

Community Liaison Group

Date of Meeting: 24 March 2016

Attendees:

Name

Bruce Cliff
Alistair Shanks
Paul Bickers
Ray Clough
Pat Burford
Bruce Law
Alex Oliver
Alan Moore
Trevor Wilson
Caleb Male
Ken Duff
Jayne Beacham
Chris Garton
Carrol Elliott
Brett Donaldson
Vivien McGaughey
Shane Morgan
Janine Nillesen
Judy Goldsmith
Fred Buck

Company

Acting Chairman
Executive Support
WTP Manager
Ornithological Society
Auckland Council
Living Earth
Living Earth
Auckland Council – Team Leader Coastal
Neighbour
Watercare -Puketutu
Mangere Community Representative
Villamaria
Watercare WTP
Mangere – Otahuhu Local Board
Viilamaria
Neighbour
Watercare
Ambury Park
Editor Weymouth News
Weymouth Residents and Ratepayers

Apologies:

Colin Dale
Bronwen Turner
Roger Baldwin
Jan Riddick

Chairman
Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Mangere Community Representative
Forest and Bird

Venue: Wastewater Treatment Plant

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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1. Minutes of Meeting on 4 December 2015

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

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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2.	Matters Arising from the Minutes	
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	2.1 Update on Oruarangi Awa	
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	It was reported that a clean-up in the Awa had collected over a ton of rubbish.	
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	2.2 Manukau Harbour Forum	
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	The Forum is encouraging businesses to have good environmental practices. The pollution prevention programme for the Manukau Harbour now has four champions, the Airport Company, Villa Maria, Owens Mainfright and Harley Davidson. Visits have been undertaken to industrial premises to educate operators to reduce the likelihood of pollution events occurring.	
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	2.3 Mangrove Removal	
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	Alan Moore, Team Leader Coastal, from the Auckland Council, talked to the group about mangrove removal.	
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	The existing Coastal Plan allows some mangrove removal, but is relatively restrictive. The Proposed Unitary Plan is more concerned about birds, so could be more relaxed on mangrove removal.	
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	If an application is made for a consent for mangrove removal the Council currently has to consider this against the existing Coastal Plan and the Proposed Unitary Plan. The section in the Proposed Unitary Plan is currently being considered by the hearings committee. They will deliver their recommendation to Council on 22 nd July. The Council then have one month to consider the recommendation, and will then make the decision. It is expected that after 19 th August the Council will have a clear position on mangroves. If the Council do not like the recommendations made by the hearings committee, it will appeal their recommendations, which will result in a further delay in the position becoming clear.	
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	Mangroves trap sediment as part of their role. But they are considered to hinder some birds using habitat areas. It is considered that balance is needed for mangrove management.	
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	The Manukau Harbour has more mangroves now than in the past. There is less change in the Waitemata Harbour, except near Te Atatu.	
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NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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If mangroves are removed, they will return again. Any removal proposal needs to have a maintenance programme attached to it. The mangroves removed by Mahunga Drive in 2015 are now regrowing.

If mangroves are removed by cutting near their base, they will not regrow, but the roots will continue to attract sediment. The result will not look like it was in the 1950's.

Removal of mangroves in the Kaipara was undertaken by Alan Gibbs using a mulching machine. But there is concern that the mulch collects in areas, becomes anoxic and destroys animal life.

Mangroves were removed by mulching by the Airport Company as black swans, a hazard to aircraft, were living in them.

Another method used is removal by dragging.

Cut material can be removed by hand, by helicopter, or by chipping on land or insitu on a barge. The mulch produced is not very salty and is useful mulch for fruit trees.

But once mangroves are cut, reseeding will occur again. Roots left behind trap sediment and seeds.

Little research has been done on the benefits of retention of the sediment by mangroves. Contaminants are retained in sediments. It is not clear if it is better that the sediment should be removed or be left insitu.

By the Mangere WWTP, mangroves can be removed from the bird roost areas, but other areas will require consents for mangrove removal.

Kiwi Esplanade has become a bird roosting area. It was questioned if this is because of the mangroves now growing in other areas. When there were less mangroves there were less black swans. Another thought was that there are more mangroves now as there are less frosts.

It is considered that there is no clear plan for mangrove and bird management in the area.

3. Operational Issues

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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A presentation was given by Paul Bickers, Chris Garton and Caleb Male on the plant performance for the period December 2015 to February 2016.

3.1 Compliance

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

The total nitrogen was better controlled this summer by the installation of a permanent carbon dosing system using acetic acid.

The average flow rates were up slightly from the wetter weather to 308,000m³/day, that is well below the average flow consent limit.

Two high flow events were recorded in this period, on 8th January and 27th February. The volume involved in the first event was large enough to trigger the requirement for shellfish sampling. Unfortunately the monitoring did not occur due to a communication error. It was decided to monitor after the second event which was not large enough to trigger the requirement for monitoring. Watercare is still waiting for the test results.

3.2 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.

All the reactor clarifiers were in service over most of the summer period.

The energy use was close to 55% recovery. The aim is to increase this in the future, and for the plant to become energy self-sufficient by 2025. Smarter technology may be used and it could require further capital works.

The dip in the biosolids production over the summer is a reflection of the holiday period with less industry operating and more people out of Auckland.

3.3 Midge Control

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

There are three ways midges are monitored: in emergence traps, light traps and at set locations in the community. The midge numbers were within the range of numbers expected for this time of year. By February the numbers were very low.

It was reported that the emergence traps were modified in September to make them more effective at capturing the midges. This resulted in a jump in the midge numbers from the traps. The numbers will need to be reconsidered against the historical record from the emergence traps.

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

The chain disturbance method was used once during the reporting period.

3.4 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. The sealing of the doors to the biosolids building has been improved, reducing the odour emitted.

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

3.5 Complaints

There were four odour related complaints around 15th and 16th December and a further odour complaint on 21st December. There were no midge complaints.

There was one other complaint related to the quality of maintenance in the odour buffer area.

3.6 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

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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are continuing.

The fourth quarterly report and annual report will be submitted to Council by the end of the month.

Photographs were shown of the cover material over the cells and of the cell walls.

3.7 Closed Landfills

Routine surveys for methane gas detection at the Sludge Drying Bed Landfill and the Pond Two Landfill have detected elevated levels of methane in the Pond Two Landfill.

Affected areas are closed to the public. Watercare is remediating the areas. Trouble spots are being covered with bark material.

Material from the BNR works is used to provide extra cover. In the Sludge Drying Bed Landfill 15 chimney vents are being constructed.

3.8 Influent Monitoring

This data was tabled.

4. General Business

4.1 Auckland Council Response to Letter from CLG

The CLG has asked the Council to undertake a comprehensive study of the Manukau Harbour. Their response and future plans are to be discussed with the CLG.

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

Council

It is understood that the Council has undertaken a scoping study for the construction of a harbour model. Nine local boards are involved with the harbour. A budget of \$400,000 has been considered for the scoping study. Tenders have been called for the scoping study.

4.2 Audit Group Minutes of Meeting on 11 December 2015

These minutes were tabled.

4.3 Role of the CLG

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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The role of the group is defined in the resource consents for the operation of the plant. A copy of the relevant part of the consents was tabled.

The role includes “to facilitate ongoing communication and consultation with the local community about any concerns and complaints that members of that community may have about the operation of the WWTP, its effects on the environment, and ways of alleviating those concerns and dealing with complaints”

4.4 Odour Monitoring Report 2016

The report was tabled.

This was the report on the monitoring of odour emission rates from various plant items that is conducted every two years. The data is as expected.

4.5 Construction Management Plan Issue 5 Draft 2 and the Operations Management Plan Issue 4 Draft 2

Drafts of these plans were tabled. The plans have been updated to include the new BNR units and other minor updates. Changes were shown in red text or as track changes.

The group were invited to make comments on the plans. These are to be sent to the secretary. After comments from the CLG and Audit Group have been received the draft plans will be forwarded to the Council for approval.

4.6 Living Earth Consent

It was reported that Living Earth had been granted a consent for 22 years to process kitchen waste on Puketutu Island. This was issued on a non notified basis.

There was concern that the Council had granted this consent without neighbours being consulted and without it being discussed with the local council board. It was claimed that the Mangere Residents and Ratepayers had been consulted. Some felt that the granting of the consent as non notified in this manner was a manipulation of the consenting processing system.

Living Earth members of the group stated that Living Earth wanted to be a good member of the community and that they had followed the Council process to obtain the consent. Living

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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Earth have tendered to process kitchen waste by composting it. They have yet to hear if their tender is successful. Taking kitchen waste out of the waste stream is part of the Council aim for zero waste.

Living Earth consider that the use of Puketutu Island is good for this purpose as the rent from their use of the site will go towards the restoration of the island and its eventual use by the public of Auckland.

Living Earth stated they would keep the group informed of their progress in this matter.

4.7 Rubbish Removal on the Coastline

The Sustainable Coastlines, Love your Coast programme, had a clean-up of rubbish by Island Road on 5th March. Over 6kg of plastics were removed from the rocks by the water.

It was considered that even though this is a public road, Watercare should get more involved in the clean-up of the area. Watercare stated that it has “active dumpers” in the area who deposit trailer loads of rubbish. Watercare routinely notifies Auckland Council of these and it is the Council’s responsibility to clean these up. Watercare could consider cleaning up on the rocks at the foreshore. Ambury Park could organise clean-up days with members of the public.

Watercare gets litter picked up every 12 weeks from the carparks and lodges complaints with Auckland Council. Auckland Council have a litter checking programme as well.

4.8 Naming of New Road

It was reported that the Council has resolved to name the new road Mark Ford Drive.

4.9 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 being undertaken near the cemetery is part of the

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
	water supply Hunua 4 pipeline project.	
5.	Next Meeting Friday 24 th June 2016, at 9.30 am.	