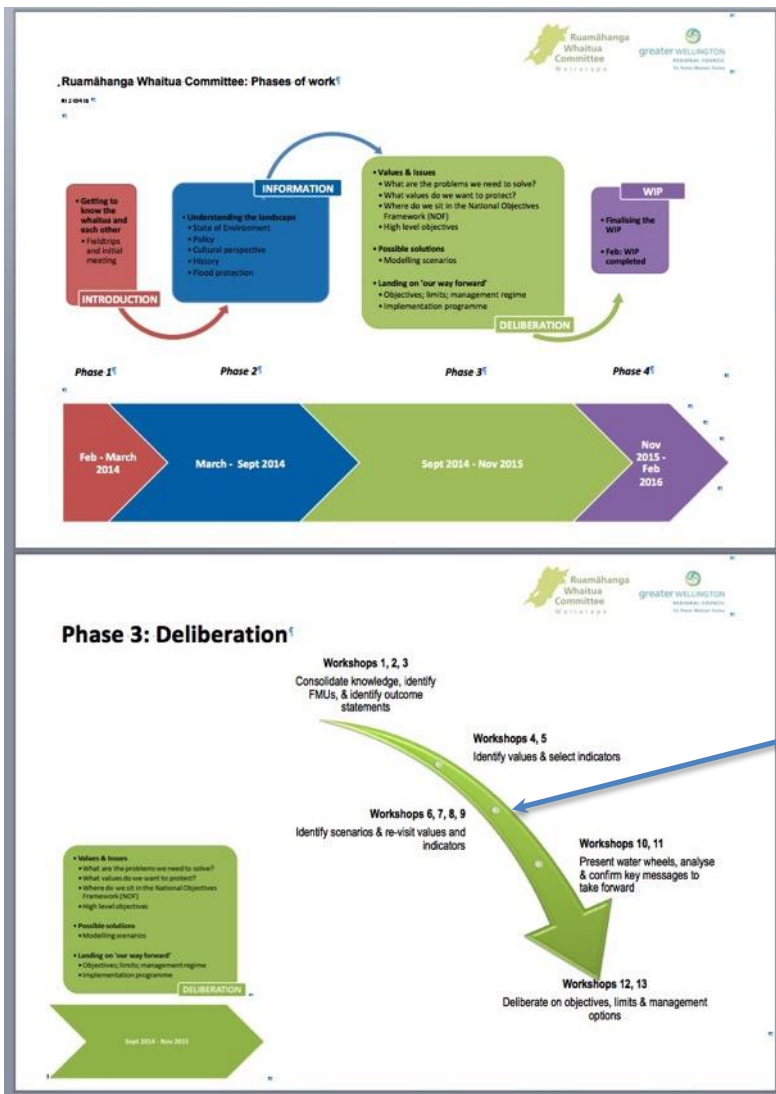


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 17

March 7 2016 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Masterton Town Hall



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**Summary** This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held March 7 2016 at Masterton Town Hall.

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**Contents** These notes contain the following:

- A Workshop Attendees
  - B Workshop Purpose
  - C Follow up to previous workshop actions
  - D Review of Interim Freshwater Management Units (FMU's)
  - E Pathogen Management
  - F General Business and Actions
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## **A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees** Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Peter Gawith, David Holmes, Russell Kawana, Ra Smith, Philip Palmer, Andy Duncan, Colin Olds, Esther Dijkstra, Chris Laidlaw

Alastair Smaill, Kat Banyard, Michelle Rush, Natasha Tomic, Murray McLea, Horipo Rimene, Mike Grace

Ton Snelder

**Apologies:** Rebecca Fox, Vanessa Tipoki, Mike Ashby

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## **B Workshop Purpose**

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**Workshop Purpose** The workshop purpose was to:

- To review the outcomes identified last year against our confirmed value sets
- To revisit and further our understanding of Freshwater Management Units:
  - Two types of Freshwater Management Units (FMU's)
    - FMU's for setting objectives
    - FMU's for management
  - Agree the next steps for confirming RW FMU's for both
    - Setting objectives
    - Managing fresh water
- Build an understanding of the existing pathogen management regime for

the Ruamahanga Whaitua

- Identify, discuss, and build a shared understanding of issues with the current pathogen management regime

This was achieved in part (the item confirming outcomes against value sets will be held over to a future workshop).

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### **Workshop Agenda**

The workshop agenda was:

12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00	<b>Welcome and Karakia</b>	(Peter Gawith) (Ra Smith)
1:10	<b>Actions</b> - previous committee workshops	(Alastair Smaill)
1:15	<b>Recap</b> – where we're at in the deliberations process	(Alastair Smaill)
1:30	<b>Review of outcomes</b> (high level objectives)	(All)
2:15	<b>Determining FMU's</b>	(Presentation by Ton Snelder and committee decision)
3:00	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
3:15	<b>Policy areas – Managing pathogens</b>	(Presentation by Murray McLea and committee discussion)
5:00	<b>General business</b>	(Peter Gawith & Michelle Rush)
6:00	<b>Karakia and Close</b>	Ra Smith

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## C Follow up to previous workshop actions

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### Follow up to previous workshop actions

#### 1. Remuneration

Alastair and Chris Laidlaw advised that a recommendation to increase the honoraria made available to committee members was scheduled for consideration by Council on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

It was agreed that once the outcome of this is known, that a letter should be sent by GWRC to the CEO's of the district councils, seeking that they also consider recognising their council representatives on the Whaitua in the same way (Mike, Colin and David).

#### 2. Waste Water Treatment Question

Greytown and Martinborough consents have been issued with interim conditions that submitters are able to comment on. In the case of Masterton and Carterton there are grounds for review to address adverse effects on the environment and in the case of non-compliance. The RMA can require review when there is a change to a rule affecting a water quality standard.

3. **Revised water allocation issues paper** – No comments were raised by the committee.
  4. A report on **naturalising low flows** in the Ruamahanga River. This report will assist with the ongoing discussion of the use of MALF in relation to water allocation.
  5. **Gaps and management options for nutrients and sediment** – No comments were raised by the committee.
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## D Review of Interim Freshwater Management Units (FMU's)

- FMU Review** Ton Snelder gave a presentation to refresh committee members' understanding of Freshwater Management Units, and specifically:
- what they are
  - why we have them
  - the two types of FMUs (Objectives, Management); and considerations to bear in mind when defining them.

Following the presentation and a discussion, RWC members agreed to ask Ton to review the interim FMU set and come back with some recommendations to the committee in respect of:

- boundaries for FMU's for objectives; and
- suggestions as to layers / boundaries for FMU's for management.

**Action:** PT / Ton Snelder

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## E Pathogen Management

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**Overview** These notes contain the questions and answers for the workshop session to identify the policy issues for pathogen management.

Following a presentation from Murray McLea, RWC members identified and discussed issues with the current policy regime for pathogens in respect of the following three areas:

1. Community Waste Water and Storm water
2. Septic tanks
3. Animals – wild and domestic

In discussing their topic, RWC members were asked to consider all the dimensions related to the contaminant source, e.g.

- regulatory provisions
- non-regulatory provisions
- what is, isn't in place for them when they are:
  - a point source
  - a non point source
- when they are in transport, and
- when they are treated.

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- Community Waste water and Storm water**
- Storm water not managed – *standard that has to be met is not clear*
  - The time to respond to change in rules for waste water

discharges is potentially too long – *inequities between communities. Need more to achieve GMP (all sectors need to get to this point)*

- Waste water is not used as a resource
  - New technologies not well considered
  - Need a regime that incentivises progressive improvement
  - Need to move from discharges to water (all year round?)
  - Need to consider discharge standards.
  - Industrial waste water not responsible enough (it is treated as if it is domestic) – *but not everywhere*
  - No water meters (only Masterton), need network improvements
  - Training for operations.
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**Septic tanks and / or on-site waste water systems**

Should have a WOF system. This needs to include:

- Different risk areas e.g. grey water vulnerability
  - 60% septic tanks are prior to the old plan. TO CHECK– is it old or new plan are the requirements the same? Answer: Old septic tanks follow rule 74 of the PNRP (the provision is aligned with the old plan). There are two new rules in the PNRP for new and upgraded septic tanks (Rules 75 and 76).
  - Different triggers for new and old septic tanks.
    - *BUT a risk with this system of being told to rip it rather than “upgrade” it with new technologies*
    - *Technology is available to bring old up to standard*
    - *Should be about meeting the discharge point rather than making an old tank meet a standard*
  - Part of WIP
  - Public health threatened because someone else is non-complying with good practice
    - *separation between grey and black water*
  - Some people have their rain water going into their septic tank
  - Enforcement to discharge to land
    - *More about discharge than new technologies*
    - *If you meet this as per old plan good criteria for WOF.*
    - *Some people have their roof water going into their septic tank*
  - Introduction to high priority areas
  - Innovation:
    - range of on-site wastewater systems
    - different systems for different sites
  - Solution may not be patching up septic tanks
  - NZ Standards 15/47 are good (methodology for assessing is good)
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**Animals – wild and domestic**

- Domestic animals computer chipped
- Point source is addressed in PNRP
- Do we accept our current PNRP stock access rules?

- *Do we go further? Yes. e.g. Perpendicular walkways. Include water races? – Bylaws by district councils. Do they need to be fenced off? In PNRP.*
- Continuations of Riparian strips to stop / diffuse run off, wetlands, tree planting
  - *E.g. Constructed wetlands*
- Good management practice (*wider than farming. MfE are coming up with definition*) - better than regulation around diffuse sources (people to try to get around rules)
- GMP – leave wettest areas till last for grazing - *to reduce run off or have mitigation treatment e.g. constructed wetlands*
- % of loading that can't be managed for – wild animals. See rec from LAWF pg. 83.
- Some management options e.g. Canadian geese and paradise ducks. *Had culls previously of geese. Life stylers owning geese - monitor their activities – water body use. Education.*
- Recycle effluent – including cow pats – digester for methane/burning.
- Maintain flow through the system e.g. Henley Lake, barrage gates.
- Potential for WWUP to flush rivers
- On farm solutions for collecting pathogens. Tile drains, GMP – spreading of effluent relative to rain – reinforce if not already done.
- Need to encourage upstream users who discharge to have better practice.
- Encouraging best management practice through innovation
- Quality of the water discharge from your property is your responsibility. Net change.

## F General Business

### Follow up to Andy Duncan's Presentation

Andy Duncan gave a presentation outlining some ideas and concerns about how the questions of water allocation across the catchment are being addressed, and as part of this, the implications for water quality. Following discussion, RWC members identified the following matters upon which they would like further information from the Project Team, to assist in furthering some of the matters Andy raised:

- What are the assumptions behind MALF? And what decisions are then being made because of reliance on MALF? Want some data and numbers.
- What is causing the downward trend in low flows over time, e.g. what are the catchment scale causes of decreasing water resources?
- What are the different management options we could use to





**Pathogen Management: Animals**

- Domestic animals - **compost**
- Point source is addressed in PNRP
- Do we accept **any** PNRP stock access rules? Do we go further?
  - Continuation of riparian strips to stop **diffuse** sources
  - Good management practice - better than regulation
- GMP - leave wettest area till last for grazing. to reduce run off or have mitigation treatment. e.g. constructed wetlands.
- % of loading that can't be managed / for - wild animals. See rec from LANF 08.
- some management options e.g. Canadian geese and paradise ducks. Had culls previously of geese. Life stylers owning geese - monitor their activities - water body use Education
- Recycle effluent - including cow pats - digestor for methane
- Maintain flow through the system e.g. Hanley Lake, Barrage gates
- Potential for WHWP to flush rivers

On farm solutions for collecting pathogens. The drains.

- GMP - spreading of effluent relative to rain - reinforce if not already done
- Need to encourage upstream discharge to have better practice!
- Encouraging best mgmt practice through innovation
- Quality of the water discharge from your property is your responsibility. Net change.