

## Minutes of the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project Community Liaison Group meeting held at Mātaatua, BOPRC, 5 Quay St, Whakatane on Tuesday 20 August 2019 commencing at 10:10am

**Chair:** John Pullar

**Scribe:** Cleo Hanlon (BOPRC)

**Members present:** Matt James (Independent Monitor Field Observer), Tani Wharewera (Hapu Representative, CS3 Rep), Cameron Huxley (Toi te Ora Public Health), Sandy Lyons-Birley (Toi te Ora Public Health), Rene de Jong (Whakatāne Harbour Care Group), Tui Edwards (CS2 representative), Gary Searle (Whakatāne District Council), Scottie McLeod (Whakatāne-Tauranga Advisory Group Representative), Neal Yeates (CS1 Representative), Clint Savage (DOC)

**Others present:** Brendon Love (BOPRC), Ken Tarboton (BOPRC), Bruce Crabbe (BOPRC), Abby Tozer (BOPRC), Dr Joanne Kelly (University of Waikato), Des McLeary (EnviroWaste), Tracey Godfery, Neil Larking, Jean McCauley, John Sherriff, Sharna McCleary, Dr Linda Peters, Robbie Martin, Margi Martin

**Apologies:** Andrew Kohlrusch (Independent Monitor), Eula Toko (Cultural Monitor), Dr Chris Anderson (Massey University)

### Item 1: Welcome and karakia

- i. The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. Clint Savage opened the meeting with a karakia.

### Item 2: Apologies

Apologies were received for Andrew Kohlrusch, Dr Chris Anderson, Eula Toko.

<b>Motion: Apologies approved</b>	<b>McLeod/Searle</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
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### Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting

No.	Actions of 14 May 2019	Responsible	Status
1	Date for final CLG meeting to be set for mid-August	BOPRC	<i>Completed</i>

<b>Motion: That the minutes of the Community Liaison Group meeting of 14 May 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.</b>
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<b>Motion: Minutes approved</b>	<b>de Jong/Huxley</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
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#### **Item 4: Communications**

During the presentation given by Abby Tozer (slides 3-4), the following points were commented on:

- i. The website needs updating moving into the bioremediation phase of the project.
- ii. Proposed updated signs were presented on slide 4.
- iii. Eel monitoring is required for up to five years, so eeling will be restricted until the monitoring is complete. The stopbank adjoining Gateway industrial zone remains a controlled contaminated site. The Containment Sites are contained and managed. These classifications will be identified on the Land Use Register.

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#### **Item 5: Project Update**

During the presentation given by Brendon Love (slides 5-23), the following points were commented on:

- i. Dredging of the canal has been completed.
- ii. Golder have 60 days following the final validation result received, to complete the Site Validation Report. This report will then be provided to the Independent Monitor and Consent Authority for review. A copy will then be published on the project website.
- iii. Flood Control Structure East has been removed. Flood Control Structure West has been partially removed. Drainage flow within the canal appears to be normal.
- iv. Topsoil placement and grass-seeding has been completed at CS1.
- v. Five bags are yet to be inoculated at CS1, and inoculation is underway at CS3.
- vi. The website has been updated with a map of validation results.
- vii. Oversize bags have been a community concern due to the fact that they are made from plastic. Discussions were held with the Independent Monitor and Community Monitor about removing the oversized material from the bags so they can be disposed of offsite. The decision was made to leave the material in the bags because it is controlled and managed. Alternatives will be looked for to manage oversized material in future.
- viii. Clean up of CS3 is progressing following decommissioning of water treatment plant.

- ix. Oversize bags have been used in the valleys and to help form an access track around the side of CS1. Pumice has been used as a drainage media, with topsoil added.
- x. Poplar poles have been planted and are showing growth.
- xi. Modifications have been made to Flood Control Structure West (FCS-W) and data is being collected on flow rates.
- xii. Flood Control Structure East (FCS-E) has been removed. This has been suggested as the site to hold a ceremony later in the year to celebrate the re-opening of the canal.
- xiii. Post-remediation conditions have now started, including monitoring of discharges from Containment Sites, the Site Validation Report, Eel tissue monitoring and monitoring of annual groundwater monitoring at Containment Sites.
- xiv. A long term view of the project, for the next few years, was presented on slide 23.
- xv. Once CS3 top soil placement has been completed, fencing will be moved so that the site will be secure; however vehicle access to the stopbank will be reopened. The re-opening to public may not occur until late 2019 or early 2020.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Cr Clarke asked what signs would be required in the West. Brendon responded there are signs already in place, and investigation and long term monitoring results would be used to consider if further signs are needed.
- b) Cr Clarke asked what the plans are, for establishing a habitat where FCS-E has been removed. Brendon responded that this is not the Project focus currently, however BOPRC may have plans here, and suggested the Environmental Enhancement Fund may be an option. Rene de Jong added that this is an area of interest for him. John Pullar added that this area may be a good area for Council and other interested groups to be involved in, and a separate conversation is to be had. Bruce Crabbe added the Orini floodgates would be opened in the summer months, one of which is fish friendly. The intention is to keep water flowing in and out of the estuary, and keeping the canal fresh for fish habitat, whilst also utilising the salt water for keeping pest plants under control.
- c) Neil Yeates asked what the effect of a storm event would be on FCS-W. Brendon responded that at higher volumes, the flow rates are only high where the rock armouring has been placed, and this control measure should ensure that sediment mobilisation from west to the east is mitigated. Further monitoring results are to be collected in higher flow events to confirm this.

- d) Planned KEW investigations were put on hold, as the Project Teams focus needed to be on finishing the current project. Investigations will be starting on KEW this year.
- e) Robbie Martin noted the water level has lowered, but not to what it had been historically. This structure was to be fully removed, however only a partial removal happened. Robbie asked why it hasn't been made wider to allow more flow through. Brendon responded that it was necessary to get the right balance between managing contaminant migration and flood management. Ken also noted that if dredging in KEW is to happen, reinstating the control structure would be easier. Planning and legal advice was sought before the partial removal was completed.
- f) Robbie Martin also asked what the KEW timeline was. Ken responded the investigation phase would go through to June 2020, including landowner conversations. After that date, it would go through to funding applications to BOPRC and MfE. Scottie McLeod suggested speeding up the investigation phase, using learnings from the current project. Brendon responded that remediation of the entire canal had not been consented due to inadequate investigations in the first place, and therefore felt that it was necessary that the investigation of KEW was thorough so that an accurate understanding of the problem could be documented before decisions were made.
- g) Neil Larking suggested the pond left behind from the wastewater plant at CS3 stay in place for frog habitat. Cameron Huxley expressed his concerns of mosquito breeding, and this is a public health concern. Bruce responded that this suggestion would be considered.

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### **Item 7: Independent Monitor Update**

During the presentation (Slides 24-31) by Matt James, the following points were commented on:

- i. Matt James has been away for seven weeks, with Pete McGowan acting as IM in Matt's absence.
- ii. Matt noted the general housekeeping of the sites has been good.
- iii. KC142 was dredged and re-dredged three times to achieve validation.
- iv. Andrew Kohlrusch emailed his thanks to the CLG members for their work throughout this project. Matt read a portion of that email for those that had not received it.
- v. Thanks was made to Andrew also for his work and the effect he had on the outcomes of the project.

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### **Item 8: Cultural update**

Ken presented the Cultural Monitor update on Eula Toko's behalf. During the presentation (slides 32-38), the following points were made:

- i. There were more bones found in Section 7. These have all been photographed and sent to the archaeologist. No bones were human.

- ii. There were pro's and con's for having a discovery protocol onsite, with health and safety being of significance.
- iii. It was noted that having the archaeologist onsite sometimes would have been helpful.
- iv. The Cultural Monitor sees benefit in being involved with other projects in the future, and believes this role could have been utilised more for this project.
- v. Having SWAP and Iwi being more inclusive would be beneficial.

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**Item 9: Health, Safety and Monitoring**

During the presentation by Des McCleary (slides 39-42) the following points were commented on:

- i. Des wanted to thank the community for their support to the Contractors.
- ii. All traffic management that was in place has been lifted.
- iii. There were six incidents in total for the duration of the project.
- iv. Drone surveys are to be conducted of the containment sites. Statistics shown on Slide 41 are the results from the post-dredge surveys.
- v. There was an expectation of 120 oversize bags at the beginning of the project. This number increased to approximately 1700.
- vi. CS1 has been cleaned up and handed back to the Principal. CS3 is to be completed in the coming weeks.
- vii. The final Site Validation Report is yet to be completed.
- viii. Des made special mention of Fred from NZPGS, who worked the entirety of the project. He also acknowledged Eula Toko's presence onsite, and the communication with Jo Kelly and Chris Anderson.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) It was noted by Margi that there were no incidents at the Kope Drain Road end due to Des' leadership, and Gary Searle added it was fantastic to work with Des.

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**Item 10: Other business**

- i. From Slide 44, Brendon made thanks to the Project Contributors.
- ii. Special thanks was made to the late Joe Harawira, as this project would not have gotten off the ground if it wasn't for Joe's fight.
- iii. Thanks was also made to the late Arch Delahunty who was the original Engineers Representative.
- iv. Bruce and Ken's involvement and also Ted's role as the Engineer to Contract was acknowledged, and they were thanked.
- v. Bruce acknowledged how valuable the CLG has been, and thanks were given to both Cr Bill Clark and John Pullar, as the previous and current Chairman. Bruce also commented that the IM has been valuable to the project team, as well as the CLG. Bruce also thanked Brendon, his expertise has been valuable, as well as his manner with the community.

**Meeting closed at 12.10pm**

Draft to be accepted by CLG at next meeting