

## Community Liaison Group

**Date of Meeting:** 4 December 2015

**Attendees:**

Name

Company

Colin Dale	Chairman
Alistair Shanks	Executive Support
Paul Bickers	WTP Manager
Ray Clough	Ornithological Society
Pat Burford	Auckland Council
Bronwen Turner	Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Jim Jackson	Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Gemma Tollich Allen	Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Trevor Wilson	Neighbour
Ron Boyle	Watercare -Puketutu
Ken Duff	Mangere Community Representative
Kowhai Olsen	Makaurau Marae
Chris Garton	Watercare WTP
Carrol Elliott	Mangere – Otahuhu Local Board
Roger Baldwin	Mangere Community Representative
Vivien McGaughey	Neighbour
Shane Morgan	Watercare
Theresa Pearce	Auckland Council
Judy Goldsmith	Editor Weymouth News
Fred Buck	Weymouth Residents and Ratepayers

**Apologies:**

Bruce Cliff	Neighbour
-------------	-----------

**Venue:** Wastewater Treatment Plant

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<b>Minutes of Meeting on 18 September 2015</b>	

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

<b>NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
------------	-------------	---------------

<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
-----------	---	--

	<b>2.1 Update on Oruarangi Awa</b>	
--	------------------------------------	--

Kowhai was welcomed to the meeting. Kowhai outlined how the Marae is still aiming for full restoration of the Awa, but that the dye spill two years ago was a setback.

The Marae community is making some progress working on the tributaries and getting schools involved. Where iwi own the land they are trying to improve any discharges and prevent rubbish from being dumped. They are aiming at zero waste, waste recovery and riparian planting. Aorere College students have been studying the fauna of the Awa with its students.

The iwi consider that the actions of the Council on the Awa pollution incident are slow. It was pollution from hazardous waste discharged through the stormwater system. Council are to construct a wet land to act as a filter in this area. Council and the Marae members are undertaking education of industry in the area which is considered a helpful step in the right direction. All the businesses in the catchment have been visited. Good design is encouraged for developers and owners of premises.

It was reported that there are areas in the Awa where if a hole is dug in the sediment the purple dye is still visible.

	<b>2.2 Manukau Harbour Forum</b>	
--	----------------------------------	--

An update was given by Theresa.

It was reported that the second year of the three year program involving nine local boards is underway.

The vision for the harbour has been promoted, to encourage people to look after the harbour. Regular newsletters have been sent out. 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.

Next year will be the last of the three year program. The aim is to expand the presence of the Forum at public events. Three hui are planned with Mana Whenua.

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

The Council needs \$450,000 for developing a hydrodynamic model of the harbour.

Untreated stormwater being discharged into the harbour is seen as an ongoing problem.

### **2.3 Mangrove Removal**

Watercare is going to apply for consent for mangrove removal around the bird roosts. Watercare were reminded that mangroves less than 600mm high can be removed without a permit.

Discussion was held on whether the roots of mangroves should be removed or be left in place to reduce scouring. The Council are concerned about scouring. The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society has consent to remove mangroves in some places. They are concerned at the cost to chip the mangroves to convert them into mulch. Equipment has been developed that will remove the mangrove roots.

In the Mangere Inlet it is thought that the sediment is contaminated to a depth of up to one meter.

The Auckland Council does not have a management plan for mangroves or an established policy. It was reported that Environment Bay of Plenty found that removing the roots resulted in a better clean up. Removal of mangroves, once they are grown and established, is expensive. The use of community volunteers was discussed.

Alan Moore, from the Auckland Council is to be invited to talk to the group about mangrove removal.

**Secretary**

The Council Local Board has also been granted consent for removal of mangroves in parts of the Mangere Inlet.

## **3. Operational Issues**

A presentation was given by Paul Bickers, Chris Garton and Ron Boyle on the plant performance for the period September to November 2015.

### **3.1 Compliance**

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

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

The average flow rates were up slightly from the wetter weather to 311,000m<sup>3</sup>/day, that is well below the average flow consent limit.

Two high flow events were recorded in this period. The volumes involved were not enough to trigger the requirement for shell fish sampling. The high flow at the very beginning of the period was included in the previous reporting period.

### 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.

### 3.3 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 up but the numbers were within the range of numbers expected for this time of year.

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.

The community monitoring numbers were lower than the previous year, except at Puketutu Island where they were on occasion much higher.

There were four contact insecticide applications in the period. The insecticide is sprayed onto the trees near the channel and basin. There were five 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 has not been used in this reporting period as a study is being undertaken by AUT on the

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

channel to see if other methods of midge control will work. Short fin eels have been found to eat midges in Lake Ellesmere. There are a few eels in the channel already but it is not known if more would be beneficial.

### 3.4 Odour

A summary of the results from the internal odour weekly walkover and the monthly external walkover were presented. This system uses a score of zero to 100 and is done by the Watercare Laboratory, not by staff from the plant. In the internal walkover the screenings building and biosolids building were noted as being higher on the score than other sources.

In the external walkover the most odour was detected at the shoreline discharge structure, the mid effluent transfer channel carpark and in the residential area on Puketutu Island.

### 3.5 Complaints

There were three odour related complaints in the period. These occurred as a result of emergency repair work on one of the BNR units.

### 3.6 Puketutu Island

The placing of biosolids on the island started in December 2014. 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 and the draw bars for the transport trailers have been rectified.

The third quarterly report has been submitted to Council and Iwi.

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 did not detect elevated levels of methane.

Consents have been obtained to rework and increase the thickness of the cap on the Sludge Drying Bed Landfill.

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

Material from the BNR works will be used. The final level will still be below the maximum consented height.

Final cover works in the Pond Two Landfill are nearing completion. Stormwater from this area goes back to the wastewater treatment plant for treatment.

**3.8 Influent Monitoring**

This data was tabled.

**4. General Business**

**4.1 Audit Group Minutes of Meeting on 14 September 2015**

These minutes were tabled and remain as a draft until they are approved at the next Audit Group meeting on 11 December.

**4.2 Harbour Monitoring Data 2014-2015**

This report was tabled.

**4.3 Manukau Harbour Restoration Society Presentation**

Jim Jackson and Gemma Tollich Allen were welcomed to the meeting. Gemma gave a presentation called “Discharge of Partially Treated Effluent to the Manukau Harbour –The Facts”.

Gemma outlined her background experience with the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Central Interceptor resource consenting appeal. She outlined her concern at how some of the facts in the evidence had been presented.

Gemma noted that the Disinfection Review Group Audit reports state that there were 17 bypasses per year on average since 2003. The Central Interceptor Evidence claimed on average there were 6 to 8 bypasses per year.

Sometimes a single bypass event may extend for longer than a single day.

Examples were presented of the quantities that can discharge during a bypass event. BOD can go from 550 kg per day up to 17,500 kg per day during an event, with the flow being equivalent to 369 Olympic sized swimming pools. This is when the BOD concentration goes from 3mg/l to 19mg/l as there is less treatment with the high flows. The 17,500 kg is treated by the harbour.

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

It was noted that one of the Wastewater 2000 outcomes, to which Watercare, in exercising its discharge consent is required to have regard to, is a goal that the harbour is not used for treatment of effluent.

The Harbour Monitoring Report in 2010 claims there has been a large stepwise improvement in the water quality in the harbour. The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society disagrees with this statement, considering that there has been little change since the significant improvements seen in 2003.

The Society is looking for consideration of:

- 1) The impact of bypasses on the consent compliance and the outcome of Wastewater 2000,
- 2) The role of the Audit Group,
- 3) The need for in depth harbour water quality assessment relating to the bypass operation,
- 4) How the Society can work more closely with the Audit Group.

#### **4.4 Other Matters and Comments**

The following comments or questions were raised by members of the group:

- 1) Originally the plan was that combined sewers were going to be separated. Now it is planned that some combined sewerage will be coming to Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant through the Central Interceptor.
- 2) Bird species are declining at Mangere. Is the quantity of fresh water being discharged contributing to this decline?
- 3) There is a need to understand the data, especially as Auckland grows and plans for the future.
- 4) A 2009 NIWA report stated that only 2% of the snapper in the region is from the Manukau Harbour. Is this because of the wastewater treatment plant?
- 5) Groups need to work together and seek to address issues.
- 6) The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society tried to get the Mangere consents reviewed. The Council responded by saying Watercare complied with the consents and that a review was not required. The Manukau Harbour Restoration Society do not share this certainty, even with 17 years of data.
- 7) It was claimed that the harbour nutrient levels are exceeded at Weymouth and that green material has been seen in the area.
- 8) It was suggested that a separate forum should be created to further these discussions.
- 9) It was noted that the new BNR facilities will result in the higher flow trigger for partial bypass of the secondary treatment

<b>NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
------------	-------------	---------------

from 9m<sup>3</sup>/second to 11m<sup>3</sup>/second. This will result in less bypasses occurring.

10) After smoke testing by Watercare in Weymouth a resident experienced a problem with the flow of the wastewater from their property. Watercare is to look into this.

**Watercare**

#### **4.5 Proposed Letter to Council**

It was proposed that the group write a letter to Council with a copy to Central Government suggesting that a full and extensive study be undertaken of the harbour. It was agreed that Ken Duff would draft the ideas for the letter for the Chairman to send on behalf of the group.

**Ken Duff**

#### **5. Next Meeting**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016, at 9.30 am.