

Wairarapa Moana Co-ordinating Committee Minutes 2/12/2013.

Present: Ra Smith, Ian Gunn, Mike Longworth, Aiden Bichan, Mark Lovett, Mike Burtenshaw, Russel Hooper, Colin Olds, Geoff Doring, Jo Beaglehole, Jonathan Streat, John Hancox, Heather Atkinson, Stewart Barton, Bob Greene, Warren Field (minutes).

Apologies: Jane Donald, Tony Silbery, Philippa Crisp. Toni De Lautour.

Ian welcomed Colin Olds to the group as the new member from SWDC (Featherston councillor).

Minutes from August meeting were read – with questions on the working document on Drain Clearing. Jono replied that there will be continuing discussion and workshops on this - with the draft due in late 2014.

Quote “Approx. 80% happy with content at present”.

Heather Atkinson would like SWBG to be involved with Lake Ferry causeway discussions.

Minutes from the “Special Wetlands” meeting lead to members wanting clarification of definitions and several terms.

- Meaning of “Wetland”.
- Defining a wetland, and how it fits into Natural, Significant or Outstanding.
- Possible complications with covenants in the future.

Members were asked to share ideas on these topics. (Please see Jo’s email and table, forwarded with these notes, relating to these definitions.)

Ian presented the Co-ordinators report. Matters arising from this were.

- 4.2 Ruamahanga cut off being an issue over summer with low water flow. Heather asking for “leadership” over the plight of long fins with reports of illegal fishing occurring during June/July. Ian responded Wairarapa Moana Management team is already pursuing MPI and DOC staff to try and formulate an approach during the July to October period each year when the illegal fishing occurs in the main lake body. Colin Olds indicated he was an honorary fisheries officer and he keeps an eye on the nets placed at the Lake Domain.
- 4.3 The website is now online, the bittern survey has some positive results and kakahi monitoring will begin early next year. A further response is awaited regarding the Ramsar application.

Ian presented the minutes from the Matthews/Wairio meeting. Discussion points were:

- The water transferred can be monitored. There is a need for discussions with the Te Hopai Drainage scheme. George Harley from Flood Protection is refining design still.
- Phosphates, nitrates and sodium concentrations are reduced between the input from the pumped drain and the outfall into the Oपुरua Floodway.
- It is possible that some fish are using the lake as the “ocean” part of their breeding cycle.

Ian reported on the **Biodiversity Field Day** held at Jane Donald’s and the **Soil and Water Field Day** held recently at Vollebregts. Notes for both events are included in the agenda mail out.

Ian presented the quarterly report for the Clean-up fund, making note of the colour-coded “traffic light” funding explanation.

Jo Beaglehole opened discussion on the **Regional Plan Review and Wetland Management**

Jo attempted to lead the group through a discussion of each activity in the table on page 25 of the paper. A new version of the summary table was circulated. A fruitful discussion ensued, covering a huge range of “ongoing” questions, and not much discussion about the consenting status of each activity type...

- The 12 outstanding wetlands will be managed through the Restoration and Management Plans (RMP), preferably covering all the landowners concerned. There will not be permitted activities in outstanding wetlands. However all activities identified within an approved RMP will be considered to be consented.
- Restoration and Management Plans for significant wetlands is the preferred management approach. A single, “controlled” resource consent will cover all activities carried out under the R&M plan developed specifically for each wetland.
- The rules in the summary table are for activities occurring outside R&M plans. They are intended to encourage landowners to enter into the collaborative R&M plan framework.
- The revised rule-framework groups activities in natural and significant wetlands into those that are permitted, and those that require resource consent. The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) required for each resource consent will include determination of whether the wetland is natural or significant

Jonathan mentioned that “all wetlands are significant” and the idea was to “preserve a representative sample” of that type of wetland.

So “How can we provide assistance?”

Jo then asked those present to reflect back to the previous meeting's hand out, with pages 6-7 providing definitions of the terms as used in the paper. There is some confusion over the interpretation of "Natural Wetlands" as covered by the RP rules.

Over the Xmas break Jo has asked to committee members to email her with questions or comments on the revised table (attached) and to think about –

“What size wetland is it pragmatic to exclude stock from?”

The meeting finished at 12:45.

PS. Please also read the email forwarded from Jo Beaglehole.

Warren.

For discussion - Not Council Policy.

Summary table: Wetland rules and activity status.

Following discussion at WMCC on 2 December 2013

Activity	Natural wetland	Significant wetland	Outstanding wetland
Activities carried out under an approved Restoration and Management Plan developed for individual wetland / property	Controlled	Controlled	Controlled
Removal or control of pest plants	Permitted	Permitted	<u>Permitted</u> <u>Discretionary</u>
Planting appropriate wetland species	Permitted	Permitted	Discretionary
Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing structures	Permitted <small>[FWP r.33 permitted]</small>	Permitted	Discretionary
Removal of existing structures	Permitted	Permitted	<u>Permitted</u> <u>Discretionary</u>
Placement of new structures (<10m ²)	Permitted	Permitted	Discretionary
Placement of new structures (>10m)	<u>Permitted</u> <u>Restricted</u> <u>discretionary</u>	<u>Non-complying</u> <u>Discretionary</u>	Non-complying
Take, use, damming diverting of water	Restricted discretionary <small>[FWP r. 9 permitted if part of a stream; r.16 discretionary]</small>	Non-complying <small>[FWP r.18 NCA]</small>	Non-complying
Reclamation and drainage	Discretionary	Non-complying <small>[FWP r.50 NCA]</small>	Prohibited <small>[FWP r.51 Lake Wairarapa prohibited]</small>
Direct discharges of water or contaminants	Discretionary <small>[FWP r.1 permitted]</small>	<u>Non-complying</u> <u>Discretionary</u> <small>[FWP r.6 NCA]</small>	Non-complying
Vegetation disturbance	Discretionary	<u>Non-complying</u> <u>Discretionary</u>	Non-complying
Land disturbance including excavation	Discretionary <small>[FWP r.22-49 permitted, controlled, discretionary if part of lake or river]</small>	Non-complying	Non-complying
Activities not covered in any other rule	Discretionary <small>[FWP r.49 discretionary]</small>	Non-complying	Non-complying
Stock access	<u>Permitted</u> <u>(Discretionary ??)</u>	Non-complying	Non-complying

This table provides an ‘at-a-glance-summary’ of rules in the working paper “Regional Plan Review and Wetland Management” distributed to WMCC for meeting on 15 October 2013.