



Report 06.492
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's Report - Catchment Management

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the Western Flood Protection activities, and progress of matters, since the last meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers report

The western Flood Protection Manager's report is attached.

4. Comment

Staff

Interviews for the new (region wide) Manager, Flood Protection position are underway and I am confident that we will be able to make an appointment from the candidates.

I have appointed Stephen Hill to the position of Manager, Support Services. Stephen has been with the Council for about 10 years in a Divisional Accountant role. It is great to have Stephen aboard and looking after the Masterton office while I am often in Wellington.

We are coming to the end of an era when Garry Baker retires at the end of September. Garry was employed by the Council in 1993 when it was decided we needed to up the level of engineering skill and expertise in the management of the rivers and streams Council inherited following local government reorganisation in 1989. Garry has played a huge role in developing what we see today on the Otaki and Waikanae rivers, in the Waitohu Stream and other minor watercourses, and in the excellent facility we now have at the Otaki

depot. In many ways they were the exciting pioneering days of river management in Kapiti and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to work alongside Garry on many of the projects completed. I wish Garry and Betty all the very best for their retirement.

Key Issues

Key issues which I am putting time into at present include:

- The cost share agreement with Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) for the Chrystals Extended stopbank project. Graeme Campbell and I have carefully researched the basis for the original KCDC contribution for advancing this project by 3 years. Hopefully this should help with the Committee's consideration of the request from KCDC not to increase their contribution to cover the increased cost of this project.
- John Eyles and I propose to arrange a workshop session for Committee members to discuss the affordability and funding of the proposed lower Waiwhetu flood protection works. In the meantime the focus of the technical investigations for the project will now turn to Phase 2 which includes the non-structural elements of the proposed flood plan.
- The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study. The issues for this project remain complex and initial cost estimates are significantly higher than the budget for this project. We are currently preparing the report on the evaluation of the alignment options to go to the special meeting of the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 28 September 2006. The reports will also include a public excluded paper on the potential impacts of the project on the affected landowners.

Issues raised at previous meetings

Phillip Purves is in the process of preparing a report for the Committee on Greater Wellington's policy for the disclosure and use of flood hazard information. Members will remember that this matter was raised following the completion of the Mangaroa River flood hazard study, and it has links with the current review of the regional Policy Statement. We will have a report for the Committee's November meeting.

We have made no further progress with the Pauatahanui stream clearing project or its integration with the wider catchment re-vegetation project being run by Peter Handford and Associates. The key next step is a further discussion with Porirua City Council.

5. Communication

No communication is required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Flood Protection Manager's report for the period ending 8
September 2006**