

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 MAY 2016

AGENDA ITEM C1

FORMATION OF WATER RACE USERS GROUP (WRUG)

Purpose of Report

To request members receive the report on the formation of WRUG.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the formation of the Water Race Users Group (WRUG).*

1. Executive Summary

The Water Race Users Group (WRUG) is being formed to provide a conduit with SWDC with the Water races users on Longwood and Moroa.

The members are listed and the inaugural meeting is scheduled for the 23rd May.

2. Background

The purpose of the Water Race Users Group (WRUG) is to provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of information and to create and maintain channels of communication between both Water race users, Greytown urban community, South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC), and Iwi on any issues or developments arising from the operation of the Water Races.

3. Water Race Users Group

There were four applicants were interviewed for three moroa representatives. After the interviews, all were found to be acceptable, a single lot was drawn to eliminate the additional applicant.

The function of the WRUG was discussed within the group on the 9th May 2016.

Chairperson:	Elected by majority of WRUG
Membership:	Longwood water race (2 representatives) Moroa water race (3 representatives) Moroa water race – Greytown Urban, (1 representative) South Wairarapa District Council (1 representative) Iwi, or Maori Standing Committee, (1 representative)
Meeting Frequency:	Quarterly, or as required.
Convened by:	Group Manager Infrastructure and Services
Quorum:	5 members

Where a representative steps down, the position will be filled with a replacement person agreed by the majority of the remainder of the WRUG. The Iwi representative will be appointed by the Maori Standing Committee. The SWDC member will be selected from elected members or may be a Council officer.

John Gray or Jeremy Gray (Pope and Gray Contractors) will attend meetings when requested to provide technical or historical information about the water races. This will be a non-voting function.

3.1 Functions

The WRUG shall be:

- A point of liaison for water races users (non-operational matters only) both Longwood and Moroa.
- Representation of all users on behalf of Council at District Forums e.g. Fonterra/ Federated Farmer/GWRC discussion groups in regard to water usage, allocation, new policy and regulatory initiatives.
- The review of rating processes across the two systems over time and the provision of advice to Council.
- The provision of full input into the development of a new Code of Practice(COP) which would in revised form eventually form a common COP for both systems fully reflecting changing use, different regulatory requirements and user expectations.
- Assistance and guidance with resource consent condition information gathering e.g. Water Use Review.
- Develop a long term strategy aimed at developing a common bylaw prior to resource consent renewal.

3.2 Financial

Consideration of remuneration has been requested.

Written by: Lawrence Stephenson, Assets and Operation Manager