Minutes of a meeting of the Thames Valley Drainage Advisory Subcommittee held at 53 Whitaker Street, Te Aroha on 26 November 2018 at 10.00am.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Present:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local Community Representatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Arnet</td>
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<td>Barry Townsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Hannah</td>
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<td>Steve Lunjevich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuart Steverson</td>
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<td>Duncan Morris</td>
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<td>Wayne Gore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Le Heron <em>(Chair)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Waihou-Piako Catchment Committee Chair</td>
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<td>Robert Hicks</td>
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<td>Waikato Regional Council</td>
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<td>Cr Dal Minogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waikato Regional Council Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Botting (Zone Manager, Hauraki)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Munro (Manager, Hauraki/Coromandel)</td>
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<td>Gavin Dawson (Democracy Advisor)</td>
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<th>Present:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Waikato Regional Councillor(s)</td>
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<td>Cr Fred Lichtwark</td>
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SECTION A: UNDER DELEGATION AND FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

Welcome and Introductions
(Agenda Item 1)

The Chair of the Subcommittee (P Le Heron) welcomed Councillor Fred Lichtwark, the Waikato Regional Councillor for the Waikato Constituency.

Apologies
(Agenda Item 2)

There were no apologies received.

Confirmation of Agenda
(Agenda Item 3)

A Arnet moved/S Steverson seconded.

TVDAS18/38  RESOLVED
THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Thames Valley Drainage Advisory Committee of 26 November 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as the business for the meeting.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/38)

Disclosures of Interest
(Agenda Item 4)

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of minutes from 21 September 2018
(Agenda Item 5) Doc #13083838

A Arnet moved/W Gore seconded.

TVDAS18/39  RESOLVED
THAT the Minutes of the Thames Valley Drainage Advisory Committee meeting of 21 September 2018 be received and approved as a true and correct record.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/39)

Minutes of Waihou-Piako Catchment Committee held on 31 August 2018
(Agenda Item 6) Doc #12985306

The Chair of the Waihou-Piako Catchment Committee made the following comments in relation to the minutes and his role as Chair:
• It was noted that the Committee was concerned about the increase in cost of the Muggeridge’s Pump Station project, although it supported the $6 million figure that was now being proposed.
• It was noted that the Committee was concerned about the impacts on ratepayers of the area.
• It was noted that the Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the hearings and subsequent decisions.
• The impact of Peat soil on future land use and activities of the area were discussed.
• The rate of pump use and extraction was discussed.

A Arnet moved/B Townsend seconded.

TVDAS18/40

RESOLVED
THAT the minutes of the Waihou-Piako Catchment Committee dated 31 August 2018 (Doc #12985306) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/40)

Issues and Actions Report
(Agenda Item 7) Doc #13264251

This report was presented by the Zone Manager, Hauraki (K Botting). The report updated the Subcommittee on the issues and action from the previous meeting.

The following matters were raised:
• It was noted that the issues and actions listed had been completed.
• It was noted that there is an intent at some point in the future to extend the water level monitoring stations around the Queenshead area.

W Gore moved/B Townsend seconded.

TVDAS18/41

RESOLVED
THAT the report ‘Issues/Actions from Thames Valley Drainage Committee Meeting on 21 September 2018’ (Doc #13264251 dated 30 October 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/41)

Chair’s Report
(Agenda Item 8) Doc #13264251

This report was presented by the Zone Manager, Hauraki (K Botting). The report updated the Subcommittee on the issues and action from the previous meeting.
P Le Heron moved/D Morris seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**TVDAS18/42**

THAT the report ‘Thames Valley Drainage Committee Chair Report – November 2018’ (Doc #13264778 dated 8 November 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/42)

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**Financial Status Report as at 31 October 2018**

(Agenda Item 9) Doc #13284784

This report was presented by the Zone Manager, Hauraki (K Botting) and was taken as read. The report updated the Subcommittee on the financial status of the drainage area, and other related matters.

The following matters were raised:

- It was noted that the Zone manager, Hauraki will report back at the next meeting on the $1,000.00 income received by the Tahuna area.
- It was noted that the drainage area is performing well and in a positive financial position.
- Rainfall levels in the district were described and discussed.
- The Regional Drainage Management Plan was discussed. It was noted that the document will provide a comprehensive overview of the management, maintenance, and resourcing of the drainage network, and that a workshop to work through the draft plan would take place in 2019.
- It was noted that the drain planting pilot project had achieved positive results to date, and that the number and range of sites may increase as the projects continues. Regular updates would be provided as the pilot project proceeded.
- It was noted that more time was needed to gain a full picture of the overview of the financial benefits of the drain planting project.

S Hannah moved/S Lunjevich seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**TVDAS18/43**

THAT the report ‘Thames Valley Drainage Area Status Report 31st October 2018’ (Doc #13284784 dated 31 October 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/43)

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**Machine Clearing and Spray Programme as at 31 October 2018**

(Agenda Item 10) Doc #13264231

This report was presented by the Zone Manager, Hauraki (K Botting) and the Operations Team Leader (K Growden) and was taken as read. The report updated the Subcommittee on machine clearing and spray programme to date.

The following matters were raised:

- It was noted that the programme was on-track to date.
• The need to ensure that a five to ten metre buffer zone between drains and fence lines was discussed. It was noted that access to drains had been restricted at times in the past which created a number of access issues.
• Comment was made related to a number of properties who chose not to be included in the drainage area.
• Artificial drain and natural stream features were explained and discussed, along with the regulation that applies to both. The native fish life in both was also noted.
• The pilot drain planting project was discussed. It was noted that the project had shown positive results to date.
• It was noted that the Council will work closer with local communities on the matter of notifying landowners and users when they intend to enter properties.

A Arnet moved/B Townsend seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**TVDA18/44**

THAT the report ‘Thames Valley Drainage Area Machine Cleaning and Spray Programme 2018-19 update’ (Doc #13264231 dated 31October 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDA18/44)

**Peat Soil Investigations**

(Agenda Item 11) Doc #13383015

This report was presented by the Council Soil Scientist (J Wyatt). The presentation updated the Subcommittee on matters related to peat soil.

The following matters were raised:
• It was noted that the Waikato Region has about 106 000 ha of peat soils. About 85% (approx. 90 000 ha) of the original area of these peat soils have been drained, mostly for pastoral agriculture. Drainage of peat soils while enabling productive land uses also results in land subsidence and net emissions of carbon dioxide. The range of issues associated with drainage management due to peat subsidence are widely known. However, there isn’t a good understanding of the long term consequences of peat subsidence for the Waikato region.
• It was noted that Waikato Regional Policy Statement sets out to “manage the adverse effects of activities resulting from use and development of peat soils, including slowing the rate of subsidence and the loss of carbon by oxidation from peat soils”. However, at this time there is no local robust and defensible data on how land use and drainage management (notably water table depth) influence rates of peat subsidence. This meant the Council does not have suitable information to provide good land and drainage management advice in order to reduce subsidence.
• It was noted that because of the knowledge gaps a business case was developed and submitted to the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan (LTP). The business case was successful and as a result we have funding for the 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. The entire value of the business case is $390 000.
It was noted that the majority of the work is the design, development and implementation of a regional scale peat subsidence monitoring network. This project would run for three years and require repeat monitoring every 5 years. The proposed monitoring network would, in time, provide information which, at a regional scale, will help the Council; understand differences in subsidence rates between existing land and drainage management practices, provide information to understand the long term consequences of peat subsidence, and provide good baseline information for future, more detailed, investigations into peat subsidence.

It was noted that historical peat depth and peatland ground level data will be incorporated into the monitoring network where suitable information is available. This would provide an opportunity to detect possible land use and drainage management effects from the first round of monitoring, rather than having to wait for subsequent monitoring rounds. The monitoring network development and implementation has been awarded to Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research, with a sub-contract to the University of Waikato.

W Gore moved/B Townsend seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**TVDAS18/45**

THAT this report ‘Peat Soil Investigations’ (Doc #13383015, dated 1 November 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/45)

**Proposed Subdivisions**

(Agenda Item 12) Doc #13271071

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (K Botting) and was taken as read. The presentation updated the Subcommittee on proposed subdivision developments that the Council had provided advice and information to.

The following matters were raised:

- It was noted that the council staff had provided information to the developers of 8 -12 & 18 Ngutumanga Road, with no potential foreseeable issues found.

S Steverson moved/S Lunjevich seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**TVDAS18/46**

THAT the report ‘Update on information requests relating to proposed subdivisions’ (Doc # 13271071 dated 31 October 2018) be received.

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/46)

**Integrated Catchment Management Committee Update**

(Agenda Item 13) Doc #13266267, #12653506, & #12654183
This report was presented by the Zone Manager (K Botting) and was taken as read. The presentation updated the Subcommittee on the decisions and matters raised at the previous Integrated Catchment management Committee.

The following matters were raised:
- It was noted that it was good to see new representatives on other committees, and the experience they have will be of great benefit to the Committees and region as a whole.

P Le Heron moved/W Gore seconded.

**TVDAS18/47**

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report Integrated Catchment Management Committee Meeting Reports - 10th October 2018 (Doc #13266267 dated 24th October 2018) be received.**

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/47)

**Upcoming Agenda Items**

(Agenda Item 14) Doc #13265272

This report was presented by the Zone Manager (K Botting). The Subcommittee were invited to suggest topics for future meetings. There were no suggested topics provided by the members.

P Le Heron moved/A Arnet seconded.

**TVDAS18/48**

**RESOLVED**

**THAT the report ‘Upcoming agenda items 2018/19’ (Doc #13265272 dated 25 October 2018) be received.**

The motion was put and carried (TVDAS18/48)

**Members Reports**

(Agenda Item 15)

The members of the Subcommittee were invited to update the Subcommittee on matters related to the drainage area.

The following matters were raised:
- It was noted that the weather has been quite wet as of late and this had led to good rates of production.
- It was importance of notifying landowners before entering properties to do drain maintenance was emphasised.
- The occurrence of seals being spotted in drains and catchments in the area was discussed.
- The passing of the former Chair of the Drainage Board, Maurice Tapfied, was discussed. It was noted that he did a lot of good work as a member and chair of
the former Drainage Board and was a big supporter of the development of the existing drainage network.

- The ongoing matter of thieves stealing accessories and parts from pump stations was discussed. It was requested that all members ask their contacts and the public to be vigilant and keep an eye for any suspicious activity or information that may come forward.

- It was noted that members were not currently aware of the work programmes within their drainage areas. Staff advised that they would action the provision of this to each member to help ongoing discussion with locals and staff.

Meeting closed at 12.18pm.

Doc #13437065