



Report 03.180
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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
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Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) review.

2. Background

The LWVDS rates classification has been in place since 1960. This Scheme is now under review as part of the agreed programme to progressively review the Wairarapa river management schemes. Progress has been slower than expected due to the resignation of Ian Heslop, previously Divisional Engineer, and the difficulty of attracting a new engineer. The review will follow the same stages as the recently completed reviews on other schemes.

3. What Has Happened So Far?

A staff taskforce group has been created, comprising:

- Ranjan Cyril (LWVDS Scheme Manager)
- Dave Sim (LWVDS Supervisor)
- Rob Harrison (for classification skills)
- Des Peterson (for mapping skills)
- Michael Hewison (Investigations Engineer)
- David Bulman (Classifier)
- Ian Gunn (Land & River Operations Manager)

The group is currently collating information on the existing Scheme. Simple tasks such as identifying the Scheme boundary has been illuminating for this group.

Contact has been made with Ravi Mangar, South Wairarapa District Council Engineer, to encourage him to consider developing an asset management plan for his Council's assets in the Scheme area. He is still considering his options.

A number of consultants have been contacted or engaged for specific tasks:

- Phil Wallace - development of an hydraulic model of the main river system – 85% complete
- Bill Armstrong (Montgomery Watson) - for an environmental assessment of the Scheme
- Andy Duncan - collation of background data on expenditure and hydrology
- Garry Williams - assessment of river management options
- Riley Consultants - earthquake vulnerability assessment. Currently on hold until the completion of specific WELA studies on liquefaction.

The suggested composition of the LWVDS Review Committee is as follows:

- Current Scheme Advisory Committee members
- Ravi Mangar and an additional representative from South Wairarapa District Council
- An Iwi representative – after consultation with the South Wairarapa District Council Maori Standing Committee
- Observer status for representatives from the Department of Conservation and GWRC Landcare Division (Parks & Forests).

It is proposed to have the first formal meeting of the Review Committee following the Annual Scheme Meeting in May.

4. Communications

Scheme members will receive regular newsletters during the review process to inform them of progress and issues.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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