

Minutes of the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project Community Liaison Group meeting held at Eastbay REAP - Whakaari Room on 26 February 2019 commencing at 10:10am

Chair: John Pullar

Scribe: Cleo Hanlon (BOPRC)

Members present: Tui Edwards (CS2 representative), Andrew Kohlrusch (Independent Monitor), Matt James (Independent Monitor Field Observer), Hayden Power (Federated Farmers), Eula Toko (Cultural Monitor), Tani Wharewera (Iwi Representative, CS3 Rep), Cameron Huxley Toi te Ora Public Health), Gary Searle (Whakatāne District Council), Rene de Jong (Whakatāne Harbour Care Group), Brad Bluett (Department of Conservation), Sandy Lyons-Birley (Toi te Ora Public Health – left after introductions), Stephen Layne (Toi te Ora Public Health – left after introductions)

Others present: Brendon Love (BOPRC), Ken Tarboton (BOPRC), Bruce Crabbe (BOPRC), Abby Tozer (BOPRC), Dr Joanne Kelly (University of Waikato), Dr Chris Anderson (University of Waikato), Des McLeary (EnviroWaste), Roger Houghton, Guy Barlass (left 10.15am), Robbie Martin (arrived 10.30am), Tracey Godfery (arrived 10.45am)

Apologies: Scottie McLeod (Whakatāne-Waimana Rivers Scheme Liaison Group), Amanda Austrin (CS1 Representative), Neal Yeates (CS1 Representative)

Absent: John Meikle (Fish and Game)

Action summary

No.	Actions of 26 February 2019	Responsible	Status
1	Fortunes Rd drain water colour report to be circulated to CLG members.	BOPRC	
2	Possible nuisance dust to Keepa Rd Residents to be monitored and addressed if needed (could be addressed with water cart or polymer dust suppressant).	Contractor (ESL) BOPRC to help monitor	

Item 1: Welcome and karakia

- i. The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. Tani Wharewera opened the meeting with a karakia.
- ii. Guy Barlass' submission was received on 25th February 2019 via email. It was tabled, without discussion, and will be forwarded to the Project Steering Group for tabling and discussion at their meeting on 27th February 2019. Guy also requested two documents to be presented to the Project Steering Group:

1. Executive Summary to EDC-2; The Endocrine Society's Second Scientific Statement on Endocrine-Disruption Chemicals;
2. Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals and Public Health Protection: A Statement of Principles from The Endocrine Society.

The Chair asked all present to ensure any submissions to the meeting are sent to Cleo (Project Coordinator) two weeks prior to CLG meetings, to ensure enough time to review and prepare an adequate response.

Mr Barlass left the meeting at 10.15am of his own accord.

- iii. Sandy Lyon-Birley was introduced as the new Toi Te Ora representative, who will attend future meetings. Sandy and Stephen left the meeting after introductions were made.

Item 2: Apologies

Apologies were received for Scottie McLeod, Amanda Austrin and Neal Yeates.

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

a) Matters arising:

- i. Action item 4. Kope Canal/Fortunes Road drain water report. Roger Houghton expressed disappointment in the report from this investigation, and that it did not indicate why the water colour had changed. Andrew responded to Roger that the discolouration is not from dioxin, and that it could not be said exactly why the colour had changed. Matt confirmed that groundwater results included in his monthly IM report had not indicated any changes to groundwater quality as a result of the project. Matt offered to talk through these results with Roger if needed. The report is to be circulated among the CLG members.

Roger also expressed concern that the website is not being updated with testing results. Ken responded that the IM reports are live on the website, however it can take some time to get laboratory samples analysed and results reported, and for the report to be completed.

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

	sent to Roger Houghton.		
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Motion: That the minutes of the Community Liaison Group meeting of 23rd October 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 Abby Tozer (slides 3-6), the following points were commented on:

- i. A letter drop has been done around the new CS3 site.
- ii. A story was in the Beacon regarding restricted access (pedestrian and cycle access only) to the Whakatāne River stopbank for whitebaiters, which BOPRC had an opportunity to respond to prior to print.
- iii. There is a new BOPRC website, which has combined the Project Updates and the Project Information pages. Abby is reviewing the new site, and will ensure more updates are highlighted, including IM reports and minutes. This will notify website users that have registered to receive updates.
- iv. There is a feedback form specific to the Kope Canal, on the website. All feedback submitted goes directly to the Project Coordinator.
- v. The website analytics showed 3670 views of the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project pages, and 2675 unique page views over 2018.
- vi. The most popular pages were Reports & Key Documents, Project Structure and People, and the history of the project.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) The group noted it was interesting, and were surprised at how many views there have been.
- b) Des asked where the traffic is coming from, and Abby responded it was mixed but mostly from New Zealand.
- c) Brendon noted that a decreased meeting schedule has facilitated using the website updates more, to ensure that the community is kept informed of project updates.

Item 6: Project Update

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

- i. Dredging and validation has been completed for Sections 1-5, with Sections 6 & 7 remaining.
- ii. There were some extra dredging passes in Section 5, as initial validation wasn't achieved in some areas. This has delayed the dredging. A validation tech talk was offered to the group, to explain the validation process.
- iii. Sand being liquefied and slipping into the centre of the canal was an issue in Section 5 when contaminated sediment was removed.

- iv. Relocation to CS3 happened from January to mid-February, and dredging has commenced from Section 6 to CS3.
- v. Noise monitoring is being undertaken, as extending the dredging hours has been considered, to assist in increasing dredging productivity.
- vi. 24 geobags were filled in CS1. There is capacity for 29 geobags. Baseline testing has been undertaken on the bags, and some samples taken from different depths. Slide 10 showed CS1 Baseline Sampling, with the concentration results for each bag (pg I-TEQ/g). Section 5 bags are showing results above the average concentration levels.
- vii. Tidy up of CS1 is underway and includes taking samples from areas outside the containment cell bunds.
- viii. Bioremediation has commenced at CS1 and 12 bags have been inoculated with fungus to date.
- ix. A cross section of the CS1 cell (slide 12) was presented, which showed a future vision of the cell, with tree planting and grassed areas. Land use in a post-bioremediation phase is being explored. Ideas and options are welcome, and a round-table discussion will happen.
- x. The Contractor has moved the water treatment plant (WTP), which is now located at CS3 alongside the intake to the Kope Orini pump. Photos of the site setup and cell liner were presented on Slides 14 & 15. The Contractor (EnviroWaste Services Limited (ESL) are now pumping sediment approximately 1.5km to CS3, through a pipeline on the true right bank. The booster pump will keep operating until the dredge operator moves past that point. The Contractor has also made improvements to the treatment system, and dredging was underway on the 14th February.
- xi. There are 24 bags in CS3, which are different lengths due to the shape of this Containment Site.
- xii. Activities planned before next CSM include:
 - a. New dredge methods being trialled in S6
 - b. New design surface for S6 developed
 - c. Noise monitoring at CS3 and S6
 - d. Prepare CS1 closure plan, which is being observed by IM

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John Pullar asked if we expect to see these concentrations reducing. Brendon responded that this will happen during the bioremediation phase.
- b) Hayden Power asked what results came from the trial. Jo responded an average of 300pg/g, which then came down. It was hard to make conclusions from that trial as there was a peak before the decrease in dioxin concentration and the trial was cut short.
- c) Robbie Martin asked what the percent of sedimentation had occurred in the canal, and commented that the project has not been approached sequentially. He also referred to work undertaken in Sweden that often concluded that natural sedimentation provided a way to manage health risks.

- d) Brendon responded that Capping is widely used in lakes and fiords. It works by providing a barrier, which severs the link between the contamination and the food chain. It was not investigated further for this project because improvements to flood conveyance are also a requirement of the project.
- e) In response to a concern from Robbie around the length of time that the cut-off bund (FCS-West) would remain in the canal, Brendon responded that modifications to the bund are currently being investigated, and the outcome will be reported back to this group. It is not a permanent/final solution.
- f) There is a mixing of contaminated sediment that goes into the geotube bags, resulting in an averaging of concentration after sediment has gone through the WTP and is put into the bags.
- g) The Containment Sites were selected and consented, prior to the current method being adopted.
- h) Robbie also asked why other options were not considered, like changing the canal, and taking away from the technical. Bruce responded that this conversation refers more to the western part of the canal, which will be investigated at a later date.
- i) Des noted that the bags are not filled in a 1, 2, 3 pattern.
- j) Tani Wharewera asked what the concentration levels in the oversize bags are. Brendon responded the last result was 40pg/g but the laboratory method was slightly different for the oversized material. Brendon also suggested this would be part of a future validation tech talk.
- k) Robbie asked what the highest reading for the runoff was from oversize bags. Matt responded there were results of 20-21pg/g in the ground where they were stored. It was noted that 20pg/g was the lowest detectible level of that sample testing because it was completed with a low-resolution method, and the actual result may be closer to 1-2 pg/g. Andrew also explained how exposure risk of dioxin in the water worked to Robbie. Cameron Huxley (Toi te Ora & Drinking Water Specialist) commented that there are many factors that determine the quality of drinking water. Cameron offered to speak to Robbie regarding this issue after the meeting.

Item 7: Independent Monitor

During the presentation (Slides 19-24) by Matt James, the following points were commented on:

- i. A screenshot of the IM reports available on the website was presented.
- ii. Large focus on ensuring CS1 is being kept moist and clean. This has been a major concern with the recent dry weather.
- iii. The final validation results from Section 5 were shown on slides 21-24. It is important to note that initial sample values that failed to reach the remediation target are not shown, since there has been re-dredging and re-sampling at those locations. The results presented therefore reflect residual concentrations. Slide 24 showed a high value – above validation target sample result at KC084 of 160pg/g. Matt was with Golder when this was tested, and visually, it did not appear that this sample would fail validation.

Matt is confident that there is enough evidence to support this spot being cleared, however a case needs to be built (by Golder) as to why further dredging is not required in this area, despite the validation results. Overall, the 95% upper confidence limit (UCL) or average concentration for the entire canal remediated and validated is 36pg/g in the first two kilometres.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Brendon commented that there are some things we can do to look at the authenticity of the high result, such as resampling.
- a) Des noted that they are not just relying on the analytical, as this area has been re-dredged three times.

Item 8: Cultural update

During the presentation (slides 25-26), the cultural monitor commented on the following points:

- i. Before dredging commenced, a karakia was done onsite at CS3 on the 8th February 2019.
- i. There are now two bins under the shakers, which addresses the increased flow and productivity.
- ii. There are still different materials coming over the shakers, i.e. bird bones and a sheep jaw.

Item 9: Health, Safety and Monitoring

During the presentation by Des McCleary (slides 27-33) the following points were commented on:

- i. On 22nd January 2019 there was an incident. Pipeline was being laid, and operator error caused the Merlo to fall into the canal. The operator was able to get out before the machine ended up in the canal. The site was assessed, an oil spill boom was put in place, and the machine was lifted out via tandem lift. Lessons learned were recorded, and JSA was done. The machine was washed off over plastic lining, and sediment ran straight back into the canal. Procedures and better processes have been put in place, and the machine was a write-off.
- ii. Noise monitoring is ongoing. There are also dust complaints from activity, particularly on Kope Canal Rd. Ken and Des have been working on awareness with all users of this road, including WDC.
- iii. The mobile trailer has been outside Littlejohn Machinery on Gateway Drive to monitor dust.
- iv. Monitoring of Containment Site discharge sumps continues.
- v. There were partial road closures at Shaw Road, and a footpath/bike path hazard has been identified with the Keepa Rd footpath and CS3 entrance. Signs have been put in place to help manage the hazard.
- vi. There have been two environmental incidents with bulk bin overflow and a hose release. Both incidents were cleaned up and recorded.

- vii. 44 metres have been dredged in Section 6. There have been 18 oversize bags filled, and 2 geotube bags have been partially filled.
- viii. Slide 32 showed a weekly report provided to the Project Team, which includes inductions, incidents, environmental issues and geotube bags in use.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Tui asked if our dust control methods could be more visible to the community, to help alleviate further complaints. Brendon responded that a polymer dust suppressant could be trialled. It was also suggested that the dust monitor would be moved closer to homes once the dredge has moved past the Gateway area. Some hose sprinklers are being proposed in high dust areas at CS3. It was noted that the dry weather has not helped.

Item 10: Other business and date of next meeting

- i. Bruce Crabbe clarified that Guy Barlass had not been excluded from the meeting. Mr Barlass is a member of the public, not a CLG member.

Next meeting: A tentative date is set for Tuesday April 9th.

Meeting closed at 12.50pm