



WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

Agenda

NOTICE OF MEETING

An ordinary meeting will be held in Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Martinborough on Monday 28 June 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held in public (except for any items specifically noted in the agenda as being for public exclusion).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

Colin Olds (Chair), Cr Rebecca Fox, Dennis Hodder, Justine Thorpe, Paul Harvey and Frank van Steensel and Mayor Alex Beijen.

Open Section

A1. Apologies

A2. Conflicts of interest

A3. Public participation

As per standing order 14.17 no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda.

A4. Actions from public participation

A5. Minutes for Confirmation:

Pages 1-3

Proposed Resolution: *That the minutes of the Water Race Subcommittee meeting held on 2 September 2020 are a true and correct record.*

A6. Extraordinary business

B. Decision Reports

B1. Water Race Survey Report

Pages 4-11

C. Information Reports

C1. Water Race Report

Pages 12-14

**WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes from 2 September 2020**

Present:	Colin Olds (Chair), Paul Harvey, Jim Hedley, Cr Rebecca Fox, Justine Thorpe and Mayor Alex Beijen (from 7:17pm).
In Attendance:	Bill Sloan (Waters Project Officer), and Suzanne Clark (Committee Advisor). Wellington Water: Ian McSherry. Consultant: Russell Hooper.
Conduct of Business:	The meeting was held in Kiwi Hall, 62 Bell Street, Featherston and was conducted in public between 6:30pm and 7:50pm.

Open Section

A1. Apologies

Apologies were forwarded by Frank van Steensel before the meeting, but had omitted being presented to the meeting for acceptance.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WR2020/11) to accept apologies from Mayor Alex Beijen.

(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Ms Thorpe)

Carried

A2. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

A3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

A4. Actions from Public Participation

There were no actions from public participation.

A5. Minutes for Confirmation

The need for Council officers to enforce the water race bylaws, and inconsistencies between the Moroa and Longwood Water Race bylaws was raised as discussed at the previous meeting.

DISCLAIMER

Until confirmed as a true and correct record, at a subsequent meeting, the minutes of this meeting should not be relied on as to their correctness

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WR2020/12) that the minutes of the meeting held 30 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.
(Moved Mr Olds/Seconded Cr Fox) Carried

A6. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

B Decision Reports from Chief Executive and Staff

B1. Water Race Realignment Report

Mr Sloan outlined the background to the realignment requests and discussed current water race placement, engineering and other requirements for water race realignment consideration, and Council processes for realignment consideration with members.

The Subcommittee noted that the Council process for considering realignments had been changed to ensure early notification and consideration by the Subcommittee.

Mr Hedley presented objections because the realignment requests were presented late and in retrospect to the Subcommittee.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRS2020/13):

1. To receive the Water Race Realignment Report.

(Moved Mr Olds/Seconded Cr Fox)

Carried

Mr Hedley voted against the motion

2. To recommend to the Assets and Services Committee endorsement of the Fire and Emergency NZ application for Moroa Water Race to be realigned.

(Moved Mr Olds/Seconded Mr Harvey)

Carried

Mr Hedley voted against the motion

3. To note the Subcommittee's retrospective support and approval for a Moroa Water Race realignment at 78 Kuratawhiti Street, Greytown.

(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Mr Harvey)

Carried

Mr Hedley voted against the motion

B2. Water Race Subcommittee Report

Mr Hooper discussed the Longwood Resource Consent application process, including water flow monitoring, the addition of a fish pass, and a recommendation for offline stock watering systems with members. Council compliance with legislation and plans, and inconsistencies in the hydrology report best practice with the Moroa Bylaw was also discussed.

Members discussed the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the proposed Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Natural Resources Plan and requested a high level overview of compliance measures and Council's obligations for continued water race operation.

Mayor Beijen joined the meeting at 7:17pm.

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Members discussed other aspects of the operational report including:

- That a user survey was critical to understanding needs and setting direction.
- That the Assets and Services Committee accepted the Water Race Subcommittee recommendation regarding urban stormwater and funding.
- Water race financial balances and progress of the Opaki water race hearings.

Mr McSherry discussed the Wellington Water Transition Plan noting they were aiming for a soft transition utilising the existing contractor. Members agreed with the approach and discussed costs.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRS2020/14) to receive the Water Race Subcommittee Report.

(Moved Mr Olds/Seconded Ms Thorpe)

Carried

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Chair)

.....(Date)

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WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2021

AGENDA ITEM B1

WATER RACE SURVEY REPORT

Purpose of Report

To inform members of the outcome of the Moroa and Longwood water race survey.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Subcommittee:

1. *Receive the Water Race Survey Report, and*
2. *Present the key findings and recommendations to the Assets and Services Committee for consideration.*

1. Executive Summary

This report presents the outcome of the Moroa and Longwood water race survey (March 2021). It informs how property owners paying targeted rates currently use their water race and how they feel about future regulatory requirements.

2. Background

The Council provides two stock water races, the Moroa Race near Greytown and the Longwood Race near Featherston, which intake water from the Waiohine and Tauherenikau rivers respectively. The water races have been in existence since circa 1930 (Longwood) and 1890 (Moroa). The original purpose of the water races was for stock watering purposes.

It is recognised that changes in owner demographics and farming practices have evolved over time. With environmental and regulatory changes in mind, the Council is committed to the development of a long-term water race strategy for the Moroa and Longwood Water Race Systems.

To inform the strategy, the Water Race Subcommittee ran two community pre-engagement opportunities in February 2021. One was a drop-in day at the Greytown Town Hall and the other an evening session at the Featherston Tin Hut. The intent was to gauge water race users regarding their perceptions about how environmental regulatory changes may affect the use of their property and how they felt about it.

Following the community engagement meetings, water race property owners were mailed a hard copy water race survey; the survey ran until 15 March 2021.

3. Discussion

3.1 Survey Response

A total of 40% of property owners paying a targeted rate for the use of a water race at their property took the opportunity to respond to the water race survey. This relatively high response rate may be attributed to the direct invitational approach of a mailed survey and pre-engagement public open days.

The Moroa water race has a total of 291 owners, 113 surveys were received from these property owners. The Longwood water race has a total of 63 owners, 27 surveys were received from these property owners.

Of the 140 surveys received within the survey period, the return rate was 39.5%.

$140/354 = 39.5\%$ return rate total

$113/291 = 38.8\%$ return rate for Moroa

$27/63 = 43\%$ return rate for Longwood

The survey questions were designed as the beginning of the community discussion about the value and use of water races. There was a separate survey for Moroa and Longwood, due to the geographic differences, but the questions were materially the same. More than half of the survey respondents provided rich information with question 13 of the survey, other thoughts. This feedback is very useful in informing specific areas of query or concern for the long-term water race strategy.

	Survey question summary	Moroa (113 resp)	Longwood (27 resp)	General response
1	Have you made changes to your water race?	94 said no	26 said no	
2	If yes, what?			
3	Is the attached water race map correct?	88 said yes	26 said yes	Yes, needs to be clearer
4	Do you use your water race?	55 said all 24 said not at all	17 said all 2 said not at all	Yes
5	How important is the water race to your property?	47 said essential 21 said not at all	16 said essential 5 said not at all	Essential and important
6	Stock access – expectation not to linger. Comfort with strategies			Strategies in place
7	Feedback on regulatory requirements for planting and quality			Cleaning/clearing concerns
8	Timeframe for alternate arrangements if stock excluded			Not possible, need it
9	Alternate water supply for stock?	33 said yes 46 said no	6 said yes 20 said no	More don't than do
10	Neighbouring properties with alternate supply?	60 said yes 25 said no	15 said yes 7 said no	Some do
11	Do you consider the rates paid on water races reasonable?	60 said yes 25 said no	15 said yes 7 said no	Most do
12	Do you think that urban property owners should contribute to costs if	81 said yes 7 said no	18 said yes 4 said no	Majority say yes

	Survey question summary	Moroka (113 resp)	Longwood (27 resp)	General response
	they benefit from the stormwater management provided?			
13	Other thoughts			Real concern about the idea of the water races being closed down – important for stormwater management and watering stock/animals

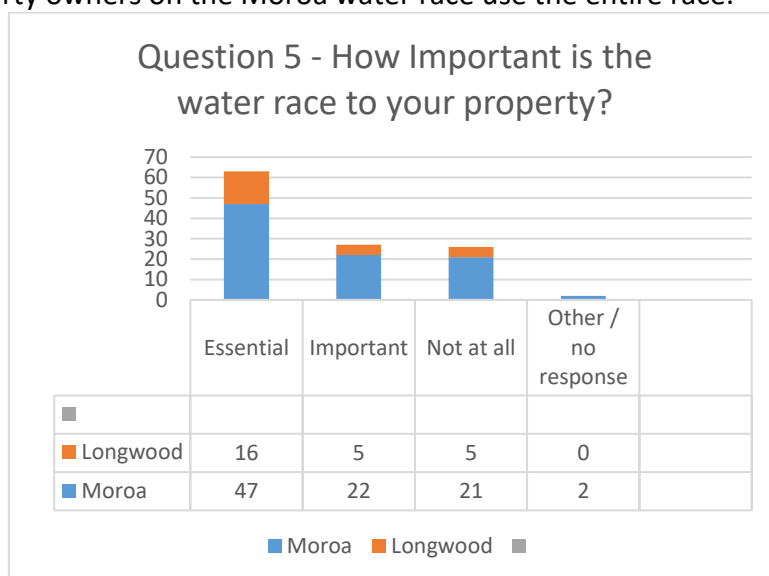
3.1.1. Themes and observations

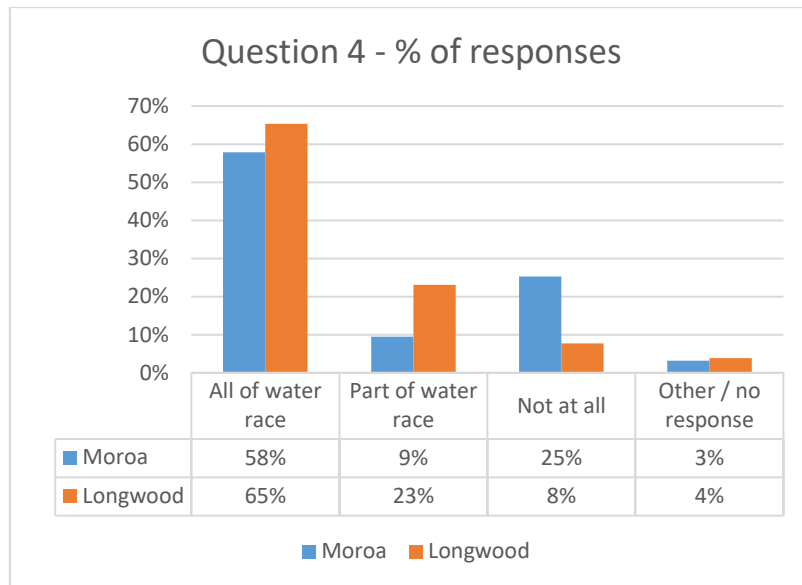
General themes emerging from the surveys include comment on the effectiveness of planting and fencing for stock watering, support for ecological planting and water quality improvements, the importance of the water races for animal care and an expectation for regulatory enforcement.

The community engagement sessions and the written surveys indicated that people were aware of the importance of water quality and the relationship that riparian planting has with sustainable land practices.

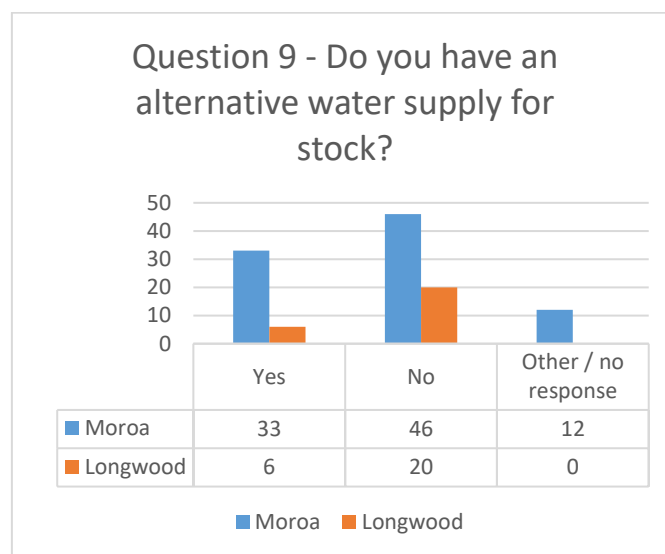
The survey findings are informative in considering held community values and will assist with future policy and planning work.

Survey respondents were clear that their water race is either essential or important to them (only 7% reported that it wasn't), they want the asset to continue to be available to them. 65% of property owners on the Longwood water race use the entire race; 58% of property owners on the Moroka water race use the entire race.



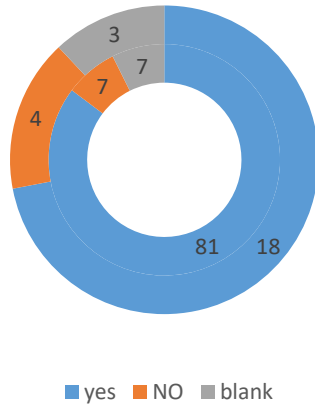


The other key consideration is what the impact might be if the water races were not available for stock watering purposes. Most of the Longwood water race property owners (20 properties) don't have an alternate water supply for stock, whereas 33 properties on the Moroa water race do have an alternative stock water supply.



There was shared comfort with the concept of urban property owners contributing to water race maintenance costs if they benefit from the stormwater management they provide.

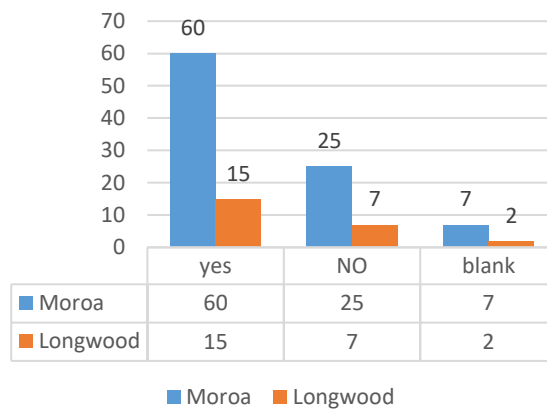
Question 12 - Do you think urban property owners should contribute to water race maintenance costs



Longwood outer circle, Moroea inner circle

Most of the water race property owners consider their current targeted rates to be reasonable.

Question 11 - Do you consider the rates you pay on water races reasonable?



4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Community Engagement posters

Contact Officer: Gen Drake

Reviewed By: Euan Stitt, Group Manager, Partnerships and Operations

Appendix 1 – Community Engagement Posters



The poster features a dark blue header with the South Wairarapa District Council logo and name. Below this, the title 'LONGWOOD WATER RACE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY' is displayed in large, bold, white and yellow text. Two light blue speech bubbles contain the questions 'Do you have a water race at your place?' and 'Want to talk about it?'. The main body of the poster is white with black text, providing details about the event and the council's commitment to water race management. The bottom of the poster has a decorative wavy blue border.

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reretahi Tātau

LONGWOOD WATER RACE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a water race at your place?

Want to talk about it?

You're invited to drop into the:
Tin Hut on Monday evening: 15 February 7pm – 9pm
There are changes coming regarding the management of water races, let's talk about how that might affect you.
Come along and have a chat – there's a survey too!

The Council provides two stock water races, the Moroa Race near Greytown and the Longwood Race near Featherston, which intake water from the Waiohine and Tauherenikau rivers respectively.

The water races have been in existence since circa 1930 (Longwood) and 1890 (Moroa). The original purpose of the water races was for stock watering purposes and drainage.

Council has committed to the development of a long-term water race strategy for the Moroa and Longwood Water Race Systems. It is recognised that the changes in owner demographics and farming practices have evolved over time; it's prudent to test the relevance of the water race assets for users and the wider community.



SOUTH WAIRARAPA
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reretahi Tātau

MOROA WATER RACE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Do you have a water
race at your place?**

**Want to talk
about it?**

You're invited to drop into the:

Greytown Town Hall: Saturday 13 February 10am – 2pm

**There are changes coming regarding the management of
water races, let's talk about how that might affect you.**

Come along and have a chat – there's a survey too!

The Council provides two stock water races, the Moroa Race near Greytown and the Longwood Race near Featherston, which intake water from the Waiohine and Tauherenikau rivers respectively.

The water races have been in existence since circa 1930 (Longwood) and 1890 (Moroa). The original purpose of the water races was for stock watering purposes and drainage.

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WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2021

AGENDA ITEM C1

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Purpose of Report

To inform members of activity and issues arising since June 2020.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Subcommittee:

1. *Receive the Water Race Subcommittee Report.*

1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the operational activity undertaken by Wellington Water on the Moroa and Longwood Water Races from January 2021.

2. Items for Discussion

2.1 Longwood Resource Consent Application Progress Report

GWRC is continuing to process the resource consent application to renew the consent to operate the Longwood Water Race.

The Committee will recall that the decision was made to apply for a short term consent to align the Longwood and Moroa consents (the Moroa water race consent expires in 2025). This reduces the information required at this time around efficient use of water and allows Council time to engage with water race users and determine the future of the water race.

GWRC recently requested an extension of the processing time until the 30th September 2021 due to staff capacity. This request has been accepted and we anticipate that consent will be granted in September 2021.

The process is at the point of determining conditions of consent. There will be some additional monitoring conditions which will help provide information on the effects of the water race which will be valuable for future applications.

2.2 Operational Update

Wellington Water (WWL) have now been operating the Water Races, on behalf of Council since October 2020. WWL have a full time resource tasked with the operation and maintenance of the systems and a summary of the activity is given below.

2.2.1. Health & Safety Risk Assessment

On assuming responsibility for the Water Races, WWL undertook a H&S audit of the operations to help ensure that maintaining the systems would not cause risk to its staff. The following works have been undertaken as a result of this audit and the assessment will be ongoing:

- Moroa valve path built to improve access to control valve
- Longwood control valve bridge made wider and rails installed
- Longwood intake path built to intake
- Longwood intake chain and post rails built
- Longwood intake platform deck to be filled in
- All work completed from within Wellington Water see attached photos of completed work



Improved path access to Longwood intake



Longwood Control valve access platform

2.2.2. Operational response

In addition to ongoing maintenance, WWL have resolved 46 reported issues on the Moroa Race (22 within Greytown) and a further four on the Longwood system.

Through undertaking proactive inspections, a further 13 issues were found and resolved by the WWL operator. The following issues are of particular note:

- Junction A18 under state highway 2 (twin culverts outside Greytown). Will require jetting in the summer to improve flow.
- A16 to A27 controlling flow towards Kuranui College. Also, the pipes that pass under the old dairy factory are small and often block with willow roots, which can cause upstream issues.
- Soldiers Memorial Park. Short open section is often vandalised and deliberately blocked. Will keep under review.
- B4 culvert under No1 Line has been blocking and will require jetting in the summer to improve flow.

The subcommittee is advised that since last reported water race activity operated routinely and in compliance with the resource consents.

2.3 Water Reform and the Water Races

Council continues to engage with the 3Waters Reform Programme and DIA and Cabinet decisions are awaited on the way forward through July (further information on the programme is available here - <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme#june-2021-update>).

Officers have raised the issue of Water Races with DIA, particularly how they relate to the Stormwater network. This is a national issue that has not been resolved and is likely to take time to work through as the process continues. Further information will be made available to Council over the coming months that will inform future decision making.

Contact Officer: Euan Stitt, Group Manager Partnerships and Operations

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive Officer