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| Committee | Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee |
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Project Manager's report

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee regarding the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan.

2. Waipoua Hydrology Refinements

At the meeting on 7 September 2015, this Subcommittee indicated that it wanted to see better alignment between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and Masterton District Council (MDC) regarding the flood risk affecting Masterton, and the associated development of flood risk management options.

2.1 Hydrology Report

A final version of the hydrology report prepared by MWH has been received by GWRC and MDC.

Tonkin and Taylor Ltd have been appointed as peer reviewers for this technical report. It is anticipated that this peer review is completed within 2 weeks of award of contract.

2.2 Model Re-run

Upon completion of the peer review, the existing flood model will be re-run with the updated hydrology to provide an indication of any changes to the modelled flood extents.

2.3 Flexible mesh model

Surveying work will shortly be completed to provide all additional topographic survey data requested to build the higher resolution flexible mesh model.

We are reviewing the accuracy of the most recently flown Lidar to ensure that it meets requirements for this model.

2.4 Officers Working Group update

GWRC and MDC have continued to hold officer group meetings to advance this piece of work. The work continues to be funded under a 50/50 share arrangement between GWRC and MDC.

2.5 Key messages

There have been media enquiries received regarding this and other floodplain management plan work. The following remain key messages being used to address enquiries related to the hydrology updates:

- MDC and GWRC are collaborating on the refinement of flood hazard information for Masterton
- This refinement work will improve the level of detail of flood hazard information available to the community
- As part of this work a second, more detailed flood model is being built using the latest generation of flood modelling software
- The work includes: some additional new survey data specifically collected to improve the model; more detailed hydrology estimates; finer resolution of detail in the flood model
- Flood hazard information releases use the best available information at the time of release or when requested. Future information releases will be done when new or improved information becomes available, such as when this collaborative refinement is completed
- For further information about flood risk please email info@gw.govt.nz

3. Masterton option development

The project team has completed preparation for community engagement regarding option development for the Masterton Urban Area. Engagement regarding Masterton options will occur once we reach agreement with MDC regarding the flood risk upon completion of the Waipoua Hydrology Refinement work.

4. Rural option development

The Subcommittee will be involved with a series of workshops to further develop rural options for flood and erosion risk management. The first of these workshops was held on 10 February 2016. This first workshop provided an overview of the method and anticipated outcomes of these workshops.

The programme of workshops is shown in the table below:

| Date | Option development river |
|-------------|--|
| 15 Mar 2016 | Waingawa River + Common Tools |
| 14 Apr 2016 | Ruamahanga River + Common Tools |
| 16 May 2016 | Waipoua River + Common Tools |
| 13 Jun 2016 | Eastern Rivers (Taueru, Kopuaranga, Whangaehu) |

4.1 Site visits

For each workshop we will visit several sites where there are particularly significant issues to address. These issues have been picked based on their issue ranking.

We have invited the current river management scheme chairs and a number of other stakeholders to each of these workshops to discuss their points of view, concerns and ideas for solutions to the issues identified within the reaches of the river which they have an interest.

5. Masterton A+P Show

GWRC attended the Masterton A+P on 20 February 2016. Over 100 people passed through the stand and we had a broad spectrum of questions and discussed both the floodplain management planning projects and ongoing river management. Community feedback was positive and acknowledged the good work that is going on identifying flood risk and ways to manage it. There were a number of questions raised linked to an article published in the Wairarapa Times Age on the 19 February 2016, with a mix of opinions about the statements presented in that article.

6. Wairarapa Times Age article

On the 19 February 2016 the Wairarapa Times Age published an article titled 'River a Barren Channel' reporting opinions of Fish and Game. This article included statements by Phil Teal, Manager, Fish and Game NZ.

Phil Teal has been invited to the upcoming workshops to provide input into the development of flood and erosion risk management options as part of the FMP development project.

7. Operations maintenance

The summer months have brought long duration periods of fine weather enabling a focus on agrichemical vegetation control mainly in the eastern schemes within the Te Kauru project area.

Some programmed channel maintenance work remains to be done in the western, gravel bedded rivers, however, this work has been temporarily deferred due to the frequent presence of river recreation users (swimmers). Also, channel disturbance is being avoided during summer low flows to avoid exacerbating ecological stress caused by our work.

7.1 Te Ore Ore Channel Alignment

This year we completed within our consent conditions a relatively large scale channel alignment task in the Te Ore Ore reach of the Ruamahanga. This involved pushing beaches off with bulldozers as opposed to using gravel extraction contractors to remove high beach areas.

The gravel extraction option is generally our preferred approach because it is less intrusive on the aquatic habitat. In this instance we opted for the channel

alignment approach due to concerns raised by the residents of Homebush area. In response to these concerns, gravel extraction operations have ceased in this area until such time that bed levels raise.

The residents of the Homebush area contacted the Flood Protection Department and spoke to this Subcommittee about concerns that the gravel extraction was the cause of river bed degrade and associated ground water level decline which led to many local residential water supply bores becoming dry. Gravel extraction is likely one of many contributing factors of river bed lowering in this area however it is unclear as to how much gravel extraction is the cause. We have monitored a steady bed degrade occurring in this reach, on average about 0.02 metres per year over the past 20 years.

7.2 Dakin's Road erosion maintenance planning

Investigation work is ongoing to develop both a short term response to the erosion issue at Dakins Road (involving rock protection) and a longer-term solution to the issue that looks at all available options.

Initial design work is anticipated to be completed by end of March and discussed with Carterton District Council.

8. Whaitua and Regional Plan Update

GWRC has initiated a community led collaborative planning process to address a number of land and water management issues and to carry out its obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). This process is catchment based.

The region has been divided into five Whaitua or catchments. Whaitua committees will make recommendations to the Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. These committees are a partnership between the Regional Council, iwi, territorial authorities and the community. The WIP will contain strategies and actions which will form a programme of work to implement the NPS-FW in the catchment area of the Whaitua committee. They will include recommendations for both statutory and non-statutory actions and methods.

Proposed regulatory provisions in the WIP will be incorporated into the Regional Plan through a plan change process. Non-regulatory programmes will also be developed further and implemented in conjunction with partners.

Collaborative modelling is a fundamental step GWRC is taking to support the Whaitua Committees and their communities in setting freshwater objectives and limits. This project will provide the Whaitua Committees with relevant and needed scientific knowledge to help them make robust and informed decisions. A collaborative modelling hub involving New Zealand's most reputable modellers and researchers is working together to deliver a consensus-based process to model and test land use and resource limit scenarios to inform the five Whaitua committees

8.1 Ruamāhanga Whaitua

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has been considering a wide range of information and finding out what the people who live, work and play in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua value about the water and land they share. The Committee is moving into the next phase of their work which includes discussions about land and water management options and analysis of impacts of options on values.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is expected to produce their WIP in early 2017.

We will shortly arrange an informal gathering of the Te Kauru Subcommittee and the Whaitua Advisory Committee to facilitate knowledge sharing between the two projects.

8.2 Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee was established in December 2014 and begun by considering the geographic, cultural, scientific and economic aspects of the catchment. The Committee is now talking with the community about what's important to them about their land and water to determine a set of community values which will underpin their future decision making.

8.3 Proposed Natural Resources Plan

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region was publically notified on 31 July 2015 and is a combined regional and coastal plan that will replace the existing five regional plans when fully operative. The proposed Plan contains policies, rules and methods for the people and organisations that use or protect the region's resources.

Submissions on the proposed Plan were received in the latter half of 2015 with the summary of decisions requested (SDR) publicly notified on 26 February 2016. The SDR and copies of the original submissions are available on the GWRC website: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/proposed-natural-resources-plan/>.

9. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

9.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

10. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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