



Community Liaison Group

Date of Meeting: 24 June 2016

Attendees:

Name

Company

Colin Dale	Chairman
Alistair Shanks	Executive Support
Paul Bickers	WTP Manager
Bronwen Turner	Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Roger Baldwin	Mangere Community Representative
Ray Clough	Ornithological Society
Pat Burford	Auckland Council
Chris McKenzie	Watercare
Ron Boyle	Watercare -Puketutu
Trevor Wilson	Neighbour
Caleb Male	Watercare -Puketutu
Ken Duff	Mangere Community Representative
Chris Garton	Watercare WTP
Carrol Elliott	Mangere – Otahuhu Local Board
Brett Donaldson	Viilamaria
Vivien McGaughey	Neighbour
Shane Morgan	Watercare
Jarrold Walker	Auckland Council - RIMU Manager
Mara Bebich	Auckland Council - Liaison Manager

Apologies:

Bruce Cliff	Neighbour
Bruce Law	Living Earth
Jan Riddick	Forest and Bird

Venue: Wastewater Treatment Plant

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

1. Update

Sanjay Kumarasingham is to become the Mangere Plant Manager. Paul Bickers is moving to Newmarket to have a more centralised role. Paul was congratulated on his appointment and the group expressed appreciation for his contribution in managing the plant and being part of the CLG.

2. Minutes of Meeting on 24 March 2016

The receiving of these minutes as a correct record was moved by Ken Duff and seconded by Paul Bickers.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
------------	-------------	---------------

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Update on Oruarangi Awa

It was considered that there had not been much progress in the last quarter.

3.2 Manukau Harbour Forum

It was reported that at the MHF symposium on 10 June held at the Mangere Arts Center there were three announcements regarding contributions to the Manukau Harbour.

Ray Clough received an award for his ornithological work on the harbour. The group congratulated Ray on receiving this recognition of his work over the years.

The Awhitu Landcare Group received an award for their planting and fencing of streams.

There was an announcement of the Centre of Excellence by the Watercare CEO. Watercare has committed itself to pay for the hydrodynamic model for the Manukau Harbour. Craig McLroy General Manager, Council Stormwater was supportive of the development of the model.

4. Operational Issues

A presentation was given by Paul Bickers, Chris Garton and Caleb Male on the plant performance for the period March 2016 to May 2016.

4.1 Compliance

Compliance was achieved for the final effluent discharge in this period.

BOD, NFR and ammonical nitrogen values were well below the consented limits.

The average flow rates were below 311,000m³/day, that is well below the average flow consent limit.

There was one minor high flow event recorded in the period, on 29th May. This was small enough not to require shellfish monitoring.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

4.2 Operations

Graphs were presented showing TN, BOD and TSS target removals and the actual removals achieved. All were within the expected range.

Graphs showing the sludge ratios, digester performance, dewatering performance, energy utilisation and the biosolids production, were presented. The solids operations were as expected.

Eight reactor clarifiers were in service over most of the period. Reactors Number 6 and then Number 7 were out of service for maintenance.

The energy use was lower than normal in this period. A gas engine was out of service for repairs over part of the period.

The aim is to increase energy production in the future, and for the plant to become energy self-sufficient by 2025. Smarter technology will be used and it will require further capital works. This will include enhancing the nitrogen removal process to get improved sludge settling, greater sludge production and improved digester performance.

The biosolids production varies with the dewatering performance. If the biosolids are wetter, the weight is greater. Rainfall enhances the dewatering process by mobilising grit in the sewers which helps the dewatering process.

4.3 Midge Control

There are three ways midges are monitored: in emergence traps, light traps and at set locations in the community. The midge numbers were very low in this reporting period.

When midge numbers are low, there can be an increased number of swallows as the swallows are searching for food in the channel area if their food in other locations is limited. In the summer the swallows often go elsewhere where there are more readily available sources of food.

There were three contact insecticide applications in the period. The insecticide is sprayed onto the trees near the channel and basin. There were three insect growth regulator applications used in the period. These are pellets which are placed in the channel which inhibit emergence of the midges.

The emergence traps were modified last year which has resulted in higher numbers being recorded. But the numbers are still low for this reporting period.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

4.4 Odour

A summary of the results from the internal odour weekly walkover and the monthly external walkover were presented. In the internal walkover the screenings building and biosolids building were noted as being higher on the score than other sources. There was an odour spike at the screenings building. This was a result of the empty screenings disposal bins being returned uncleaned which were odourous.

In the external walkover, the most odour was detected at the shoreline discharge structure and the mid effluent transfer channel carpark.

4.5 Complaints

There were nine odour related complaints in the period of which five were confirmed as being from the plant. There were no midge complaints.

Three of the complaints were on the same day.

Watercare has identified some items for improvement in various areas to reduce odours. These include improving the fit of the primary sedimentation tank lids, improving the biosolids building doors, and the cleaning of the screenings bins off site.

The extraction rates to the biofilters will be reviewed and consideration given to other methods of odour control.

It was reported that in Spain some wastewater plants are totally enclosed and the air is treated through carbon filters.

There was a complaint from a resident on Puketutu Island.

4.6 Puketutu Island

The volumes of materials placed were noted. A summary of the main consents was presented. There are 191 conditions in the suite of consents.

No non-compliance was reported.

Minor problems with tarpaulin covers on the transport trailers are continuing. The trailer tyres have been replaced with truck tyres which are firmer and allow for easier unloading of the trailers.

The annual report is being peer reviewed by AECOM.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

Phase Two is to be started next summer. Archaeologists are preparing a report . They have found hangi pits and old garden areas. The Phase Two design is complete.

4.7 Closed Landfills

The first quarterly report has been completed and is awaiting sign off.

The areas where elevated levels of methane were detected have been remediated. The Pond Two Landfill cover is now complete.

Material from the BNR works is used to provide extra cover for the Pond Two Landfill.

4.8 Living Earth Operations

Concern was raised by some members of the group that the resource consent application by Living Earth had not been notified by the Council, and that adequate notification had not been given to affected parties.

Comment was made about the foreign ownership of Living Earth.

Discussion was held about potential methane releases from the composting operations.

5. General Business

5.1 Audit Group Minutes of Meeting on 11 December 2015

These minutes were received.

Comments in the minutes on lethal levels of methane were noted under section 3.9. The remedial works in the effected areas have been completed and the problem resolved. The Pond Two Landfill area is still closed to the public. In the Sludge Drying Bed Landfill the extra capping and the construction of vents is complete.

In section 3.10 of the minutes the need to look for a long term midge control method was discussed. The consideration of the use of dragging chains is continuing. The use of a jet boat to drag the chains is to be trialed. Watercare has looked in the past at covering the channel to reduce the midge habitat area, but it would be costly and could effect the birds in the area. Use of introduced fish is another possibility.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

5.2 Screenings

The quantities of screenings collected were discussed. Screenings collected are about four to five tonnes per day, and grit removed about five tonnes per day. These are disposed of off site in a landfill. Empty bins have been returned unwashed which has generated odour. In the future they are to be washed off site.

5.3 Works on Other Side of Greenwood Road

Watercare reported that the works in this area relate to the new pipelines being laid to connect to the existing plant the BNR units that are under construction. The pipeline route was selected on the opposite side of Greenwood Road to avoid having to remove the many trees that have been planted between the existing plant and Greenwood Road.

The work is likely to be completed by the end of the year.

The oil refinery pipeline is in the area and the Watercare lines will go under this pipe. The pipes will be jacked under Greenwood Road.

Mark Ford Drive should be open in December. A land swap is to be arranged with Auckland Transport. This has to be notified which will be time consuming.

5.4 New Sludge Thickening Tanks

These will be lined concrete tanks, vented to a biofilter. The concrete tanks should be less susceptible to corrosion than the existing steel tanks.

5.5 Ground Maintenance

It was reported that there were issues with the weed spraying contractor. Bird roost areas were to be sprayed to keep the weeds below 75mm in height. Watercare has reviewed the contractor's performance and is expecting better performance post July.

Watercare is planning to experiment with dosing the bird roost areas with salt as a means of weed control. This is going to be undertaken at the Radio Mast area. If it is found that salt affects the birds then this will be discontinued.

Chris Garton

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
	An update on these matters is to be given at the next meeting.	
	5.6 Living Earth Consent	
	It was reported that Living Earth has applied for a consent for 22 years to process kitchen waste on Puketutu Island. This was on a non notified basis.	Living Earth
	An update was requested at the next meeting.	
	5.7 Mangrove Removal Update	
	Mangroves are to be removed from near the Long Island and Shell Island Bird Roosts.	
	Watercare will wait until the Unitary Plan is approved before considering wider removal of mangroves. It is thought that the Unitary Plan will be more amenable to mangrove removal.	
	5.8 Manukau Harbour Monitoring Reports	
	The Manukau Harbour Protection Society (MHPS) is reviewing the monitoring reports prepared by Dr Shane Kelly. They are concerned that the data is not being correctly interpreted by Dr Kelly. They are engaging Dr Mike Joy to undertake a peer review.	
	It was reported that Watercare, the MHPS and Dr Joy had met.	
	An update is to be given at the next meeting.	Watercare/MHPS
	It was reported that the MHPS is questioning role of the Audit Group and if it has been performing properly.	
	5.9 Bird Centre at the Manukau Harbour	
	It was reported that there are preliminary discussions on the idea of a bird centre being established at Ambury Park or Puketutu Island for shore and wading birds. The natural history of the harbour and the birds would be the focus of the centre. It could be connected with the airport, be an international feature, have walking tours, and wine tasting at Villa Maria. Watercare is considering the role it should have with respect to this centre.	
	Concern was raised over the future management of the bird roost areas. This is currently with Watercare with help from Ambury Park. The culling of black swans was undertaken by	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-----	------	--------

the Airport Company.

5.10 CLG Request for further Harbour Studies

Jarrold Walker and Mara Bebich from Auckland Council were welcomed to the meeting. Jarrod is manager of the RIMU unit at Council that is responsible for research and monitoring of the Manukau Harbour. Mara is the Strategy and Stakeholder Liaison Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Services at the Council. The Council run a number of monitoring programmes in the harbour.

The CLG wrote in 17th December in 2014 to the Council and a written response dated 25th January 2015 was received from the Council.

The monitoring of the harbour has been going on for the last 30 years. There are good data sets that show changes and how different parameters vary with the changes.

Watercare has recently announced the launching of the Centre of Excellence for the Manukau Harbour and its commitment to fund a hydrodynamic model of the harbour. This will initially focus on nutrients and sediments which should show the effects of wastewater treatment plant discharges, urban stormwater runoff and rural runoff on the harbour. This will provide a better understanding of the harbour.

The Council is required to implement the Freshwater National Policy Statement.

The Council, the Manukau Harbour Forum, MHPS and Watercare will need to work collaboratively together to consider land use, water quality and infrastructure development.

The existing data shows that sedimentation is an issue in the harbour. To address this issue it will be required to understand where the sediment comes from and where it goes to in the harbour. The suspended solids from the Mangere WTP are part of this but it is thought that most of the sediments come from land runoff. Nutrients will need to be considered as well. Then management actions can be focused to enhance the harbour.

There are 38 identified catchments, rural and urban. Initially focus will be on nine of these.

Council Stormwater have a Healthy Waters Programme. NIWA has been commissioned to undertake the hydrodynamic

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
	<p>modeling.</p> <p>It was commented that at the Mangere Boating Club there has been a one meter build up of sediment over the years. Concern was that this may have originated from the WWTP. This was why the CLG members wanted the discharge consent to be reviewed.</p> <p>The 1990 Manukau Harbour Action Plan will need to be updated and to identify what work needs to be done.</p> <p>Concern was raised over the impact the extra freshwater from the Central Interceptor will have on the harbour. The MHPS would like the model to consider the fresh water effects and also the effects of discharges from southern WWTPs into the harbour.</p> <p>The CLG considered that the announcement of the study is good news. The MHPS stated they would like to see all the information from the studies put onto a web site so it is public information. All the current Council studies are on the Council web site. Most of the Watercare studies are in the public domain but are harder to access. Roseline Klein, Sustainability Manager at Watercare is the contact for their information.</p> <p>Raveen Jaduram is to be invited to the next meeting to further comment on the Centre of Excellence.</p>	
	<p>The hydrodynamic model will be outside the resource consents and will bring together the views of interested groups. It was thought that a new forum should be established outside of the Watercare operations, with a focus on the harbour and to accommodate the interested groups.</p>	Watercare
	<p>An update is to be given at the next meeting.</p>	Watercare/Council
6.	<p>Next Meeting Friday 9th September 2016, at 9.30 am.</p>	