impact.

The effort of the silt traps (Waitoa river), in the model, indicates the traps don't make a flood event, but need to be looked at for river management purposes. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the upcoming catchment committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm for lunch and networking.