



**MINUTES OF FRESHWATER HUI
18 JUNE 2007, 9.00 AM, ROOM C360**

PRESENT:

Facilitator: Sioux Campbell, NZAEE

Andrew Saunders, Conservation and Environment studies head, NorthTec
Leah Spear (Staff Support), Jo McInnes (Minute Secretary), NorthTec
Susan Karels, NRC
Lorna Douglas, NorthTec
Meghan Henderson, Kaipara District Council
Amy MacDonald, DOC
Stefan Seitzer and Ira Seitzer, Whitebait Connection
Doug Te Wake, DOC Kaitaia
Ross Lyons, Oruaiti School
Stella Clyde, Otamatea High School
Terry Baker, Kamo High School
Sheryl Mai, Whangarei District Council (councillor)
Samara Nicholas, Drains to the Harbour
Fred Tito and Darren, Maori studies students, NorthTec

APOLOGIES:

Helen Moodie, NZ Landcare Trust
Robin Lieffering, Whangarei District Council (councillor)
Dr Mike Scarsbrook, NIWA
Jeff Griggs, DOC
Julie Holt, Team Solutions/Hurupaki School
Carol Young, Team Solutions
Keith Hartle, Dargaville High School
Kate Banbury, NRC
Alison Newall, Far North District Council
James Blackbourne, Whangarei District Council (waste water)

WELCOME:

Sioux Campbell welcomed everyone and introduced the New Zealand Association of Environmental Education - a national organisation which supports and promotes educating for sustainability. Its Northland branch, which organised the hui, focuses on upskilling, information-sharing & action to support this purpose. She explained the aim of the hui was to develop a collaborative approach for the future of freshwater education in Northland.

A range of workshopping techniques was used throughout the morning to gain information, stimulate discussion and critical thinking and develop action points.

What are we doing now?

Amy McDonald presented maps DOC had recently produced of where waterways in Northland had historically been and their very limited extent now. The 5% or so of remaining freshwater sites demonstrates a clear need to raise awareness and promote education with schools, community groups and agencies in Northland. Only a very small amount of those waterways is formally protected.

Participants described the work they're currently doing with freshwater education.

Otamatea School

- Wetland restoration project in Maungaturoto. incl "Gateway"
- "Don't bother the bugs" via **WBC**
- Initiate tree growing
- Kaitaia School working on a "Wetlands" project

Oruaiti

- Wetland enhancement and fencing of Inanga stream
- Visiting schools/modelling

Kaipara District Council

- Biodiversity enhancement fund – this year had a couple of freshwater applications which were successful
- Kai Iwi Lakes protection proposals -whether to ban power craft at the larger lake. General consensus is that it needs to be managed better. Meeting at council 20/06/07 to discuss this further
- Monitoring department

Northland Regional Council

- Environmental enhancement fund - \$500,000 for Freshwater School Fund
- Schools fund is currently \$15,000 a year and in 2008 will be \$20,000. Schools can apply for a \$2,000 grant per year
- Workshops
- Promote working with children and staff at schools
- School Visits – SCHMAK
- Environmental schools
- Sciences – monitoring, research, hydrology
- Storm water standards
- Water quality testing

Whangarei District Council

- Hikurangi swamp drainage project so it can be farmed
- WDC is involved with community projects
- Water testing thru laboratory moving toward Rain data
- Water abstraction

- Catchments management plans
- Conditions on resource consents
- Parks/Reserves – riparian planting
- New biodiversity fund – this has just started and currently is worth \$20,000 establish criteria
- Storm water – standards are improving and attitudes to this are changing
- Drains to Harbour program – this falls under same umbrella as the Whitebait Program. It is funded in 2007 by WDC for 10 schools

Department of Conservation

- Mapping
- Advising on freshwater management
- Responsible directly for managing public conservation land but also has a mandated role in conservation of threatened species on private land
- Kaitaia area – four schools on Whitebait Connection
- NZ Landcare Trust group liaison
- Eco – Sourced plants
- Maintaining and restoring lakes
- Dune Lakes
- Kaitaia is the most active area in Freshwater projects

Northtec

- Focus on developing capacity
- Regionalised environmental studies. Northtec provide labour to schools on finishing/aiding Whitebait programs
- There are currently 400 students involved in the Conservation Environmental Program
- Project monitoring annually
- Level 6 Freshwater Ecology paper
- Staff involved in consultancy with councils and Department of Conservation
- Level 2 Horticulture has 1000 students forming small nurseries around the region. Fund under education could be a community asset. Schools should contact Noel Henry who is the co-ordinator for these programs.
- Andrew Saunders has access to community education funding.

Whitebait Connection – (Meryl ?? delivering in Northland)

- Last report stated how many schools and students Meryl works with
- Maintaining relationships in schools
- Whangarei based nursery is under resourced, Buck Cullen is facilitating programme at the Nursery
- Funding support ex Department of Conservation
- Whangarei Falls Project
- Marae – Whangarei based with Northland Regional Council
- Ongoing requests from schools

What should we be doing?

The hui broke into groups to identify relevant content of various statutory documents, guidelines and reports including:

- Northland LTCCP
- Conservation Act
- District LTCCPs
- Curriculum
- RMA Amendments & Local Government Act
- NZ Biodiversity Strategy
- Regional Policy Statement
- New national priorities for biodiversity management.

Regional Policy Statement

- 3.3 Water Resources
- 9.4 Promotion of awareness and involvement of community in solution
- 11.4 Regional Water & Soil Plan
- Part IV 17 Water Quality – introduction, issues, policies/methods, environmental results anticipated
- 13.1-3 - Informed participation of the community in the management of natural and physical resources at area
- Individual and community stewardship
- Greater public awareness and understanding of Maori Cultural & Spiritual values.
- 17.d) - To require removal and clean up of rubbish and dead stock from water bodies
- 17.3 - Maintenance or enhancement of water quality of natural water bodies – be suitable for purpose!
- 19.3 -Adverse effects of human activity are avoided, remedied or mitigated
- 18 - Water Quantities – introduction, issues, policies/methods, environmental results anticipated
- 19 - Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Landscapes
 - Fig 2 – Northland Region – Major rivers, catchments areas and lakes

Example.

Regional Policy Statement

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Water Quantity/Abstract

Re. Waimarie Project

Key 1: Increase capability and capacity

Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Biodiversity on Private Land.

4. Priorities

- *Indigenous vegetation (restoration)*
 - land based
- *Indigenous vegetation*
 - sand dunes
 - wetlands

- *Indigenous vegetation – associated with ‘originally rare’ terrestrial ecosystems*
 - cave systems
- *habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species*

Regional LTCCP

- Sport and Recreation
- Quality of life - retains and enhances & regional identity (no outcomes)
- Uses -
 - Local Government Act ‘89’
 - Mandate
 - Resource Management Act ‘9’
 - Promote the sustainable management of the regions natural and physical environments
 - Section 62
 - Resource Policies
 - Water Quality
 - Water Quality and Flows
 - Protection of water bodies
 - Sustainable use
 - Maintenance of Flow
 - Efficient
 - Structures & waterways
 - Environmental Health and Safety
- Community Outcomes
- Improve water quality
- Reticulate sewage
- Monitoring – (Diploma)
- Flood Management
- Regional Community Outcomes
 - sustainable management of natural environmental
 - people educated and skilled

NZ Biodiversity Strategy

Theme 2 – Freshwater biodiversity

Desired outcome for 2020

- Condition of freshwater ecosystems – habitats is protected
- Restoration of degraded/scarce habitats
- Integrated catchments management
- Plant and animal pests managed and eradicated
- No further human induced extinctions of indigenous species
- Land managers and communities continue to be actively involved in protecting and restoring freshwater bodies and habitats of special value to them

Theme 8 – Community participation and awareness

Desired outcome for 2020

- Children and adults are learning about biodiversity through schools, polytechnics,
- Universities and community programs and are actively involved in its care
- People value biodiversity, know how they can contribute to its conservation and
- Sustainable use and are taking responsibility for action within their business,
- Communities and lifestyles.

Thinking, reflection and future directions

The hui broke into a “world café” tables discussion format to consider and document the following four points in freshwater education in Northland:

What's not working so well?

- Patchy/spotty relies on champions not process
- No dedicated resources, policies or processes
- No clear goals
- No “logo” – “Freshwater Northland”
- Maybe Enterprise Northland Co-ordination?
- Capacity low – few freshwater experts, scientists within the region
- Seemingly low demand
- New species found Ngataki– unknown, hard to manage, what we don't know
- Lack of co-ordination of resources – but whom?
- Career path training – demand for skills?
- No monitoring of baseline data, SOE reporting
- RMA has no compulsion
- Commercialisation of fish stocks – not managed – monetary gain
- Over fishing of commercial fisheries
- Confusion over responsibility of roles
- Ask for more input from “old people” who have knowledge
- Not tapping in to the resources we have
- Lack of information sharing between agencies
- People are too busy doing, not sharing
- Resource materials not available
- People don't know where to go to find information
- Funding
 - form filling
 - people
- Conservation is more important than funding
- We can't drink from our streams anymore!
- KDC – no dedicated person
 - Biodiversity fund
 - Kai Iwi Lakes
 - Limited impetus
- No representatives from the users of the water – e.g.
 - Fonterra
 - Forestry
 - Federated farmers – have large amounts of money
 - (No lobbying of the users NRC, WDC, FNDC, NRC)

- Schools making requests, but not able to continue work because the programmes are not funded
 - not built into operating budgets
- Lack of collaboration
- Lack of education of general public
- Advocacy role
- Environmental schools do not give you anytime to do the work
 - Teachers are overloaded
 - Curriculum changes
-
- Too much paperwork – not enough people! (Ratios)
 - Applications
 - Consents
 - OSH
- Need more tools – spades etc if a community planting
- Unconverted – more communication
- School based child based – what about the wider community?
- Lack of fencing of riparian land
- Education officers are overloaded with other priorities
- Programmers from 1° are not flowing to 2° and vice versa
- Dependant on 'inspired' teachers
- Not a compulsory curriculum area
- Lack of awareness of clean water issues
- Need time and energy to process applications
- Need a funding officer/co-coordinator
- Release time for further education (teachers)
- Lack of value of water

What is working well

- Positive media response
- Good, positive community consultant by students
- Strong community buy-in
- Environmental schools is growing
- Whitebait connection program
- Schools –
 - Monitoring
 - Pro-active – kids want to make a difference
 - Take action – kids enthusing kids and adults
 - Do-ers
- Growth of Awareness by policy writers and in community of issues and environmental concerns
- Educating more
 - More and more students
 - Community members
 - Representatives/Stakeholders
- EE is inclusive in new draft curriculum. Specific EE AO from 2008 (Level 2)
- Increased knowledge/understanding of freshwater (e.g., technology, assistance)
- Progress/completion, etc of rehabilitation/restoration projects in Northland

- Northland Health water education programme and initiatives
- NRC EED facilitators
- Team solutions science advisors
- Environmental Funding (it helps, thanks) NRC, KDC, FNDC, WWF, WDC?

Where we are working together

- Environmental days at Aroha Island – NRC
- Environment/biodiversity funds – NRC, KDC etc
- DOC and whitebait connection (esp. Kaitaia)
- EMR – local schools and community days
- Whitebait connection and schools
- World water day
- Dargaville field days (DOC and NRC)
- World Wetlands Day - Arbor Day (riparian planting)
- NBEG (meetings but what outcomes?) – focus on information sharing and relationships
- DOC/Northtec freshwater research (mudfish at Hikurangi)
- NZLT and local landcare groups and Department of Conservation
- Oruaiti school for education, consultation with parents, community and the local farm community
- DOC/KDC/Pouto School – L. Rototuna planting
- Conservation week (can incorporate freshwater issues)
- Schools working together – modelling what is being done, networking
- Drains to the harbour – development of education programs involving multi agency co-operation
- Collaborate thinking between organisations/departments
- Support from BOC gases and recycle gases (funding for school programs)
- Alignment of 3^o and 2^o education (hopefully freshwater education will follow on)
- opportunity for equipment sharing etc
- NZAEE – Reporting back on what's going on. Feeling of community and common
- goals
- Seaweek
- Kamo schools – primary, intermediate and secondary schools with inter-related
- flow-on programs
- Specific campaigns
- Waimarie Marae
- NRC
- Whitebait connection
- Schools
- Marae and local landowners

Where we would like to go

- All organisations well resourced with people that would help make things happen

- Advertise the polluters
- Pool of skilled labour to work with our tamariki
- Well known active network of people and skills to draw on
- No funding issues
- Swapping resources
- Freshwater quality education officers. Part of government positions
- Free PD for teachers (and release days, petrol etc)
- Promotion, support and cohesion with similar programme
- Here are the tools, e.g., 20,000 plants, just give us your “plan for action” and you can
- have them. For schools and private land
- Recognised connection for Freshwater and Marine environment
- More collaboration with secondary schools
- Paid to get together to moderate “AS” i.e. 1 month and tie in with Polytechnic
- More collaboration with Northtec, Environmental tutors (6 pupils) and teachers (30 pupils) get together
- Funding approvals take too long
- Environmental education funding agents for schools and community groups.
Position
- at NRC for example
- Recognised integrated curriculum for literacy and numeracy
- Community based monitoring informed by centralised resource e.g. technical & educators
- Enterprise Northland – maybe they could help as funding/co-coordinators agency
- More information and agency integration for Freshwater outcomes for the region so we all know what we are doing
- Forum of federated farmers, forestry, Fonterra, NRC, DC’s and Iwi.
 - each contributes funding and pool for EE, community restoration, Iwi.
- Small community in charge of their own environment e.g. in remote communities
- National television advertising for Freshwater

What we can actually do now to work more effectively together

This was undertaken as an individual sticky-note brainstorm session with the proviso that all ideas contributed had to be realistic and assigned to a person or group with the mandate to undertake the specific idea/action.

- Email network for freshwater and marine networks (Northland branch, NZAEE) so that:
 - We know what we are each doing and capacities so we can promote each other;
 - All to contribute
 - Samara to email out.
- Work collaboratively towards World Wetlands Day and other freshwater related occasions/events. More of us together – more time and resources available – bigger better outcome. Who??

- Makes submissions to formal plans such as LTCCPs, regional plans etc to raise awareness of freshwater issues. (NZAEE, individuals, groups, agencies).
- Sponsorship of EE programmes instead – try Air NZ and Fonterra (Andrew & Samara)
- Collaboration of cluster schools that are in same communities (Ross for his area)
(By individual schools)
(Julie and Carol)
- Encourage councils to establish positions that promote, encourage and work with schools and other community groups on biodiversity projects incl freshwater (Councillors. NZAEE to write to WDC, KDC, FNDC)
- Develop a job description for a new “funding broker” position – would assist groups throughout Northland (Enterprise Northland)
- Make a list of possible funding sources for freshwater and marine in Northland
 - (Fund view on Whangarei District Council website – need a library card. Who?)
- Simplify funding application processes
 - (NRC and others offering funds)
- Establish an Environmental Projects Officer for searching funding (Ent Northland)
- Centralise funding/Professionalise application i.e. through a central agency?
 - (NRC or Enterprise Northland)
- Establish an advocacy education/funding pool
 - (NBEG/NIF)
- Establish regional freshwater technical and education forum with KDC, WDC, NRC, FNDC, DOC, Iwi, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, forestry companies etc
- Freshwater stakeholders create a funding forum. All industries including Federated Farmers, Forestry (forest owners), Iwi, Fonterra, WDC, KDC, FNDC, ARC and NRC under a single banner to fund (perhaps) direct freshwater education & recovery. Set goals for region and areas (NRC and Enterprise Northland)
- Promote establishment of the model used by Waicare (Auckland region)
 - 7 councils supporting a .5 position to have a freshwater educator – includes funded positions. Who?
- Check to see whether freshwater issues are discussed at the Whangarei Mayoral Forums (Sheryl)
- Get hold of MFE (“valuing water”) campaign – find out how it has been implemented and whether Northland can implement (Lorna)
- To be promoting freshwater ecology and preservation as a single issue – do not complicate freshwater issues with other environmental matters (All agencies)
- Set criteria for Biodiversity Fund specific to freshwater habitats and ensure that freshwater habitats, wetlands etc are included in the Biodiversity Fund criteria (Sheryl to talk to David Coleman at WDC)
- Encourage and promote use of rain gardens, particularly beside streams and rivers (All, eg through submissions to plans, in discussions)
- Encourage and promote the use of permeable surfaces (All, as above)

- Community reinforcement messages of keeping quality water (Councils via LTCCPs and action programmes)
- Increase the awareness of councillors of freshwater issues in Northland and first steps councils could take towards improvement. (NRC and DOC to run a familiarisation programme)
- Elect more “greenie” politicians (all when voting!)
- Data base work Done and “to do” centralised date base accessible to community (out of NRC)
- Develop an education initiatives sharing website (NRC, Susan)
- It starts in the mountains and finishes in the sea. Map all the pristine parts and not so pristine, as an example and measure the degrees (DOC – circulate maps)

What next?

Sioux thanked attendees for participating so enthusiastically. Notes to be written up and circulated. NZAEE committee and branch (next meeting, Sept 5) to discuss outcomes and undertake actions identified. Others with specific actions to get started!

The hui closed at 1.05pm.

Circulate to: Andrew Saunders, Leah Spear, Jo McInnes (Minute Secretary), Sioux Campbell, Amy MacDonald, Doug Te Wake, Susan Karels, Samara Nicholas, Stefan Seizer, Meghan Henderson, Terry Baker, Sheryl Mai, Ross Lyons, Stella Clyde, Ira Seitzer, Fred Tito and Darren.