



Report            08.606  
Date             25 August 2008  
File              WS/08/16/01

Committee       Catchment Management  
Author           Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

## **Divisional Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 24 July 2008.

### **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. Background**

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

### **4. Divisional matters**

#### **4.1 Staffing**

Tim Watson, GIS Officer - Technical Services has resigned to take up a position with the Tauranga City Council. Tim has been with the Council for almost twenty years and has made significant contributions to many projects and Council work programmes, including the recently completed review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.

Overall the Division has close to a full staff complement so we are in a good position to deliver on the work programmes approved by Council.

#### **4.2 Boulcott Alternative alignment**

Both Council and the Hutt City Council have now approved a funding arrangement which confirms the Boulcott Alternative alignment as the approved alignment for this reach of the Hutt River stopbank improvements.

I attended the Hutt City Council meeting at which this matter was discussed. There was clearly strong support for the Boulcott Alternative alignment and clear appreciation of the work done by officers from both Councils to put together a funding arrangement acceptable to both Councils. The work to achieve the agreement has certainly helped maintain a good working relationship with Hutt City for implementing the Hutt River floodplain management plan.

### **4.3 Wet winter**

July and August have been very wet throughout the region, and over much of the country. I will try and get some figures to table at the meeting.

The rain hasn't lead to any major flood events in our rivers (so far), although the Jenkins Dip floodway (Ruamahanga River) has operated twice. No significant damage has been reported by our various river maintenance crews although the continued wet conditions could lead to extensive bank slumping on the lower Ruamahanga River. I did however receive a phone call from Wes ten Hove, CEO of Masterton District Council, asking about the possibility of improving some stormwater cut off drains on the rural boundary of Masterton. Run off from adjacent rural land is seen as a contributor to the overloading of stormwater and sewerage systems in Masterton in very wet weather conditions.

The wet weather has slowed progress with completing some of 2007/08 carry forward Bovine Tb control work in south-east Wairarapa. We have crews camped at both Lake Ferry and Ngawi, and on one block access to the rear of a property has been cut off by continual high creek levels.

### **4.4 BioWorks**

The first two months of the year has seen a mixed start for the BioWorks team. On the positive side the unit has a full forward work programme pretty much to 30 June 2009 (Year 2 of the preferred supplier contract has been priced and signed off), a full complement of capable staff, and the systems and processes in place to plan and execute this work to produce a good result.

On the downside the very wet winter has significantly impacted on productivity over July and August leading to delays completing Year 1 of the preferred supplier contract (which includes rework of one strata), and it will impact on the financial results for these two months. This will put significant pressure on the crew to try and catch up on the programme, and \$\$, over the remaining 10 months of the year on contracts with little financial margin.

The remaining Bovine Tb control work to be let in the Wellington region will be tendered in September. By this stage I will have a detailed work plan completed which will tell me what additional capacity the unit has until 30 June 2009 and what risks/gains are involved in tendering/not tendering for some of this remaining work.

## **4.5 Communications**

Jim Flack, the Communication Advisor assigned to the Catchment Division has now settled in and very much underway supporting the work of the Division. Below is a quick summary of the some of the projects worked on since the July Committee meeting.

### **Newspaper articles**

Six newspaper articles on GW initiatives were actively placed in Wairarapa papers:

- An article on the Honda TreeFund planting near Fensham Reserve ran in the Wairarapa Times-Age daily paper.
- Articles calling for rook sightings and another on pest plants were placed in the Midweek.
- Articles on the Makoura Stream Care Group, the Go-Green travel challenge at Greytown School, and the Honda TreeFund planting ran in the Wairarapa News.

### **Lake Wairarapa**

A communications plan has been written to get community feedback on the Improving Lake Domain concept plan for the reserve at the northern end of Lake Wairarapa. A planting day on 7 September for the site is also being promoted. This work is linked to the Lake Wairarapa Regional Park Establishment Group. Communications activities include:

- Placing the concept plan in libraries, iwi offices and GW office in Wairarapa, with a supporting poster
- Calling a meeting of the Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee to discuss the plan
- Sending plans to neighbours and other stakeholders
- Promoting the planting day and plan through school newsletters
- An article in the Wairarapa News promoting the planting day and plan

### **Whangaimoana**

Communications is leading a project to find a flood management solution for 22 properties (mainly holiday homes) affected by the lower Whangaimoana Stream at Whangaimoana Beach in Palliser Bay. Jim Flack is liaising with the South Wairarapa District Council, the farm adjacent to the properties that the stream runs through and the 22 landowners. Flood Protection engineers have suggested and costed two options. It is proposed GW could subsidise the works by 30 percent through the isolated works funds, if the property owners agree to fund the other 70 percent. Landowners are being canvassed about attending a meeting at SWDC in Martinborough to discuss the options.

### **Odds and ends**

Other jobs included writing a newsletter for the Makoura Streamcare Group, acting as a communications co-ordinator for the same group, organising two Honda TreeFund plantings, and arranging for GW staff to help judge the winners of the Wairarapa Schools' science fair.

### **4.6 Divisional year end report**

I have attached a copy of the Executive summary (Attachment 3) from the Division's 2007/08 year end management report as promised. I am happy to answer any questions the report may raise.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Geoff Dick**  
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management