



WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

Agenda

NOTICE OF MEETING

An extraordinary meeting will be held in Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Martinborough on Monday 8 August at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held in public.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

Colin Olds (Chair), Cr Rebecca Fox, Dennis Hodder, Justine Thorpe, Paul Harvey 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.

Please note: Electioneering is not permitted in council meetings or on council premises – your cooperation is appreciated.

If electioneering is deemed to be taking place, the Chair of the meeting or council officers will bring your session to a close.

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 28 June 2021 are a true and correct record.*

A6. Extraordinary business

B. Decision Reports

None Advised

C. Information Reports

C1. Water Race Report

Pages 4-6

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes from 28 June 2021

Present:	Colin Olds (Chair), Paul Harvey, Cr Rebecca Fox, Dennis Hodder, and Mayor Alex Beijen.
In Attendance:	Euan Stitt (Partnerships and Operations Manager) and Suzanne Clark (Committee Advisor). Wellington Water: Gen Drake (via audio-visual link).
Conduct of Business:	The meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Martinborough and was conducted in public between 6:30pm and 7:26pm.
Also in Attendance:	Jim Hedley and Paulene Hedley.

Open Section

A1. Apologies

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WR2021/15) to accept apologies from Justine Thorpe.

(Moved Mayor Beijen/Seconded Cr Fox)

Carried

A2. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

A3. Public Participation

Mr Hedley tabled survey data and results from the survey he had put together and discussed the results. Mr Hedley was disappointed in the turnout to Council's engagement sessions and that the final Council survey did not get submitted to the Subcommittee for approval. Mr Hedley believed the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Proposed Natural Resources Plan was the elephant in the room.

Mrs Hedley supported by Mr Hedley did not think that conclusions could be drawn on the importance or essentialness of the water race as it depended on whether stock would be excluded from the water race in the future and how much land was serviced by the water race. Mr Hedley had defined properties up to 10 acres as lifestyle properties.

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

A4. Actions from Public Participation

Mr Olds noted the tabled survey and that the Subcommittee would need time to consider the results.

A5. Minutes for Confirmation

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WR2021/16) that the minutes of the meeting held 2 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Mr Harvey)

Carried

A6. Extraordinary Business

Mr Olds advised that he wanted to discuss the future framework of the Water Race Subcommittee.

Mr Olds highlighted the constraints of being a formal committee of Council and proposed that the Water Race Subcommittee become an advisory group with members elected from water race users.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE NOTED:

1. Action 266: Liaise with GWRC to see if there were limitations on the Subcommittee becoming an Advisory Group from a consenting perspective; E Stitt

B Decision Reports from Chief Executive and Staff

B1. Water Race Survey Report

Mr Stitt noted that the survey was conducted using a structured process and had achieved a 40% response rate which provided Council with good steer for moving forward.

Ms Drake advised that the survey was targeted to property owners that paid a rate and discussed questions and responses with members.

The Subcommittee requested that maps were enhanced to show more detail, and that original narrative was provided, particularly for question 9 and question 13.

Mr Stitt undertook to provide the Subcommittee with a plan for moving forward.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRS2021/17):

1. To receive the Water Race Survey Report.
(Moved Mr Olds/Seconded Mayor Beijen) *Carried*
2. To present the key findings and recommendations to the Assets and Services Committee for consideration.
(Moved Mr Harvey/Seconded Mr Hodder) *Carried*
2. Action 267: Prepare a water race next steps plan for moving forward following the survey results; E Stitt
3. Action 268: Refresh the water race survey maps so that they show more detail; E Stitt

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B2. Water Race Subcommittee Report

Mr Stitt noted that the update was since January 2021 not June 2020 as shown in the report and discussed the resource consenting process delay with GWRC due to resourcing and complexity of issues.

Members discussed the operational management changeover to Wellington Water noting that after an initial learning period they were now providing a great service. Regarding the proposed water reforms, Mr Stitt had raised South Wairarapa water race configuration and management with the Department of Internal Affairs and was awaiting a response.

WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRS2021/18) to receive the Water Race Subcommittee Report.

(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Mr Olds)

Carried

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Chair)

.....(Date)

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WATER RACE SUBCOMMITTEE

8 AUGUST 2022

AGENDA ITEM C1

WATER RACE REPORT

Purpose of Report

To inform members of activity and issues arising since June 2021.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Subcommittee:

1. *Receive the Water Race Subcommittee Report.*

1. Executive Summary

This report outlines current issues in relation to the operation of the Moroa and Longwood Water Races from June 2021.

2. Items for Discussion

2.1 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.

2.1.1. Health & Safety

No issues to report.

2.1.2. Operational response

Unfortunately, a detailed report from WWL was not received prior to this meeting. We have had limited inquiries from the public and our view is that WWL continues to manage our water races efficiently. There is still some resistance to the requirement that land-owners/users are responsible for the maintenance of water races on their land.

2.2 Water Reform and the Water Races

Council continues to engage with the 3Waters Reform Programme and DIA and most recently has submitted to Select Committee on the “Water Services Bill”. The second Bill, which will carry much of the operational detail, is expected to be introduced to the House in November. Information on the programme is available here

<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-waters>

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.

Management has recently been considering the possibility of transferring the management of the water races network back to the Council. We would welcome a discussion on this issue with Committee members.

In this regard, we would note the following:

The management of the water races has been carried out by Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) since 2020. Operation and maintenance of the water races is carried out to meet the requirements of the agreed 'Management and inspection Plan':

- WWL maintain and operate the inlet and outlet on behalf of SWDC
 - WWL regularly checks the full length of the races and clears any part of them on public land
 - Rural landowners are responsible for maintenance of the water races in their properties
 - WWL advises landowners of any required maintenance of the water races on their properties and follows up with SWDC to ensure the maintenance is carried out
 - SWDC's roading team maintain road culverts that form part of the water races.
- The Council is also involved in the administration of water races, as they are governed through resource consents administered by GWRC, and Bylaws are administered by SWDC. Forthcoming changes to the regulatory framework by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) as it applies to water races may mean the Council is required to be more involved in water races policy and implementation in the future.
 - Relocating management of the water races could integrate a full suite of services.
 - Relocating management to SWDC may help address some concerns expressed in the management of the water races carried out by WWL. The concerns primarily related to change of operating personnel, levels of service, and engagement with landowners.
 - Three Waters Reform as proposed by the government may alter the ownership, operational responsibilities, and the funding mechanism for the water races but is yet to be decided.
 - A primary driver for a review on the management options is to reduce the number of entities involved to ensure a clear line of site from ownership regulatory/consenting, maintenance, and improve customer communication, interaction and engagement. It also provides an opportunity to alter agreed service delivery and/or levels, if that is desirable.

- If SWDC took on the full suite of services in relation to water races there would be cost implications, as we rebuilt specialist resource to meet customer needs in relation to consenting, bylaws, operation and management, and policy. Some additional external professional resource will be required to manage the consenting requirements regardless of the management option in place.
- The option remains for Wellington Water to continue to manage the SWDC Water Races until a Water Reform decision on inclusion of water races is known - at which time management of Water Races could be transitioned to SWDC if Water Races are excluded.

2.3 Regulatory changes

Greater Wellington Regional Council briefed Assets and Services Committee in May on the impact of stock exclusion rules on water race owners/users. New rules come into effect on 1 August 2022 and the GWRC has a campaign planned to educate and inform on the changes. Financial support from GWRC is available in some instances for customers.

GWRC have confirmed that they will work closely with SWDC as new regulations are implemented. This will include some joint public engagement to help raise awareness of the new requirements. They also advise the following:

If you're considering the implications on your property in regard to land use and GW requirements, talk to GW. GW may have grant programmes to support changes that need to be made on private land. GW can be reached here land.management@gw.govt.nz

Contact Officer: Stefan Corbett, Group Manager Partnerships and Operations

Reviewed By: Harry Wilson, Chief Executive Officer