

Notes of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee Meeting 11.8.16

5:00PM – 9.00PM, Newlands Community Centre

Summary

Contents

- Attendees
- Purpose
- Actions & general business to do

Meeting notes.....	2
Session 1 Welcomes, karakia, introductions.....	2
Session 2 - Work process – what’s ahead.....	3
Session 3. Values & Attributes and Collaborative Modelling Project Working Groups – combined report back	6
Session 4. Flood management info session.....	9
Session 5. Rural Issues working group – Scope of Work, and report back.....	11
Session 6. Stormwater and Wastewater Working Group and Urban Development Working Group – combined report back	12
Session 8. Any other business.....	12

Workshop Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee:

Attendees Diane, David, Larissa, John G, Naomi, Stu (Chair), Warrick

Apologies: Barbara, Bronwyn, Jennie, John M, Sharli-Jo, Richard

Project Team:

Alastair (Project Manager), Hayley, Isabella, Jo, Jonathan, Keith, Murray, Nicci,
Sheryl, Shelley

Wellington Water Ltd:

Ryan Rose, Sheryl Barker

Workshop The purposes of this workshop were to:

purpose

- understand the forthcoming work process – what’s ahead, by whom, why
- decide the essentials of the next community engagement
- decide to approve or tweak the essential direction of travel for the
combined Values & Attributes (V&A) and Collaborative Modelling Projects
(CMP) Working Groups’ (WG) social & economic attributes work
- get updated about other ongoing CMP WG and V&A WG work
- decide whether values descriptions are ready for publicising with the
community
- understand the essentials of flood management and how it relates to Te
Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua
- review the Scope of Work (SoW) for the Rural Issues Working Group (RI

WG) and direction of travel, and decide whether to approve or to tweak them

- get comfortable with where the Stormwater and Wastewater Working Group & Urban Development Working Group (SW/WW and UD WG) are heading

By the end of the night we hope to have:

- Made a consensual decision about what, when, why, who to engage (not how) – and next steps for PT
- Made a consensual decision: approve direction of travel for V&A WG social & economic attributes work OR amend (with specifics)
- Made a consensual decision: Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua values are ready to publicise OR tweaks required (with specifics for why/what to change)
- Made a consensual decision about RI WG SoW: confirm, or rework (specific actions)
- Made a consensual decision about direction of travel for RI WG's work – steady as you go, or adjust
- Made consensual decisions about SW & WW and UD WGs' directions of travel - steady as you go, or adjust (with specifics)

The purposes were mostly achieved; some further work and discussion is required (see Actions)

Actions and general business to do

Work process – what's ahead	ASAP after 11.8: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project team: create a detailed timeline for the next 5 months to show Committee work load and topics to come and to which WGs can plan their work.
Community engagement & communications	For next Committee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project team: create an initial engagement plan, referencing communications plan, that enables informed decisions about who, what, why, and when.
Values table	By early September: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project team: send re-designed values table to Committee for their information prior to publication

Meeting notes

Session 1 Welcomes, karakia, introductions

Session 2 - Work process – what’s ahead

(Alastair Smail, Greater Wellington, plus Jon Gabites, Greater Wellington)

See presentation on *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee* webpage

<http://www.qw.govt.nz/presentations-and-reports-2/>

This session was to introduce the Committee to work coming up between now and the end of the year. Alastair made a presentation and there were Q&A from Committee. Key points follow.

Updates on related work

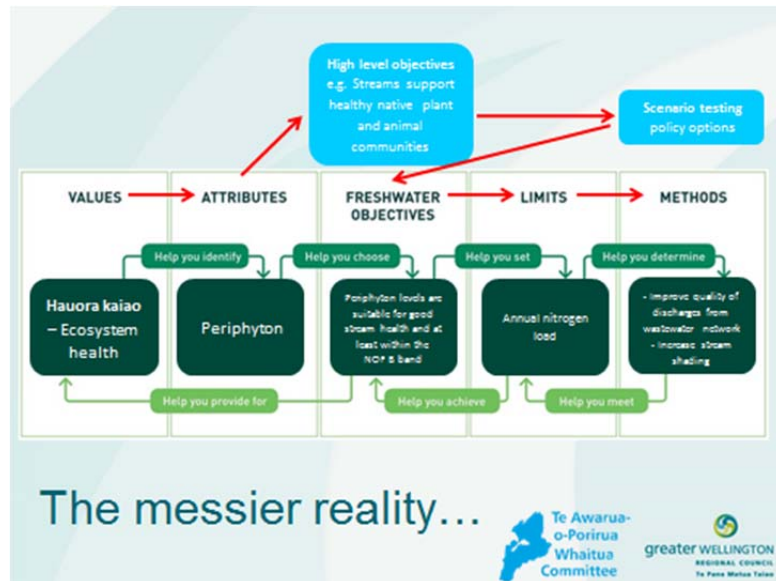
- Ton has taken the Committee’s initial Water Management Units (WMUs) from the Tawa meeting (14 July 2016) and has used them to choose which approach he will take to developing the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua WMUs. He will continue this work until bringing the WMU set back to Committee in October for review and approval.
 - There won’t be an interim review point but this is an open question if there’s strong desire for it
- Stu’s contract work for Wellington Water is effectively creating a “mini scenario” for one small area of the catchment (the CBD). It has a flood management focus but will be useful to the Committee. He will keep the Committee updated.

Work programme

- Refer to “setting freshwater objectives and limits” diagram in Alastair’s presentation.
- Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee are doing the bubbles in the process sequentially (clockwise), with iterations, involving the whole Committee.
- We are doing them more in parallel, with similar iterations. This can be really confusing.
- To date,
 - the values are almost done (the first bubble)
 - Attributes are getting there
 - Objectives – we have some high level direction-setting ones
 - WMUs – these are underway
 - Policy options – Working Groups have begun this work, which will continue
 - Scenarios – our end-of-year deadline
- Scenario design is a three-meeting task for Committee, with input from Working Groups.
- We need to have scenarios agreed and given to the modellers by the end of the 15 December 2016 Committee meeting.

Scenario modelling process

- Scenarios are a way the Committee can “tunnel from both ends”



- Most work designing and building scenarios is done by Committee, with some input (at meetings) from experts. This will be (e.g.) to alert Committee to something that's not doable.
- The outputs of several work streams - policy option packages, attributes, and WMUs - all converge into scenarios.

Management options

- Note – the NPS-FM does *not* drive catchments management down a regulatory/ rules-centric path. The opposite is in fact true – the whole spectrum of policy responses (regulation, investment, education) is open to communities.
- Policy / management options work is needed to create scenarios (bundles of selected policy options), but much of the policy options work will be needed after initial scenario modelling. This will be to understand in more detail how the implementation of different policies might work in the catchment.

Deadlines

- Scenarios must be wrapped up (agreed) by 15 December committee meeting
- Modellers need to start setting up the models during November, so there will be dialogue along the way to enable this.
- Committee noted the tough deadlines and the role of Working Groups, and requested a detailed timeline WGs could plan to.

Scenarios – taster

- The September meeting will cover scenarios in more detail.
- Scenarios provide insights into future possibilities, help our understanding and assist our decision making
- In essence a scenario asks: "If we do this bunch of things with the intention of getting to a particular future, what happens to our values? And what's the cost?"
- Important to note: scenarios run by experts doing modelling never provide answers. They provide insights into future possibilities.
- "the answer" will be a judgment call based on the products of several scenarios' modelling, amongst several other inputs.
- Scenarios are used in several ways therefore it is important to communicate these with the public.
- For example: if we do [that thing you really want / don't want done], here's what will happen: these will be the cost impacts on various

groups; this is what will happen to things in the catchment we hold dear (values)". In some cases we can also say: "while it seems like that would fix everything, It actually wouldn't make any real difference (low sensitivity)" – or the converse.

Role of Committee

- There was a question about whether the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) developed by the Committee would be a true final, once handed over to GWRC for approval
- The answer was: In one sense, yes – but the Proposed Natural Resources Plan changes to legislatively incorporate the WIP will come back to Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee for approval before being publicly notified.
- Alastair noted that other groups can also receive recommendations from the WIP, such as Ngāti Toa, and the Territorial Authorities (city/district councils); this will be an opportunity to try new things.
- The Committee's ongoing role after the WIP is produced was questioned.
- It will take 4-5 months to translate the committee's WIP into RMA policy language, and the Committee will be involved in this.
- Alastair's vision (though GWRC has made no commitments) is for integrated catchment management to be the ongoing approach for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua, with the Committee involved in some form analogous to the zone committees in Canterbury.

Community engagement and communications

- Alastair and Jon Gabites spoke briefly about future community engagement, seeking the Committee's desired "who, what, why, when" instructions for the GWRC engagement team.
- Considerable discussion ensued which covered the following issues (amongst others):
 - The risk of perceived "radio silence" for a long period
 - The role of communications to complement and support engagement activity (noting that the Communications Plan has several channels, of which only newsletters (to 200-odd individuals) are currently being used)
 - The committee desire to do a better job of engagement than last time
 - The need to loop back to those who contributed to the values, and tell them what's happened with their input
 - Project Team noted that the values set are due to be publicised with the public in the September newsletter and online
 - The different activities involved in communications vs engagement – telling people things, vs asking them for input, and the variety of techniques for each activity
 - The different contributions that engagement makes to the process:
 - being seen to give people an opportunity to eyeball decision-makers and / or Committee, and / or having an opportunity to have their say,
 - vs substantively contributing to the content of the WIP
 - The risk of eliciting poor-quality information from people who don't understand the process or complexities (and scenario development is a particularly complex part of the process)
 - The appeal of having something tangible to tell the community about and get feedback on (e.g. some scenarios)

- Potential complementary processes whereby Committee engages in a deeper and richer way with small groups of people, complemented by broader-spectrum communications which must be strong and fill in the gaps
- Small groups could be people who are most affected and / or interested in a given scenario, demographic cross-sections, or others
- The Committee members were in favour of not booking in community engagement this side of Christmas, and indicated their preference for community engagement after scenario testing.
- Committee requested a plan from PT that enables informed decisions about who, what, why, and when.
- Members noted that there was barely a quorum at the time these decisions were taken.

Session 3. Values & Attributes and Collaborative Modelling Project Working Groups – combined report back

(Sheryl Miller, Greater Wellington, on behalf of V&A Working Group)

See handout and presentation on *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee* webpage

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/presentations-and-reports-2/>

This session was to

- decide whether the values set is ready for publicising with the community
- get updated about ongoing CMP WG and V&A WG work make a decision to approve or tweak the essential direction of travel for the combined V&A and CMP WGs' social & economic attributes work

Sheryl Miller led the presentations on behalf of the V&A and CMP working groups. Key points from the presentation and discussion are below.

Attributes update

- The ecological health attributes are still being worked on. Some attributes that have dropped out (of which there aren't many) will be picked up in other values.
- There's a combined V&A and CMP WG meeting with Mal and Ned Thursday 18th August, 4 – 6 at GWRC where these will be reviewed.

Values table

- The key question was whether Committee were comfortable enough with the wording of the values descriptions to publicise them to the community (ideally in the September newsletter)
- Sheryl noted some remaining discomfort with the word "production". And some discussion ensued about this and other wording. Issues included:
 - The merits of "opportunities", noting that many people held values they hadn't manifested or acted on but nonetheless valued highly the opportunity to do so. Decision: remove from the values description but it must be included in other work, communications, objectives etc as it carries significant meaning. This discussion will be carried on.

- The presence or absence of more examples (specifically fishing) in the list of recreational activities, noting the human connection that people make when they “see themselves” in a document. Decision: add “fishing” in, but no others
 - The merits of “agricultural and horticultural production”. Decision: agricultural encompasses horticultural so “horticultural” not be included
 - The merits of “production. Decision: remove this word.
 - The decision was to publicise the values descriptions with the above tweaks.
 - Sheryl has been discussing with the GWRC communications team about producing a graphically re-designed version of the values table, and will circulate this to Committee ahead of it being released to the community via the September newsletter and on the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua webpages
- Social and economic values work: purpose**
- Sheryl outlined the purpose of several live lines of work on the economic and social values.
 - The overall aim is to take in the broadest range of useful information and feed it into the modelling architecture, so the richest possible pictures of the catchment can be produced for the Committee to consider.
 - Experts are currently scoping out the available information, seeing if it is useful and if so, how it could be fed into the modelling architecture. This is the first element of procurement from these two workstreams.
 - This procurement has two purposes:
 - Designing the computational model to ingest and use each type of information
 - Identifying the sources and types of data and information that can be acquired
- Procurement and recommendations**
- The combined V&A and CMP WGs had three recommendations for Committee, essentially seeking their approval to commission work from consultants specialising in social and economic information.
 - Social information – CMP leader is Jim Sinner
 - Three bits of work are recommended to illustrate the direction of travel for Committee to approve
- Social baseline & assessment work**
- Committee decided to approve all these work pieces.
 - This is where most of the social attributes will be found.
 - The WG needs to know what data are available to understand the social status quo (baseline) of the catchment, and what they say about it.
 - Examples of existing data are housing costs, income statistics, and local knowledge.
 - The WG wants to commission a scoping report for this ,and noted that they will come back to Committee to ask which parameters of the social information should be included in the modelling.
- Recreation access work**
- The second work piece is on understanding this concept that came through strongly in the information from the community engagement.
 - The WG notes that it’s vital to identify key sites, risks and opportunities, so proposes to get the Project Team collating existing

information on this.

- Committee members requested to have input, so this will be arranged.

A sense of place work

- The third piece of work was on understanding this concept which has come through clearly in the V&A WG's work identifying attributes for social values.
- It is a complex concept composed of several others, and is taking some time to understand.
- Jim Sinner is currently writing a paper on how it might be understood and assessed, and the WG proposes reviewing this when it is available and having a discussion about the next steps.

Procurement and recommendations II

- Economic information – the expert from MLG is Chris Batstone
- The combined WGs' direction of travel for economic information is essentially procuring and considering six pieces of work by Chris. The WG has considered four of these and recommends that the Committee approve them for commission (with the remaining two to be discussed at a later meeting).

Cost orientation

- This report looks at the cost implications of various land-use problems, and of various solutions (interventions), which can be fed into the modelling.
- This piece of work is another example of scoping out available information, and the resulting report will inform the design of part of the modelling architecture, as well as informing subsequent procurement of the right kinds of data to feed into it.

Local & regional effects

- This piece of work looks at the large-scale economic consequences of different interventions.

Ecosystem services

- This work is about understanding the economic contributions and costs involved with the ecosystem services provided to humans by natural processes in the whaitua
- It will investigate whether there's value in taking an ecosystem services approach to understanding how these services might be affected by the interventions under different scenarios.

Policy options

- This is a proposal to undertake about informing the policy options discussion. How this ties into the working groups' conversations is currently underway between the CMP and Project Team.

Questions & decision

- Following Sheryl's presentation there was some discussion about:
 - what will happen with this work after this meeting.
→ These lines of work may end up in draft work briefs for the CMP. If this was the case, the WGs will bring these back to Committee for confirmation.
 - what is the spatial aspect of this work?
→ Some elements of the social and economic work will apply whaitua-wide, while others will apply to particular areas or sites.
 - What alternatives exist to doing the work that's suggested?
 - → The experts have talked through the proposed work areas with the WGs, who consider that this is the best approach. The alternative is therefore that this work is not done, and the Committee's pictures of the whaitua would lack this information

- Committee members agreed to approve the direction of travel proposed by the V&A and CMP WGs.
- ACTION: Committee members requested a diagram – e.g. an A3 graphic – with the different types of information being procured and the areas of uncertainty.

Session 4. Flood management info session

(Colin Munn, Team Leader, Flood Management Operations, Greater Wellington)

See presentation on *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee webpage*

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/presentations-and-reports-2/>

The purpose of this session was to:

- Build understanding of what flood management is and isn't as it relates to the whaitua
- Build understanding of the relationships between whaitua work, GWRC flood management work, other bodies' work

Colin Munn gave a presentation with questions and discussion throughout.

Please refer to Colin's slides for the main points of his presentation. Additional points from the discussion are below, with numbers referring to slides.

- Assets**
- Colin noted that some of the water infrastructure in the whaitua is managed by different bodies – for example the Whitby Lakes and Cannons Creek Lakes are PCC's responsibility whereas the Stebbings and Seton Nossiter detention dams (see 7, 8) are GW's.
 - Schemes (rates-funded flood control structures in a river) are a key part of GW's responsibilities in the wider region but there are no schemes in Te Awarua-o-Porirua.
 - Some assets are working well – e.g. the Glenside debris arrester (see 9) which saves many small bridges downstream for the price of less than yearly clean-out
- Asset Issues**
- However other flood management interventions – e.g. the grassed floodway at Wall Place – do not work well. This example (adjacent Kenepuru Station, see 10) leaves no room for maintenance (even mowing) from the banks and requires vehicles to do maintenance from in the stream; the stream is very straight and fast, with no riparian vegetation. Lots of interventions were done in the 1970s and 1980s, which aimed to control flood waters and enable more extensive development closer to watercourses. We are now realising that some of these were not executed well and have created more issues.
- Lack of integration**
- There is a significant hydrological relationship between flood management and stormwater management, which isn't integrated enough.
 - There is a lack of integration between planners and flood management people for urban development. Onsite detention of runoff (e.g. swales) practically can be very hard.
 - The public don't understand the relationships between permeability, runoff and flooding, and the catchment's rainfall can highlight differences.

(E.g. the May 2015 floods (see 11) where Porirua Stream was visibly flooding, most of the floodwater came from very heavy rainfalls in the headwater tributaries, including the relatively impermeable urban areas).

Responsibilities

- Wellington Water, PCC, GWRC and WCC are now better at doing integrated flood hazard mapping, but this is another area of historically poor integration.
- PCC's proposed smaller lot sizes in the rural zone will be very interesting. While they could increase impermeability a lot, the proposal involves smaller permitted lots (on average within a larger area) contributing \$25,000 (or in-kind) to flood protection, per smaller lot. However, should the proposed Plan Change or inclusion in the current review of the PCC District Plan proceed, then PCC will require a catchment management plan for the area to be prepared to more accurately identify impacts of any change and mitigation measures.
- Who is responsible – see 12 – GWRC and TLAs can choose to develop flood and erosion control measures – or choose not to.
- Bed ownership is a key determinant of who's responsible for maintaining watercourses. Almost none of Porirua Stream is GWRC-owned (it's private and PCC)
- WCAs have formed basis of distributing responsibility relating to remedying impacts on flood flow capacity. WCA does not give responsibility to GW or TLAs to protect people or property from streambank erosion. GWRC also provides advice to landowners relating to erosion protection etc on watercourses on private land.

Funding

- GW's budget for operational maintenance is small.
- Maintenance funding (see 16) and its division between organisations is agreed annually, with one invoicing the other. This seems an archaic process but works well in practice, and the ensuing conversations are a valuable process.
- Streambank erosion is an expensive problem for landowners in some spots when natural flooding occurs, but so is accumulated material (and this is squarely GW's responsibility). Gravel extraction can be expensive (3500m³ in last year's work in the lower Porirua Stream) and this would have cost \$800,000 to dispose of the gravel at the cleanfill tip, but a contractor removed the gravel at no charge and used it elsewhere. Gravel extraction requires a consent and GWRC has a standing consent that requires renewal every 10 years. Gravel extraction in the lower Porirua Stream is triggered by the actual accumulated levels of gravel which is about 10 yearly, though the recent gravel removal was the first in 14 years.

Preventing flood hazards

- Affected Party approval (see 22) – WCC has accorded GW this status under the RMA and their approval is required for any activities around stream areas. Setbacks are important
- See 27. The Taupo Stream (right photo) is too overgrown – water needs to be able to go somewhere. PCC has taken responsibility for its maintenance and volunteers clear it regularly, but this requires wrangling and commitment
- The Upper Duck Creek – example of some well-intentioned design elements working, and others not (e.g. 100% canopy coverage over the stream will mean flow issues, if / when the new plants take hold)
- Rural areas – see 30.
- Reporting or advice on erosion and flooding problems is valued, such as catching people before they rip out all willows and replace with small vulnerable natives
- Isolated works funding – up to 30% of the cost, but need to show a community or regional benefit and can be costly to achieve as a

- comparable unit cost.
 - Rural areas – see 31 – this is Colin’s wishlist to execute in relatively undeveloped areas, while there’s still a chance to get development right around watercourses before developers get in and sell it all up.
 - Opportunities – this is Colin’s wishlist for the Committee
 - Enhancement of Porirua Stream corridor – for example, sensible tree species planted; flattening back the batters (cut banks); improve people’s access to the water.
 - Planning future growth – protect undeveloped watercourses now, before the surrounding land is developed. Burdens on land title (e.g. caveats), or put into public ownership
 - Review levels of service – this means consider erosion problems and the public burden created.
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Session 5. Rural Issues working group – Scope of Work, and report back

(Diane Strugnell, Rural Issues Working Group)

See draft Scope of Work in Whaitua Committee on Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee webpage <http://www.gw.govt.nz/presentations-and-reports-2/>

This session was to

- review and decide whether the draft Scope of Work (SoW) for the RI WG was approved as is, or with tweaks
- discuss and approve the general direction of travel

Diane presented on behalf of the RI WG, then led the committee in a discussion about its scope. Notes from this discussion follow.

What about rural residential?

- The key question was about rural residential subdivision, and how this should be covered by the RI WG versus the UD WG. There were questions of timing (rural area that was earmarked for future urban development but was currently rural) and of other issues (what impact is different landuse causing; what lot sizes are involved)
- The eventual resolution was that issues (impacts) were the determinant of which WG should cover a topic. Therefore where greenfields residential development (in the formerly pure-rural zone) has been zoned but not created, the area is rural.
- With this clarification, the Committee agreed that the SoW was approved.

Working groups’ action

- The Committee requested an update and enhancement of the Venn diagram illustrating working groups’ topic areas.
 - The various Project Team leads of working groups will take pains to coordinate across the groups to ensure nothing is dropping in the cracks.
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Session 6. Stormwater and Wastewater Working Group and Urban Development Working Group – combined report back

(Stu Farrant, SW& WW and UD Working Groups)

This session was to:

- Get up to date on the two working groups' latest work, and approve their direction of travel if required.

Stormwater and Wastewater WG

Both groups are following similar path of reflecting on high level objectives (HLO) then thinking about brainstorming issues. HLO reflection also led to bunch of more specific ideas on what objectives would need to look like once we get to the WIP – e.g. an objective for reducing pollutants will need to stipulate which and to what level and by when.

Key issues so far:

- Lack of coordination between RMA, LGA and LTMA planning and goals
- Wastewater infrastructure at or over capacity in wet weather
- Infiltration and inflow high in some areas of the whaitua
- Dry weather wastewater overflows in some areas
- Stormwater flooding problems
- Little management of stormwater for water quality outcomes

Urban development WG

Key issues so far:- Planning complexity: coordination failure between documents and complexity with two TA planning contexts
- Technical knowledge: Lack of knowledge and experience at many levels with WSDs, some bad experiences discouraging greater uptake
- Trade offs between values: lack of information on how to balance pressures of development with water quality outcomes

Session 8. Any other business

1. The Committee's planting day was noted and a general invitation extended to the project team.
2. Proposed topics for the next Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee meeting:
 - Reportback on attributes for Hauora Kaiao - Ecological Health
 - Looking in more depth at process for developing scenarios
 - Community engagement – next steps proposal out of tonight's direction from Committee

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.