

MINUTES
GREYTOWN AND MARTINBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP
FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS
5 PM, Tuesday 15 November 2022 (online Zoom Meeting)

Attendees present

Community/local residents, and community representatives	Mel Maynard, Chair of the Martinborough Community Board Louise Brown, Chair of the Greytown Community Board Phil Vernon, Trainee Health Protection Officer, Health New Zealand
Wellington Water	Rory Milne: Senior Community and Engagement Advisor Martin Gronback: Senior Advisor, Service Delivery Adam Mattsen: Programme Lead, Network Development and Delivery Amy Smith: Senior Engineer Network Development & Delivery Nick Hewer-Hewitt, Manager Performance (NMG)
Independent Chair	Andrew Freeman
South Wairarapa District Council	Stefan Corbett, Group Manager, Partnership and Operations Robyn Wells, Principal Advisor, Water Transition Sheil Priest, General Manager, Communications and Engagement
Great Wellington Regional Council	Aaron Johnston, Resource Advisor, Environmental Regulation Ben Bond, Environmental Protection Officer
Apologies	Tonia Haskell: Group Manager, Network Development & Delivery, Wellington Water

Welcome

Andrew Freeman welcomed everyone to the second CLG for Martinborough and Greytown Wastewater.

Opening Karakia was given by Adam Mattsen.

Reminder of CLG purpose and agreed meeting rules

- Andrew covered the ground rules, including showing respect, being on time, devices on silent, clarifying questions to be asked first, and all questions through the Chair.
- The meeting is recorded and will end up on YouTube.
- The goal is to clarify understandings and be solution focused. Participation is by invitation only, but there is an inclusive purpose so if anyone thinks there is someone who should be added into the group, they should email Rory and we will endeavour to include them.

Refresher from last CLG meeting

- Andrew spoke about the expectations and purpose of the CLG.
- The key focus is engagement and enhancing communication which supports the consent structure
- The CLG's primary role is to look at information, remove assumptions, and put new items onto the agenda for follow up at the following meeting.

- The last CLG meeting was a positive start, with constructive conversations and exploration of the challenges between operational aspects of WW and the constraints they operate under.
- There was a keen interest in monitoring and access to data. The potential for educational roles was noted. It was a great opportunity to capture some community feedback on key issues and keep the dialogue open.
- It was noted that there were no representatives of mana whenua at tonight's meeting. Invites had been sent. Rory said it was something to look into.

Matters arising from last meeting

- One key theme that came up was the request for monitoring and access to data and live data that is being gathered. Ben Bond said that basically all the information is available and easy to find on the GWRC website. He had spoken to the science team (three of them do monitoring in the region) and there is a monthly monitoring programme and the data is freely available on the website with links available.
- The question at last meeting was driving towards a live update in incidents in water quality that happen and that is not something that we (GWRC) are resourced to do. It is a small team with a very large data set that runs over a long period of time so the overall quality of the catchment is being monitored. In some places it is done monthly, in other places annually, and occasionally electronic monitors for a year or 6 months.
- If people follow the leads through the website, they will have access to all the data that is available.
- Aaron added that if anyone thinks there are issues or anything is noted then that should be brought to their attention to respond to. They want notice of poor water quality.
- Adam asked whether cultural monitoring is on the website link as well. Ben replied there has been some difficulty in getting it developed at the time; iwi was invited to be part of writing that plan but there wasn't much response so not aware if that plan is particularly well developed.
- GWRC doesn't as far as I know do cultural monitoring in that way. We have plenty of lines of communication open if anyone wants to report any problem and that would include any cultural issue that might come up to others using the waterway in a particular manner.
- An update on the progress made at Greytown would be good to come to the next CLG.\
- Rory advised that Featherston WW treatment plan is going for consent and is being treated separately from this CLG.

CLG member questions (sent in advance)

There were no questions sent in advance.

2021/22 Annual resource consent reports

Amy gave an update on key themes. A Compliance report is required to be submitted at the end of each year. A report of the annual compliance had been sent to everybody in the CLG on 10 October.

- Submitted for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 22.
- There is a range of non-compliance at each WWTP
- Some aspects are being addressed within the existing operational and capital renewal budgets.
- GWRC officers are reviewing reports and will prepare a Compliance Rating report.
- Members are welcome to email Amy with any specific questions, once they have looked through the annual report.
- Adam commented that this is one way of measuring the performance of the wastewater treatment plants. It is one thing to be compliant; it is another to be resilient and that is another layer of improving the operability of the treatment plants.

Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant Abatement notice

Amy spoke to a presentation.

Breaches of consent condition between 1 July 2020 – 1 August 2022 are as follows:

- Exceeding daily volume and instantaneous discharge rate (discharge to water)
- Exceeding nutrient discharge limits (discharge to water)
- Six exceedances of E. coli limits (discharge to water)
- Exceeding the hydraulic loading rate (discharge to land)

SWDC and WW are required to:

- Submit a proposal for corrective actions by 1 December 2022 to bring the plant into compliance.
- Cease unauthorised discharge from the wastewater treatment plant by 15 August 2023.
- A comprehensive 30-year investment programme for the Martinborough treatment plant has been proposed which will resolve the abatement notice non-compliance issues (within a 10-year horizon).
- WWL and SWDC are working together to assess which components of the compliance upgrade programme can be brought forward and its impact on plant performance/compliance.
- Next step is to submit agreed Correction Action Plan to GWRC on 1 December 2022.

- To address the abatement notice and the level of work required to fix these compliance issues by 15 August 2023 is extremely challenging, even apart from the budget. We are working on a programme that has the biggest effect in the shortest amount of time.
- In answer to a question, Ben explained that an abatement notice is a legal document issued by GWRC as a regulator. The first part of this one is not legally binding – where asked for a plan by 1 December 2022 as to how the plant can be brought back into compliance. The second part is legally binding in asking for the plant to be compliant by August 2023. There are consequences for not meeting an abatement notice.
- We will talk and work with people as much as possible about the plan, and hopefully we can find a way of moving forward that brings the plant into the state of compliance that as a regulator we need to see.
- Andrew noted that it would be interesting to receive an update on this at the CLG meeting early next year when all parties have had an opportunity to digest the plan.
- In answer to a question from Mel, Amy said that the consents stipulate the hydraulic loading per week of 35 mls. We have in practice to have a hard and fast discharge limit when the river is at a certain low flow condition and we have to operate within the amount of wastewater we have to discharge somewhere. We store as much as we can in the pond, and a specialist's view of the data showed that we are managing the application rate. We will want to formalise the discharge strategy through the plan.

Start of the 2022/23 irrigation season – successes and ongoing constraints, and how it relates to improving plant compliance and performance

Amy spoke to a presentation; points covered were as follows:

- At Greytown we share a field with a gliding club and a grazier who leases a patch of land
- Held a pre-season meeting with the glider and the grazier in September
- A productive meeting with the gliding club on day-runs and trialling an optimised mode of operation
- Agreement reached to irrigate every Tuesday apart from when they have events on
- Commenced irrigating at Martinborough 25 October
- Commenced irrigating at Greytown 15 November
- We are optimising use and parking at the southern end of the field so it lasts longer
- This is all around optimal use, and a balancing act, and excellent communication between the parties in order to be allowed to have optimal use of the irrigator.

- Adam acknowledged Sarah at SWDC who was instrumental in setting up the meeting with the glider and grazier.

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

- Aaron reported that on the whole, despite the limitations of the plant and the non-compliance, we have been quite happy with WW's efforts this year.
- There has been good communication and they have been managing the plants to the best of their ability.
- In terms of the annual report, we have sent it for an expert opinion in some of the more technical areas, and should have it in about six weeks – maybe to show results at the next CLG.
- Louise referred to the abatement notice against Martinborough treatment plant, but not Greytown and whether that meant Greytown is compliant. Aaron said that in terms of Greytown the non-compliance is significantly less and we feel that plant is running more optimally than Martinborough so there is no abatement notice considered necessary. Amy clarified that, in terms of the work required for these plants there is still a significant lot of work required at Greytown that needs to be done at the plant, so although there is no abatement notice there is a lot of work required.

South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC)

- Stefan reported that the council is happy with the advice it is getting from WW on options to address the most immediate concerns relating to the Martinborough plant.
- We need a plan that allows us to most efficiently use the limited funding available, and allows us if necessary to go back to council and to ask ratepayers for more in order to solve an urgent problem that needs resolution.
- WW has been providing us with good quality information and our job is to work with them and with the regulator. The most important thing is to have good quality regular communication about what we are doing to achieve compliance as fast as we can within the constraints we face. I think all parties are making their best effort and talking to one another as they should be.
- It is a challenging environment: these plants are in need of major investment and it is extremely expensive. We want to reach solutions but they will need to be in a staged, phased way that is acceptable to the regulator, and that ratepayers can handle.

Final points of clarification, constructive ideas for improving the value of CLGs

- It is good to see this CLG operating and dealing with issues within part of the public arena, while still being respectful of the higher-level conversations that need to happen to resolve them. The CLG meeting can be a medium to update plans and gain perspective.
- Having key parties attending the CLG is important, including iwi and not just mainstream organisations.
- Robyn pointed out that her role is to manage the transition for SWDC around 3 waters, and we are working closely with WW and it will be important as we progress through water reform to ensure that projects that have been initiated continue momentum.

Future agenda items

- Andrew reminded attendees they could send suggestions for future agenda items to Rory, in particular the next meeting to be held in the new year.

Closing Karakia was given by Adam Mattsen.

Meeting closed at 6.05 pm

Actions from this meeting

Item	Action	Who
Mana whenua engagement	Follow up	Rory

Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant Abatement notice	Agenda item next meeting	Rory/WW project and operations team
Update on progress at the Greytown WWTP	Agenda item next meeting	Rory