



The Chairperson and Members
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

7.4.0
CE02-007

WATER SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT

REASON FOR THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Committee on views expressed at the Water Workshop held on Monday 28 January 2002, and to enable the Committee to determine a way forward.

BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2001 Commissioners appointed jointly by the Wellington Regional Council and the Kapiti Coast District Council declined to grant approval to the District Council to supplement the water supply from the Otaki River. After due consideration the Council decided not to appeal the decision.
- 2.2 This decision effectively brought the quest for a supplementary water supply back to square one. After discussions with Councillors the Mayor initiated a workshop bringing together key parties with an interest in, and contribution to make towards, addressing the issues related to water supply and management. The workshop was held on Monday, 28 January 2002.
- 2.3 It is now necessary for the Committee to decide on next the steps that it wishes to take in addressing the issues.

CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Issues and Options

Local Government Bill

- 3.1.1. The *Local Government Bill* defines the purpose of local authorities as “... to enable local decision-making, by, and on behalf of, individuals in their communities, to democratically promote and action their social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being in the present and for the future.” This effectively defines the purpose of local government as one of ensuring sustainable development in local communities.

Sustainable Urban Communities (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment)

- 3.1.2. Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment asks the question; “What are we trying to sustain?” His view is that it is our social, natural and economic capitals:

- Quality of life

- Ecological health
- Wealth creation
- Social equity
- Participatory democracy.

Communities' ability to address these issues is limited by short-term thinking, limited visioning and leadership and fragmented and limited urban research.

3.1.3. Water, considered in a sustainability context, currently is characterised by:

- High consumption
- Under valued, poorly priced
- Lacks integrated management
- Systems supply single quality for all uses
- Mains design dominated by fire fighting needs
- Limited community understanding of water systems
- Complex legislation; no Central Government "home" for waters.

Current water/wastewater systems are brittle and require a more biological approach so that one broken link will not cripple the network.

3.1.4. Dr Williams suggested a possible starting point is how the community thinks about its water needs:

- Will purchase water by the bottle as an expensive health drink
- Considers tap water a "right, a public good commodity?"
- Waste water: water or waste?
- Storm water; asset or flood?
- Rainwater: pure in advertisements but risky off your roof?
- Water: an abundant resource?

3.1.5. He suggests the following possible goals for urban water management:

- Access for all to potable water?

- No waste waters placing people and ecosystems at risk?
- Water supplying ecosystems not degraded?
- Storm waters are utilized and managed in ways that do not put people, ecosystems or property at risk?
- Contributes to fire fighting?
- The costs of provision and management are borne fairly by all citizens and businesses?

3.1.6. Dr Williams suggests the following core principles for moving on:

- Focus less on ideologies and more on evidence, robust knowledge for robust policy;
- Develop informed communities who own long term infrastructure objectives;
- Think long
- Take short steps
- Keep going
- Be incremental
- Be pragmatic
- Consider relationship to urban zoning
- Embrace innovation in social, fiscal and technical dimensions, seek and remove barriers to innovation
- Critically research the whole way we invest in, value, charge for and manage our physical resources and environmental assets.

Developing more sustainable urban systems is a deeply social/political process. It is only secondly a technical/economic matter yet technologies and who controls finances tend to shape the debates and, too often, the final actions.

So making progress needs:

- Central government engagement and capacity
- Talented team leaders at the helm of Councils
- Wise Councillors

- Engaged citizens

3.2 Regional Freshwater Plan (Wellington Regional Council)

3.2.1. The *Regional Freshwater Plan* is one of five Regional Plans prepared by the Wellington Regional Council. The other four plans cover, Air, Coast, Soil and Discharges to Land. The *Regional Freshwater Plan* provides the management framework for freshwater in the Wellington Region. It became operative in December 1999 and was the result of an extensive community consultation process.

3.2.2. The Regional Freshwater Plan contains policies on the taking, using, damming or diversion of freshwater. It specifies minimum flows to safeguard life supporting capacity of rivers and streams and specifies how much water can be taken from groundwater so that the resource remains healthy.

3.2.3. There are four current or potential sources of water for public supply, with allowable minimum flows:

- Waitohu Stream – 140 l/s
- Otaki River – 2550 l/s
- Waikanae River – 750 l/s
- Wainui Stream – no minimum flow

Together with six groundwater zones:

- Waitohu
- Otaki
- Coastal
- Hautere
- Waikanae/Paraparaumu
- Paekakariki

3.2.4. January 1, 2003 is a key date in that consents to abstract water from the Waikanae River expire. Currently the Waikanae River, in times of low flow is unable to meet demand. The Otaki River is under allocated and the groundwater resource throughout the District is not fully utilized but needs further exploration as to quality and quantity.

3.3 Wellington Regional System (Wellington Regional Council)

3.3.1. Very preliminary consideration has been given to supplying the Kapiti Coast District with water from the Wellington Regional System.

Preliminary work suggests that the preferred route for such delivery would be over the Paekakariki Hill. In addition to the pipe line there would be additional capital requirements to:

- Boost pumping station at Pauatahanui
- Boost chlorination
- Augment the river intake pumping station at Te Marua.

Issues related to delivery of water from the Wellington system include:

- Paekakariki would be supplied continuously from the Wellington System in order to flush the system
- Water would be fluoridated and chlorinated
- Rates may be payable on the pipeline infrastructure
- Possible water quality issues arising from mixing the water.

NOTE: Pukerua pipeline too small

3.3.2. Three possible options exist for funding:

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| Option 1 | Kapiti builds and owns all new infrastructure from Pauatahanui and pays a volume unit rate for water supplied plus a fixed monthly fee. |
| Option 2 | Regional Council builds and owns new pipeline and associated new infrastructure. Kapiti vests Waikanae Treatment Plant and existing bulk mains to Regional Council. Regional Council provides bulk water to Kapiti to meet requirements. Effectively Kapiti rejoins the regional “club”. |
| Option 3 | Regional Council builds and owns new pipeline and associated new infrastructure. Kapiti vests all water (and perhaps wastewater) assets in Regional Council which takes over all water (and waste) supply responsibilities to consumers in Kapiti area. |

A range of variations on these options could be explored.

3.4 Public Health considerations (Regional Public Health)

3.4.1. A safe, sufficient, potable water supply is essential to the maintenance of good human health. Potable water is required for drinking, preparation and cooking of food, personal hygiene and safe disposal of human waste. The essential features of a good drinking water supply include:

- Source that provides sufficient volume;
- Effective treatment system;
- Protection of the source;
- Sufficient storage;
- Sufficient pressure within the network.

3.4.2. Kapiti Coast District is in desperate need of a supplementary source of drinking water. Up until now it has been a matter of luck that a civil emergency has not occurred. A long term strategic plan should have been put in place in the 1970's and 80's.

3.4.3. The development of a long term water services strategic plan for the Kapiti Coast District is long overdue. It should be based on integrated, sustainable catchment management. In the view of Regional Public Health two options for a supplementary source of water meet acceptable risk criteria. These are the Otaki well field and pipeline and the Wellington Bulk water system. Reservoir storage, ground water and river recharge options all have unacceptable levels of risk in the view of Regional Public Health.

3.4.4. In developing a strategic plan the following key points are required to be considered:

Goals

Public health

Ecological sustainability

Urgent

supplementary source

water conservation

Long term

integrated catchment management of Kapiti rivers and ground water

innovation in water conservation and recycling.

3.4.5. Regional Public Health considers that the Kapiti Coast District has been lucky, is living on borrowed time and needs to “stop procrastinating.”

3.5 Spiritual Significance of Water to Maori (Local Iwi)

3.5.1. The workshop heard on a very personal level the value placed by Maori on water and its importance in everyday life. It is sacred, tapu because it cleanses, is healing and is life.

3.5.2. Attached as appendix one is a useful paper published by the Ministry for the Environment attempting to explain the traditional values that need to be considered and accommodated in the Councils’ exploration of the issues.

3.6 Comment from the Chair of the Wellington Regional Council

3.6.1. The issues have been considered for a period of over 25 years but in the end it will be a local decision. The Regional Council appreciated being included in discussions and having the opportunity to present its perspective as being responsible for resource management matters and the supplier of bulk water to the Region. The Kapiti District, with the combined wisdom of the participants, will need to come up with a plan for long term sustainability. The Regional Council was pleased that the Kapiti Coast District Council had taken this initiative.

3.7 Current state of water supply and demand in Kapiti Coast District (District Council)

3.7.1. Attached as appendix two are tables showing details of current water supplies together with statistics on demand.

3.8 Financial Considerations

Rough estimates to provide a supplementary water supply for Kapiti Coast District range from \$10m to \$25m. The Council will adopt a process that progressively refines the options and projected costs.

3.9 Legal Considerations

Provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 1974 and the Health Act impact on the Council’s consideration of the issues.

3.10 Consultation

Issues related to water are a key concern to the wider community. In attempting to reach agreement on the way ahead wide public consultation and participation is a key component and must be worked into any programme to consider the issues.

3.11 Publicity Considerations

There is considerable media interest in the issues and a well informed media will be an essential component in working with the community towards a satisfactory result.

3.12 Other Considerations

There are no other considerations relevant at this time.

CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The Water Workshop brought together a range of views related to the complex issues facing the Kapiti Coast District Council in managing the supply of water to residents. There were some areas of agreement:

- A long-term view based on the sustainable, integrated management of catchments is required;
- Some short-term, pragmatic steps are possible and desirable;
- Community participation is essential;
- Iwi involvement is essential.

4.2 The issues related to water have been debated over an extended period of time and a number of projects have been evaluated. Speakers expressed the view that the District needed to proceed purposefully and without delay. Broad time parameters were outlined:

- a) 2002 – building community consensus on preferred approach;
- b) 2003 – obtaining necessary consents and approvals for desired approach, detailed design.
- c) 2004 – implementation of agreed project/s.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. That the report be received.
- 5.2. That the Committee establish a Working Party comprising the Mayor and two Councillors charged with undertaking the detailed design of a process and programme to resolve both the immediate and long-term issues of supply and management of water in the Kapiti Coast District.
- 5.3. That the programme be generally designed so that the following timetable is achieved:
 - a> 2002 – Building community consensus on preferred approach;

- b) 2003 – Obtaining necessary consents and approvals for desired approach.
- c) 2004 – Implementation of agreed project/s.

5.4. That Iwi be invited to appoint two representatives to the Working Party to act as equal participants in the process.

Report prepared by:



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