



MINUTES OF HUI HELD BY WHANGANUI RIVER ENHANCEMENT CHARITABLE TRUST

Monday 17 February 2025

Online Hui via MS Teams

ATTENDEES:

Jenny Duncan (Chairperson)	Whanganui District Council
Kritzo Venter	Whanganui District Council
Pauline Welsh	Ruapehu District Council
Jill Sheehy	Independent
Gareth Gray	Genesis Energy
Chris Earney	Genesis Energy
Nicole Tawhiri	Genesis Energy

APOLOGIES

Kenzie Jackson	Genesis Energy
Lynn Neeson	Ruapehu District Council
Sheena Maru	Ngā Tāngata Tiaki

PRESENTATIONS

Weston Brown	Horizons Regional Council
Amy Eggers	Horizons Regional Council

WELCOME / KARAKIA

Jenny welcomed everyone to the hui and opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES

Apologies received and noted above.

HORIZONS PRESENTATION

Weston and Amy gave feedback on the work by various groups who have benefited from WRET funding via Horizons in the Whanganui and Ruapehu districts.

They expressed the response by farmers to the WRET funding has been positive and hugely beneficial to the catchment supporting wetlands and riparian programmes.

Approx 40% of the Freshwater Team's budget spent:

- Seven riparian fencing projects - \$46,000
- One wetlands project - \$3,200
- Eight poplar planting projects - \$7,500

Still a few outstanding projects which should be complete by mid-March.

Regarding the two groups who approached WRET last funding round and who were directed to Horizons, 900 poles have been provided to these groups.

- 500 to Taumarunui West Catchment Group
- 400 to Matiere Catchment Group

Poles are in good condition - have had a dry by favourable spring so plants took well. Good soil with decent amounts of rainfall. Education around good practice and silviculture well received leading to farmers buying ladders and loppers for pruning.

Belief that the whole grant for this year can be used – a couple of big fencing jobs to put through.

Weston will provide photos and maps to WRET to see data. This will help WRET to get their heads around what it's like and build enthusiasm.

Hopeful that the positivity continues amongst the rural community which could lead to an increase in funding applications from other catchment groups.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

No new conflicts to be recorded. Register has been provided to Pauline to review.

- ACTION: Pauline to advise of any conflicts with current projects.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

Nicole apologised for the delay in getting the minutes to the Trustees. Will try to get them done sooner in the future.

[Jill joined the hui at this point – 9:23am]

ACTIONS REGISTER UPDATES

#21 – Ongoing

#41 – Kritzo gave a verbal report on his two projects. He will get a written report and claim through so residual funds can be released back to the funding pool.

#69 – COI register sent to Pauline. Pauline to review and advise of any conflicts.

#70 – Project 23.007 was conditional upon projects 23.008 & 23.009 being completed satisfactorily. Trustees agree that this project can now proceed. A new agreement is to be written up and sent to applicant.

#71 – Complete

#72 – Remove – not required as funded through Horizons.

#73 – Jenny believes she has completed this but need to check with Kenzie.

#74 - Ongoing

TRUSTEE UPDATES

Whanganui Regional Council - Kritzo

Council has recently been restructured to better deliver strategic plan. In practice, the key objective is to deliver better projects ensuring all the risks have been scoped so minimise taking on projects and not fully delivering. Wai forum being established which will explore all the present activities and uses that impact the wai to hapū. This will allow hapū to assess where they want to be involved to exercise rangitiratanga. The forum is a trial and may lead to more.

Pauline asked whether Ngāti Rangī and Uenuku had been included in the forum – Kritzo was not sure and suggested it would be best to talk to Ngā Tāngata Tiaki who are the lead for the hui.

Independent – Jill

Jill indicated that this was the first she had heard of the Wai forum and how she has been busy with submissions over the Christmas/New Year period. Jill also mentioned that mana whenua is working with DOC to transfer management of Tieke Marae over to them.

Ruapehu District Council

No update from Ruapehu Council this hui.

Genesis - Gareth

Gareth screen shared data from his system (Hilltop) to explain the Te Maire rule and why genesis does not take from Whanganui from December to May. Genesis has had a summer intern from Ngāti Rangi - Hiria, 18yrs from Ohakune has been working and learning with the hydrology team based at Tokaanu.

Nicole talked about the tuna survey undertaken in January on the Western Diversion. Fyke nets were set above intake structures on Okupata, Tawhitikuri, and Whanganui Rivers and also in Lake Otamangākau.

53 tuna surveyed - 39 from Lake Otamangākau alone – 12 of these were migrant tuna and were released to the Whanganui River. Non-migrant tuna were PIT tagged and released.

GRANTEE / FUNDING FOLLOW UP

Nil

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Chris

First WRET hui today – learning and doing his best to pass on information.

- Receive and review January report.
- Review current funding applications:
 - Nicole added that project 22.006 had made contact to confirm that they no longer require the balance of funding approved.

- \$488k cash – includes \$54k to be paid out.

Based on Chris's report, the Trust needs to consider the amount for funding this year eg: increase project funding or increase our budget with Horizons.

Nicole reminded the Trust of the request made at our previous hui from Nancy Tuaine to support Mouri Turoa. There were some reservations supporting this kaupapa due to many farmers not wanting Mouri Turoa on their properties and the availability of other funding to Mouri Turoa. Kritzo suggested the Trust engage with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki for input as to where the money could best be used. Jenny suggested we talk more about this with Sheena.

Biggest sediment flows in the Ohura / Ongarue Catchment.

Farming and forestry impact – How do we identify areas? There was a suggestion that we talk more with Weston around how we can contribute.

Overall, there is full support to spend the money, just need to consider how we do that.

- ACTION: Nicole to ask project 22.006 for photos and an update to see how the planting has taken.
- ACTION: Talk more with Sheena around Mouri Turoa and engagement with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki.
- ACTION: Discuss with Weston how we can identify areas we could contribute to.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This was not discussed as further work needs to be completed to refine the current version.

GRANT ROUND

Need to know advertising avenues so Nicole can set the ad up and get it out before the end of March.

- Free papers
- Rūnanga pages
- Council websites

Whanganui advertising charges are high – Council page allows one free advertisement.

Pauline advised that she'll catch up with Nicole offline. Jenny will also check for her district.

- ACTION: Pauline to check advertising avenues for Ruapehu District
- ACTION: Jenny to check advertising avenues for Whanganui District.
- ACTION: Nicole to provide ad to all Trustees to share amongst their networks.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Gareth shared where to access flow data on the Genesis website. He also has access to other data through his previous employer who is interested in combining the information for the Whanganui awa. Can help to be realistic about what can be achieved. The data shows that the river has always had sediment even with forests still in place.

NEXT HUI

- 26 May – 10am
- Te Pae Tata (if available)

MEETING CLOSED

10:40am