

## Minutes of the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project Community Liaison Group meeting held at Eastbay REAP - Putauaki Room on 24 April 2018 commencing at 10:00am

**Chair:** John Pullar

**Scribe:** Hazel Ryan (BOPRC)

**Members present:** Eula Toko (Cultural Monitor), Rene de Jong (Whakatāne Harbour Care Group), Tui Edwards (CS2 representative), Matt James as proxy for Andrew Kohlrusch (Independent Monitor), Neal Yeates as proxy for Amanda Austrin, Cameron Huxley (Toi Te Ora Public Health)

**Others present:** Abby Tozer, Brendon Love, Ken Tarboton (BOPRC), Roger Houghton, Margi Martin, Emma Joss

**Apologies:** Bruce Crabbe (BOPRC), Amanda Austrin (CS1 representative), Hayden Power (Federated Farmers), Shane McGhie (WDC), Andrew Kohlrusch (Independent Monitor)

**Absent:** Tani Wharewera (CS3 and Hokowhitu Marae representative), Scottie McLeod (Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme), Clint Savage (DOC)

### Action summary

No.	Actions of 24 April 2018	Responsible	Status
1	-	-	-

### Item 1: Welcome and karakia

- i. Eula Toko said the opening *karakia*. The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

### Item 2: Apologies

Apologies were received for Amanda Austrin, Hayden Power, Bruce Crabbe and Shane McGhie.

<b>Motion: Apologies approved</b>	<b>Toko/Yeates</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
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### Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting

#### a) Matters arising:

- i. No matters arising.

No.	Actions of 6 March 2018	Responsible	Status
1	Project team to consider placement of warning signs at rear entrance to CS3.	Brendon Love	<i>Complete</i>

**Motion: That the minutes of the Community Liaison Group meeting of 6 March 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.**

**Yeates/De Jong**

**CARRIED**

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#### **Item 4: Communications**

During the presentation given by Abby Tozer (slides 3-6), the following points were commented on:

- i. The steady progress being made in physical works translates into limited media coverage and there have been no media requests since the last meeting.
- ii. The [project page](#) is being updated regularly and those interested in staying informed on the progress and events can sign up to receive news alerts in their inbox.
- iii. A public access path for recreational use has been constructed along the northern side of the Whakatāne River stop bank. This path is only for pedestrians and cyclist access and is limited from 6am-6pm while construction is underway due to heavy truck movements. Users must also bear in mind that the forestry gate will be closed outside these hours to stop the use of the carpark for fly-tipping.
- iv. The community open day is being planned for a Saturday morning in early June. Those who are not already on the CLG members or interested parties mailing list are asked to write to [kopeopeo@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:kopeopeo@boprc.govt.nz) in order to receive a notification once the date is set.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John Pullar asked why the media were not interested in the project and if there would be any upcoming milestones of note. Abby responded that without specific newsworthy events, the media were comfortable that works were progressing as planned and that the media may only choose to cover the crane lift over State Highway 30.

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#### **Item 5: Project Update**

During the presentation given by Brendon Love and Ken Tarboton (slides 7-17), the following points were commented on:

- i. Independent Monitor reports are being issued on a monthly basis and these reports, available on the website, capture monitoring and laboratory validation results.
- ii. If high results are received for air quality monitoring data, they will be shared with the community, however they need to be analysed in conjunction with compliance limits.
- iii. As shown on the map on slide 9, good progress has been made with dredging despite difficulties defining the canal base in certain areas and ensuring that removal of all contaminated sediment is achieved. The third section of the

- Canal has now been dredged and validation results have been received recently for the third section but have not been reviewed prior to the meeting.
- iv. A successful crane lift was carried out on 27 March and a half day road closure meant dredging could resume in the afternoon. The next crane lift has been rescheduled to Friday 27 April and the last lift before SH30 will be at the Paroa Road bridge in a few weeks' time. A transporter will be used to transfer the barge across SH30 at that time.
  - v. The sand bug is a mini dredge used under bridges to remove material the main barge cannot reach. The sand bug is used under and 20m downstream of bridges and sediment is transferred by a pipeline into a deposition zone prior to being "vacuumed up" by the main dredge and transferred to the containment site for storage and treatment.
  - vi. Wood pellets provide a base or substrate on which fungi can grow in the bioremediation or treatment stage of the project. At present, wood pellets are combined with sediment slurry which is then injected into geobags. The introduction of lime and woodchip into the geobags as a slurry is designed to avoid rupturing the geobags at a later stage and to provide optimal conditions for the fungi to be established within the geobags once the treatment stage is initiated. This will occur at least six months after the geobags have stabilised.
  - vii. A long-reach excavator is being used to remove weed generated as a result of the canal being closed off. The matt of weed floating on the surface has been observed to have very little sediment bound to it. The weed has been placed on the canal stop banks to die. Samples were collected and have been scheduled for dioxin analysis as a precautionary approach and to ensure that additional control measures are not required.
  - viii. CS3 preliminary works have been progressing well where the containment cell has been stripped down to the base layer in preparation for main works.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) John Pullar asked if the air quality monitoring provides real-time results. Brendon responded that in accordance with the consent conditions, particulate dust readings are carried out in real time and have an associated alarm, whereas ambient dioxin sampling is carried out in three rounds at two-week intervals, with the filter being sampled. Although the revised methodology removes the ambient dioxin exposure risk inherent in the trucking method, the sampling and analysis is carried out to give peace of mind to the community.
- b) John Pullar asked if material dredged from SH30 onwards will be contained in CS1. Brendon responded that there is capacity at CS1 and once CS3 construction is completed, it may start to receive material, in order to leave capacity at CS1 for possible dredging of the western extent of the canal.
- c) Margi Martin asked how the pipeline was holding up and whether there were any leaks. Brendon responded that the lines are flushed every morning and evening to reduce the risk of obstructions. Eula Toko added that the lines are flushed every time the dredge is moved.

- d) Roger Houghton noted that he had observed milky-coloured water in the Fortunes Road drains and suggested it may be the result of an aquifer. Brendon responded that he had not noticed any change there but it may be due to disturbance by an excavator working on an unrelated project nearby. He added that there is no connection from the Kopeopeo Canal and turbidity is monitored constantly in and around the active dredge zone.
- e) Roger Houghton asked if there was an issue of fungi or bacteria in the geobags dying because of excessive water. Brendon responded that Roger may be referring to the 2015 Dredging Trial, where it was found that post-dewatering injection of inoculated woodchip led to better fungi and bacteria growth. He clarified that the wood pellets are just a substrate at this stage and will be inoculated once the sediment in the geobags has stabilised and the treatment stage can commence.
- f) Neal Yeates asked about the plan for oversized material. Brendon replied that based on the laboratory results it is still intended to be placed between the geobags and Matt James supported this approach, stating that as it is below human health targets, it is preferable to keep the oversized material in containment sites rather than disposing of to a landfill and that mulching and composting presents greater exposure risks because of the potential for any residual contaminant to be mobilised.
- g) Neal Yeates raised the issue of a small wharf built in the Canal along Kope Drain Road by a neighbouring landowner and that the structure has been in contaminated material. Ken replied that it doesn't need to be moved for dredging purposes but that he would investigate this further. Neal commented that the work along Jones Road to improve flood containment had resulted in the area being a lot tidier.
- h) John Pullar asked what would happen to the trees in a storm. Brendon replied that poplars withstand wind well and that the final topsoil cover over the geobags will settle over time providing a solid foundation for plantings to go in.
- i) John Pullar asked if the bunds around both containment sites are higher than the 2004 flood level. Brendon responded that they are set at 1.7m RL and the bund height is unchanged from the original height. He added that even if flood waters entered the containment site, no sediment would be discharged due to it being contained within the geobags.
- j) Neal Yeates asked about bioremediation timeframes. Brendon replied that funding for full-scale implementation of bioremediation component is still to be secured. Ken added that if material is removed from the western extent, it would be preferable to start bioremediation once that material is contained.

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### **Item 7: Independent Monitor**

During the presentation by Matt James (slides 18-22), the following points were commented on:

- i. Matt acknowledged that February's Independent Monitor (IM) report is more technical than previous reports, with more description on the sampling method. Matt welcomes any feedback on how to make the

- report more accessible to interested parties and will aim to present future reports as simply as possible so as to offer an easy comparison from month to month.
- ii. The latest report documents the bone finds at CS3 and the process implemented to manage asbestos and wood waste found at the site. He stated that recent asbestos testing from civil contractor machinery cab filters came back at background levels.
  - iii. Matt gave some background information on how the accuracy and independence of the data is assured. He described how the raw data is analysed and results are interpreted by another consultant.
  - iv. He stated that dust monitoring at CS3 is within the consented limit, consistent with baseline levels, and monitoring carried out according to the Environmental Monitoring and Validation Plan.
  - v. The next report will have information on geobag sampling, oversized material sampling and recent canal sediment validation results. Once complete results of the ambient dioxin sampling are received, they too will be presented.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Brendon commented that it could be useful to include QA/QC blank results in the report to put results into perspective. He said that the result can never be absolute zero because with a low resolution test the upperbound concentration is at 20 pg I-TEQ/g due to the detection limits for the individual congeners adding up to 20, so 20 is effectively the zero for that test method. A more definitive, high resolution test result is accurate to 2 pg I-TEQ/g but is double the cost. Because the remediation target is 60 pg/g, the 20 pg/g detection limit is satisfactory and the QA/QC blank result provides a useful comparison because it is a result derived from a contaminant-free sample.
- b) Roger Houghton asked if the bores on each side of the Kopeopeo Canal are being tested. Matt replied that the bores currently being monitored are all located at the containment sites.

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### **Item 8: Cultural Monitor**

During the presentation by Eula Toko (slides 23), the following points were commented on:

- i. Eula presented on recent discoveries from material dredged from the Kopeopeo Canal. A piece of greenstone was retrieved from the shakers and assessed by the archaeologist who determined it would not be considered an artefact (pre-1900) because of its polished state and shape.
- ii. Eula noted that a process for treatment of discoveries that are not artefacts or of Māori cultural interest needed to be developed.
- iii. She spoke of the modified discovery protocol which is more practical to use to avoid shutting down dredging operations. She stated that the archaeologist is

- satisfied with the proposed non-urgent or modified protocol given that the Kopeopeo Canal is a man-made Canal which only dates back to the 1920s.
- iv. Margi Martin shared a recollection from her childhood when flax was gathered and eeling occurred in and around the Kopeopeo Canal, showing that the sites do have cultural importance.

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### **Item 9: Health, Safety and Monitoring**

During the presentation by Des McCleary (slides 24-26), the following points were commented on:

- i. Des said that he was pleased with the operators' response to the recent discovery of a piece of polished greenstone and the process followed to gain the archaeologist's opinion. He said that this type of find is more frequent when the dredge is operating close to bridges.
- ii. He acknowledged that the recent powerline incident involving overhead powerlines caused disruption to local residents and happened despite the risk being recorded in toolbox meetings. He clarified that the Contractor held a permit to work under powerlines and the incident may be due to poor communication during staff handover. He felt that H&S management in general was strong and noted there had been no further incidents, with a corrective action including tagging of powerlines.
- iii. He stated that CS3 construction was progressing well, with the same subcontractor crew from CS1 continuing on the project. Recent asbestos and wood waste finds at CS3 were managed in accordance with the Contaminated Sites Management Plan.
- iv. The Project Team and EnviroWaste Services Limited are working on a plan for disposal of material from the dredging trial site. The dredged material will likely be returned to the Canal and subsequently dredged and contained.
- v. The crane lift planned for Monday 23 April was postponed to Friday 27 April and will involve a half day disturbance with one lane open controlled by a stop/go operator, and a 30km speed limit.
- vi. In accordance with the Traffic Management Plan there is a 30km limit before and after the project site entrance off Keepa Road and a pointsman to control traffic and mitigate visibility issues caused by the road configuration.
- vii. Noise monitoring for dredging activity and construction shows noise levels within acceptable limits and although the barge is quite noisy for operators, they have additional ear protection.

Questions and comments that were raised during the presentation:

- a) Neal Yeates raised an issue of diesel fumes experienced at his house when the dredge was operating nearby. It was noted that the emissions were assessed and found to be within appropriate levels.
- b) Margi Martin suggested contacting Whakatāne Growers and Bob's Gas about the planned partial road closure at Paroa Road to minimise disruption. It was

noted that they would be contacted and added to the email list of users of Kope Drain Road.

- c) Margi Martin was thanked for her assistance in drawing attention to suspicious behaviour around the dredge witnessed after hours which was then reported to the Police. Margi asked for the hard work and sense of community of the Waiotahi workers to be acknowledged. She also highlighted the importance of self-care, PPE and vigilance around contamination. Des McCleary responded that the team of operators are all very experienced and focussed and that Toolbox meetings are used to raise risk awareness.
- d) Margi also acknowledged Harry Lagocki' contribution to the project including his role in the SKM proposal for remediation and noted that he is moving away from the Whakatāne District.
- e) Roger Houghton shared his personal experience of stress and cancer, having lived near contaminated sites and expressed why he is personally vested in the project and passionate about the clean-up of industrial contamination.

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**Item 10: Other business and date of next meeting**

- i. There is likely to be a Tech Talk on environmental monitoring at the next Community Liaison Group meeting in late-May.
- ii. A video archive of the Project is also being gathered for posterity and part of that task will involve capturing video and photo coverage at the next CLG meeting including a possible Q&A segment with certain participants.

**Next meeting:** Placeholder for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Meeting closed at 12.20pm**