

Minutes of the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project Community Liaison Group meeting held at Eastbay REAP - Putauaki Room on 23 October 2018 commencing at 10:10am

Chair:	John Pullar
Scribe:	Cleo Hanlon (BOPRC)
Members present:	Tui Edwards (CS2 representative), Kathryn Barclay (Toi Te Ora Public Health), Eula Toko (Cultural Monitor – arrived 10.20am), Gary Searle (WDC)
Others present:	Brendon Love, Ken Tarboton, Bruce Crabbe (BOPRC), Kay Boreham (BOPRC), Dr Chris Anderson (University of Waikato), Dr Joanne Kelly (University of Waikato), Des McCleary (Envirowaste), Roger Houghton
Apologies:	Rene de Jong (Whakatāne Harbour Care Group), Tani Wharewera (CS3 and Hokowhitu Marae representative), Neal Yeates, Clint Savage (DOC), Matt James (Independent Monitor Field Observer), Brad Bluett (DOC)
Absent:	Hayden Power (Federated Farmers), Andrew Kohlrusch (Independent Monitor), Stephen Layne (Toi Te Ora Public Health), Shane McGhie (WDC), John Meikle (Fish & Game), Scottie McLeod (Whakatāne Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group), Amanda Austrin (CS1 Rep)

Action summary

No.	Actions of 23 October 2018	Responsible	Status
1	Kay to provide website diagnostics to next CLG meeting	Kay Boreham	<i>Complete</i>
2	The project team will speak to BOPRC Land Management Officers about pest control options.	BOPRC	<i>Complete</i>
3	Des McLeary to take Roger Houghton to on a tour of the site, as Roger had missed the Open Day	Des McLeary	<i>Complete</i>
4	Kope Canal/Fortunes Road drain water colour to be investigated, and response sent to Roger Houghton.	Bruce Crabbe	<i>Complete</i>

Item 1: Welcome and karakia

- i. The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. Reminded we are discussing Kopeopeo Canal Project – not woodwaste or other contaminated sites.

A round table of introductions was made, to welcome Kay and Cleo.

Item 2: Apologies

Apologies were received for Rene de Jong, Tani Wharewera, Neal Yeates, Clint Savage, Matt James and Brad Bluett.

Motion: Apologies approved	Searle/Edwards	CARRIED
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Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting

a) Matters arising:

- i. No matters arising

No.	Actions of 21 August 2018	Responsible	Status
1	Term of Reference needed for Tani Wharewera – for his role as Community Monitor	Project Team	<i>Complete</i>

Motion: That the minutes of the Community Liaison Group meeting of 21 August 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.
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Motion: Minutes approved	Edwards/Searle	CARRIED
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Item 4: Communications

During the presentation given by Brendon Love (slides 3 & 4), the following points were commented on:

- i. Kay Boreham has recently joined the organisation and will be providing project communications support while Abby Tozer is on extended leave.
- ii. There will be scheduled newsletter from the Project Team, and will be sent once a date to send has been confirmed.
- iii. The geospatial data section of the website has been updated with relevant information, however the recent project updates page has not been updated for some time. Any modification to the project website will now be summarised on the Project updates page so interested parties who have signed up to follow the Project Page receive an email notification when any changes to the entire project website are made.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John asked how many views the website gets. Brendon responded that some diagnostics had been done approximately 18 months ago, however Kay can provide this information for the next CLG.

Item 5: Eel tissue monitoring report

During the presentation given by Brendon Love (slides 5-6), the following points were commented on:

- i. A baseline is required in the consent conditions. A methodology was based on international research and previous investigation reports.
- ii. A toxicologist from MPI has independently reviewed the report, and it has been approved for release. It is now available on the project website under Technical Reports section.
- iii. In summary, dioxins in eel tissue in the remediation zone and to the west of the project remediation zone are above conservative human health consumption rates.
- iv. Control sites beyond this area indicate that eel are safe to consume.
- v. The map on Slide 6 shows the areas in the impact zone, indicated by the yellow dots labelled Sites 4 – 6.
- vi. Signs will be erected near Powdrell Road to indicate eels are not safe to eat. This may come as a surprise to some, as some signs will be new to these areas.
- vii. The full report will be uploaded to the website.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John asked if there are white baiters in the canal? Brendon responded that there are some outside of the control structures, but none have been seen in the project area.
- b) Tui suggested that people may ask if they can fish out of the canal after the project. Brendon responded that one set of data won't be enough to confirm this. There is nothing in the consent to dictate when a rāhui on gathering eel for consumption will be lifted, however it's not likely to be next year. Tui highlighted that this is a key area of interest for tangata whenua and annual data collection should be undertaken so eel tissue can be confirmed as being safe to eat as soon as possible.

Item 7: Project Update

During the presentation given by Brendon Love and Ken Tarboton the following points were commented on:

- i. Dredging progress since the 21st August was presented. A dredging expert has been assisting with a review of the current dredging method productivity.
- ii. A minor amount of residual contaminated sediment is remaining in S5, and some redredging will be required.
- iii. As weed is being cut, it is pushed down the canal where a long-reach removes it and places it on the canal bank. Previous sampling and analysis has been undertaken to confirm this approach is suitable.

- iv. Equivalent of 18 geobags have been filled to date. The space at CS1 is being factored into the development of a closure plan that covers the site and achieves the bioremediation requirements. Baseline sampling is planned in advance of the next phase of works.
- v. A bulk bin has been installed to capture oversize material, as there have been eruptions from blockages in the pipeline. These blockages can be monitored from the barge. The compliance audit was undertaken and required retesting of the oversized storage areas. Previous testing results didn't indicate a concern however the compliance officer has highlighted that the dredge is now operating in an area where contaminant concentrations are higher and therefore the concentrations in over sized material may be higher.
- vi. The dredge trail compound was clean up. Photos showing site before and after the cleanup was shown. Validation data collected from within the footprint of the dredge trail area are at background levels.
- vii. Once Section 5 is re-dredged and validated the water treatment plant will be transferred to CS3. This will result in a temporary shutdown of dredging operations.
- viii. The current meeting cycle is every eight weeks. Brendon proposed to next meet on the 22nd January, due to the Christmas period. The closure planning for CS1 will occur prior to the next meeting.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Tui asked why we can't change over to CS3 now, to shorten the pumping distance and speed up the dredging process. Brendon responded that this will likely be discussed during the meeting with the Contractor on the 29th. Des also added that there are other logical reasons why the timeframe is being pushed out. However the Contractor expects to reach the pipeline during the next week, and in three weeks estimate to be pumping to CS3.
- b) Jo Kelly asked if there was more room for sediment. Des responded that there could be storage issues if we move to CS3 now.

Item 8: Independent Monitor

During the presentation (Slides 15-20) by Ken Tarboton, as Matt James was unable to attend, the following points were commented on:

- i. Independent Monitor reports are available on the website.
- ii. Bioremediation probes and sampling are outside of the project scope, which is why the Project Team does not report on that.
- iii. Dredge trial site clean-up photos show remediation after soil disturbance, using hay and woodchip/sawdust. The IM keeps a close eye on this.
- iv. Geobags were opened for Jo and her team to inspect the roots. It was observed the roots penetrate the bags, and do not pierce the HDPE liner.
- v. Spare/left over bags and liners were transferred to Site 1.

- vi. Ken noted the soil sample results show nothing has gone under the HDPE liner.
- vii. There was a pause on works for 4-5 days in September, to address H&S, staff wellbeing, maintenance and equipment. This was a positive reset.
- viii. Water Quality concerns had been a recent focus due to turbidity monitors being effected by discharges from adjoining sub-catchments. Three surface water samples were collected when flood water releases were made. Very low concentrations of dioxins were detected even though turbidity was elevated. Given the current levels of turbidity have now dropped and the laboratory results show low concentrations of contaminants the Consent Authority is happy for more water to flow through the site from West to East which will help relieve high water levels in the canal to the west of SH30.
- ix. While there is a 60pg/g remedial target for the canal as a whole the project objectives are related to 'mass removal'. To average out the residual sample concentrations a statistical measure of a 95% Upper Confidence Limit (UCL) is applied. It is not always practicable to remove ALL sediment from some areas. For the canal up to the end of S4, the UCL is 36 pg/g. S5 is being watched closely, as some areas haven't been validated yet. The laboratory method used is a low resolution test method, which is saving on lab test costs. However a higher resolution test method can be used in certain areas. In Sections 1-4 only 1 result has been over 60 pg/g. This location was next to a bridge where the removal of additional sediment may have affected the structural integrity of the bridge. When considering the UCL, this single result did not affect the remediation goals so the sediment was left in place.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) During the discussion about the trial site geobags, Jo and Eula noted an earthy smell when opening the bags, and that there were worms and bugs in the bags. This is a good sign, and indicates the process is working. There are drainage points in the liner, so there is no submersion in water.
- b) Des noted that there is geotextile cloth under the soil, when the sites are finished.
- c) Gary Searle asked if there has been regular sampling of the trial site. Brendon confirmed there has been, and the report is yet to be released.

Item 9: Cultural update

During the presentation (slide 21), the cultural monitor commented on the following points:

- i. Eula explained her role in the project, and is now taking more photos of bone fragments. No taonga has been discovered. A small fragment of greenstone

was discovered, and a blessing has been requested for this fragment, which Eula plans to do on Friday.

- ii. Bev Hughes left Ngāti Awa at the end of August. Keri Topperwien has taken over from Bev.
- iii. Eula noted that it has been easy to organise access through CS3 for a tangi , and the improvements to the access road were appreciated.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Brendon asked Eula to confirm that all those that work with Ngāti Awa are aware of this project, and are aware of how to find information. Eula responded that they are.
- b) Eula noted that having Tani take over as Community Monitor is crucial, as he has great networks.

Item 10: Health, Safety and Monitoring

During the presentation by Des McCleary (slides 22-24) the following points were commented on:

- i. The project timeline has moved. Works paused in September for H&S, and to reassess staff welfare, environment safety and awareness, CS1 cleanup and to address any equipment failures.
- ii. Working with Stephen Lawley, an Independent Dredging Expert to help progress the dredging process.
- iii. Noise monitoring is ongoing, both at the boost pump and roadways. Operators wear headsets with their RT's.
- iv. Traffic Management is in place. Shoulder close at Kope Drain Road and Shaw Rd is active.
- v. There is weekly reporting of daily progress including H&S issues, to the Project Team.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John asked if the pumps run 24/7? Des responded that they shutdown at 6pm, and the shutdown process begins at 5.30 to flush the lines out. Ken added that as part of the Contractor meeting next week, this would be discussed. We must comply with the noise limit and time period within 150m of the dredging equipment locations.
- b) John asked if this the first project of its kind in NZ? Brendon responded that it is the largest in NZ, however the extraction and water treatment method is proven internationally. The bioremediation is a first for NZ, and given the scale of the project might be a first internationally.
- c) John asked Tui how her whānau are reacting to the project. Tui responded that some are watching closely, and others want to know once it has been completed, so they can start whitebaiting and eeling again.
- d) Tui noted that there are a lot of water rats that are coming out of the canal. Brendon responded that four bait stations had been put out last year, however

one has been destroyed. BOPRC can provide bait stations and poison blocks. The project team will speak to BOPRC Land Management Officers about pest control options.

- e) Des offered to take Roger Houghton through the site, as he had missed the Open Day.

Item 11: Other business and date of next meeting

- i. Jo invited all the CLG members to a hui on Monday, to celebrate Tracey Godfrey's Te Ohu Mo Papatuanuku project, to be held at Mataatua Te Mānuka Tutahi.
- ii. There will be an Australasian Land and Groundwater Association (ALGA) site visit and presentation on Wednesday 24th, at 4pm. This project is being highlighted and approximately 30 ALGA members will be attending, with a tour of CS1 and a presentation.
- iii. Roger Houghton expressed his concern about the water colour/quality coming from a drain from Kope Canal to Fortunes Road. Ken responded that there is no backflow, and there is a reverse flow blanket. John suggested that Bruce investigate the drain water colour, and respond to Roger.

Next meeting: A tentative date is set for Tuesday January 22nd.

Meeting closed at 12.06pm