

Community Liaison Group

Date of Meeting: 9 September 2016

Attendees:

Name

Company

Colin Dale	Chairman
Alistair Shanks	Executive Support
Raveen Jaduram (Item 5.7)	Watercare CE
Paul Bickers	Watercare Wastewater Treatment
Bronwen Turner	Manukau Harbour Restoration Society
Roger Baldwin	Mangere Community Representative
Ray Clough	Ornithological Society
Pat Burford	Auckland Council
Chris McKenzie	Watercare
Jonathan Benge	Auckland Council Stormwater
Trevor Wilson	Neighbour
Caleb Male	Watercare -Puketutu
Ken Duff	Mangere Community Representative
Chris Garton	Watercare WTP
Sven Harlos	Watercare Construction
Jill Naysmith	Auckland Council - MH Forum
Jayne Beacham	Viila Maria
Vivien McGaughey	Neighbour
Shane Morgan	Watercare
Jan Riddick	Forest and Bird
Bruce Cliff	Neighbour
Shabana Shah	Watercare WTP
Betty King	Oruarangi and local Iwi
Peter Trafford (Item 5.5)	Watercare Projects

Apologies:

Bruce Law	Living Earth
Alex Oliver	Living Earth
Carrol Elliott	Mangere – Otahuhu Local Board
Ron Boyle	Watercare - Puketutu Island
Brett Donaldson	Villa Maria
Sanjay Kumarasingham	WTP Manager

Venue: Wastewater Treatment Plant

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Update	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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It is with great sadness that the group noted the recent passing away of Janice Roberts. The group conveyed its condolences to her wider whanau.

2. Minutes of Meeting on 24 June 2016

It was noted that under item 5.8 it should read Manukau Harbour Restoration Society (MHRS), not protection society. Under 5.10 paragraph 10 meter should be spelt metre.

The receiving of these minutes, as a correct record, subject to the above corrections, was moved by Roger Baldwin and seconded by Ken Duff.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Drugs in Wastewater

Roger Baldwin described an article on the drug P measured in wastewater in Perth. It was noted that a similar study had been undertaken in Auckland by Massey University. They found P was consumed evenly through the week and cocaine more in the weekends. The levels recorded were very low.

In Sydney Harbour antibiotics have been detected in penguins.

Some members of the group stated that the recording of drugs in the environment was one of the reasons they sought a review of the Mangere consents. This request was declined by the Council.

It was suggested that someone needs to be considering the effects of these new substances - possibly Central Government.

Watercare is currently concerned with wet wipes and micro beads of plastic. These are costly to remove.

There is a whole range of new products called emerging contaminants of concern. Some of these are banned in USA.

Real time virus monitoring has been considered by Watercare in the past. It was a consent condition to research this and see if it was yet practical. It was recommended instead to focus on UV dose control to give a more reliable protection of public health. Now Watercare continuously uses the UV dose for the worst case scenario.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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Concern was raised that possible contamination in the food chain may be effecting the fertility of bird eggs.

3.2 Update on Oruarangi Awa

This was deferred to the next meeting.

Consideration has been given to diverting stormwater to reduce flooding at Villa Maria. Man made wetlands have been considered for treatment and storage of stormwater peak flows.

Council

3.3 Manukau Harbour Forum (MHF)

It was reported that the final meeting was held in August. The MHF will need to be constituted again after the elections. The current programme will continue with the Council staff. In its two terms the MHF has achieved the raising of the profile of the harbour, advocacy for the different Council departments to work together, establishment of flagship sites and involvement of the local boards.

The culmination of this was the symposium in June and the announcement by Watercare of the funding of the hydrodynamic modeling of the harbour. The Council Healthy Waters vision is going forward.

Four MHF Council members will not be standing again, so there is some uncertainty going into the next term. The MHF would like to see it elevated from a local board level to an advisory panel with its own staff and dedicated funding. This will be up to the new Council to decide.

It was reported that there have been three hui with manawhenua with each hui being more engaging.

Jill Naysmith’s leadership of the MHF was recognised by the group and she was congratulated on her work and wished well for the future. Jarrod Walker was also recognised for his contribution in pushing for the modeling of the harbour.

Villa Maria has appreciated the MHF for providing an opportunity to see what others are doing and for networking.

4. Operational Issues

A presentation was given by Chris McKenzie, Chris Garton and Caleb Male on the plant performance for the period June 2016

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

to August 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 at or below 310,000m³/day, that is well below the average flow consent limit.

There were 11 high flow events in the period which resulted in some of the flow bypassing primary or secondary treatment. There were no periods of low UV dose. The shell fish sampling undertaken after the bypasses had not detected any viruses to date.

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.

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

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, lower than in the same period last year.

There were three contact insecticide applications in the period. The insecticide was sprayed onto the trees near the channel and basin. There were no insect growth regulator applications used in the period.

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.

4.4 Odour

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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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.

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

Residents commented that since the Pond Two Landfill operations have ceased there has been less odour.

4.5 Complaints

There was one recorded odour related complaint in the period. There were no midge complaints.

It was raised that six odour complaints had been made from residents on Bruce Cliff's property but had not appeared on the register. Watercare is to look into what happened and report back at the next meeting. Often odours are detected but complaints are only lodged by Bruce if the odour persists for more than 20 minutes.

Watercare

Bruce considered that there are smells detectable from the BNR construction works when a digger disturbs contaminated material. There was concern expressed over possible extra odour when the new BNRs are operating. It was hoped that when the construction is complete there will be less odour overall.

Bruce stated that the picture that there is no odour is not correct.

Odour complaint calls can be made to Claudia at the WWTP reception during working hours, or to the 24 hour Watercare number 4422222. Complainants need to state they want to register a complaint about the Mangere WWTP.

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

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
	<p>are now fixed. On one transport unit the trailer tyres have been replaced with truck tyres which are firmer and allow for easier unloading of the trailers. This change will be made to the second unit.</p> <p>The annual report has been submitted to Council and Iwi.</p> <p>Phase Two design is complete and will start with some tree felling. Construction of Lift 3 has commenced. There are 15 Lifts in the life of the project.</p> <p>4.7 Closed Landfills</p> <p>The first quarterly report has been accepted by Council, and the second quarterly report submitted to Council.</p> <p>The routine survey for methane detection on both landfills is due in October.</p> <p>Material from the BNR works has provided extra cover for the Pond Two Landfill.</p> <p>The Sludge Drying Bed Landfill remediation works is now complete.</p> <p>Mark Bourne is to be invited to the next meeting to discuss governance issues on Puketutu Island.</p>	
5.	General Business	
	5.1 Audit Group Minutes of Meeting on 1 July 2016	
	<p>These minutes were tabled. Concern was raised at the lack of comment by the Audit Group on treatment by pass issues.</p> <p>The composition of the Audit Group and the process for selecting members is stated in the Audit Group Management Plan. An update will be given at the next meeting,</p>	Mark Bourne
	5.2 Maintenance of Bird Roosts	
	<p>An update was given by Chris Garton</p> <p>In the past there was a concern over the state of the weeds on the roosts. This problem has now been resolved by the use of a different contractor who is spraying the weeds more frequently.</p> <p>The reconstruction work on the Long Island and Small Shell Island Roosts is now complete. The rip rap wall on the face of the Long Island has been rebuilt, the erosion arm material from the Small Shell Island put back on the island, and an extra</p>	Watercare

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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100mm of material placed over the Long Island Roost. Channels in the rip rap have been made for dotterel chicks to access the mudflats for food and reduce the chance of them becoming stuck in the rip rap wall. These were built on the advise of John Dowding.

These works will make the roosts more resilient in storm events.

The roost by the Oruarangi Awa has not been maintained as this was the recommendation made by the Bird Roost Advisory Group several years ago.

5.3 Living Earth Consenting Update

This is to be deferred to the next meeting

Living Earth

5.4 Healthy Waters Team Update

An update was given by Jonathan Benge.

Healthy Waters is the part of Council that manages fresh water. Council has to address the issues in the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water. This requires looking at the quantity and quality of the fresh water in the region. Ten watersheds have been identified in the region. One of them is the Manukau watershed.

Council is required to understand the current state and situation of fresh water in the region. It will take another year before there is better understanding. Healthy Waters is working with the harbour stakeholders, one of these being Watercare.

Jonathan leads the Healthy Waters team. A focal point is working with stakeholders. He is working with the stormwater networks team. Eventually there will be more sewer separation as networks are renewed and upgraded. Cost is a real issue. The team are working closely with Watercare over sewer separation and combined sewer overflows.

Some of the group considered that the cost of sewer separation has been inflated and the real cost would only be 20% of the estimates.

According to the MHRS they consider that sewer separation is a huge issue. The Central Interceptor will bring extra stormwater into the Manukau. Council need to force separation on private property as sites are redeveloped with intensification. Issues at

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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each outfall into the harbour need to be identified. Urban runoff such as CSOs and not rural runoff is considered a major problem. In the Huia village area the problem is considered to be failed on-site systems, not rural runoff as there little farming in the area.

It was stated that in Boston a large tunnel similar to the Central Interceptor was constructed. Now separation is seen as the answer for Boston.

The stormwater network discharge consenting process during consultation was considered depressing as it identified that a crisis was there in terms of the effects of urban stormwater discharges. It was considered that the rural areas are taking steps to improve their discharges but that the urban areas are well behind.

The group considered that Council need to provide leadership in this area. It is a nation wide problem and a central government issue.

Jonathan responded that the Healthy Waters is a cross council programme and is being entered into with high ambition and an open mind.

Jonathan was invited to give a further update at the next meeting.

J Bengte

5.5 BNR Construction and Solids Stream Update

An update and presentation was given by Peter Trafford.

The BNR project is to construct in stages two extra BNR units which will further improve the nitrogen treatment. As part of this process a new public access road to the plant and Puketutu Island has been built and is largely complete, and is waiting for Auckland Transport approval before opening.

The first stage of the BNR units should be complete in July 2017 and in service in January 2018.

The solids stream processing is currently being upgraded to process the extra solids from the new BNRs.

5.6 Rocks Between old Ponds 1 and 2

An email from Bill Kirk was tabled. Bill asked if there had been

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

further discussion at the CLG meetings on the removal of these rocks. Bill had requested that some of the rocks visible at low tide from the original wall between Ponds 1 and 2 be removed. This was considered several years ago with the Council and not considered a priority. There has been no further discussion since that time.

The ownership of this area has been returned to the Crown.

5.7 Update by CE Raveen Jaduram

Raveen was welcomed to the meeting.

Vision

Raveen gave a brief update on his vision for Watercare. The vision statement for Watercare is “Trusted by our communities to deliver exceptional performance every day”

In terms of trust Watercare undertook a survey and only 47% of respondents agreed that they strongly trusted Watercare. When considering safe drinking water, the Manukau Harbour and what Watercare discharges, this level of trust needs to be raised.

In terms of exceptional performance every day Watercare is learning and is willing to listen. With respect to discharges Watercare’s role is not to say no. Watercare has a strong interest in the Manukau Harbour and has committed to funding the harbour hydrodynamic model. Watercare will share information that comes from the study and wants to engage with stakeholders to the next level. Watercare also wishes to participate in, but not lead the Centre of Excellence for the Manukau Harbour. This centre will be a vehicle for collecting, directing further studies, and sharing information on the Harbour between engaged stakeholders and the public.

Discussion was held on the potential reuse of wastewater. The technology is available but New Zealand society is not there yet in terms of their social acceptability of reusing wastewater. In Brisbane drought conditions, the reservoirs were reduced down to only 18% of capacity. \$2.5 billion was spent on treatment upgrades for reuse, but after the rains returned recycled water was not used. Reused water is used in Singapore and California.

The renaming of wastewater treatment plants as resource recovery plants where gas, solids and water can be reused is a consideration. An alternative name for the Mangere

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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Wastewater Treatment Plant could be Harbour Protection Facility.

Centre Of Excellence

Bronwen on behalf of the MHRS thanked Raveen for the change in how Watercare is interacting with the MHRS. The organisation is pleased that Watercare has offered to fund the hydrodynamic model and establish the Centre of Excellence. This has potential to be an exciting science centre and for moving down a different path for the harbour.

The Centre of Excellence will need good leadership. The science can be agreed and disagreement can be over what should be done. There will need to be free sharing of information.

This is part of the Watercare vision to provide for future generations. Watercare has a similar vision for the lower Waikatio River.

NIWA is starting work on the hydrodynamic model in November. It is a two year project. The stakeholders will get involved. Roseline Klein is the key Watercare contact for this. It was considered that the existing information should be gathered and be placed into an online database.

Central Interceptor

Raveen explained how Watercare needs to build additional infrastructure to service growth. The Orakei Main Sewer and the Eastern Interceptor are nearing capacity. The Central Interceptor will collect some of the flows from the Orakei system which will allow for further growth by freeing up capacity in the Orakei and Eastern Interceptors. Only a two metre diameter tunnel is needed for the wastewater flows but a four metre diameter tunnel is easier to build and will require less shafts. The extra capacity will allow for some of the combined sewer overflows to be collected from areas where there is no stormwater system. This will mean that the otherwise untreated flows will be treated at Mangere, resulting in overall environmental benefit.

Watercare's long term view is that eventually all the sewers will be separated, but this cannot be done quickly. In the meantime growth needs to be accommodated otherwise there will be increased overflows into back gardens and local streams. In the long term, it is expected that one day the Waitemata stormwater will not be coming to Mangere.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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Spoil from the tunnel is intended to be used for cover on Puketutu Island. First it will be stockpiled and dried. The tunneling will start at the Mangere end from a shaft at the treatment plant.

Tsunami management at the plant is part of the post disaster management by Civil Defense.

- 6. Next Meeting**
Friday 9th December 2016, at 9.30 am.