



## WWUP Stakeholder Advisory Group

### MEETING RECORD

WHEN 27 August 2015

WHERE/TIME Carterton Events Centre – 5-8pm

FILE NUMBER ENV/05/01/57–v1

ATTENDEES	Jim Lynch	Chair
	Campbell Gillam	Wairarapa DHB
	Gary McPhee	Wairarapa Constituency Regional Councillor
	Stephanie Gundersen-Reid	Wairarapa Chamber of Commerce
	Richard Kershaw	Wairarapa Water Users Society
	Phil Teal	Wellington Fish & Game Region
	David Hopman	Masterton District Council
	Ra Smith	Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
	Don Bell	Sustainable Wairarapa
	Amelia Geary	Forest and Bird Protection Society
	Bob Tosswill	Wairarapa Regional Irrigation Trust
	Colin Wright	Carterton District Council
	Mike Birch	Whitewater NZ
	Liz McGruddy	Federated Farmers NZ
	<u>Officers and Consultants</u>	
	Michael Bassett-Foss	GWRC, WWUP Project Director
	Bruce Geden	GWRC, WWUP Project Manager
	Geoff Copps	Grow Wellington
	Greg Ordish	GWRC, WWUP Technical Officer
	Lisa Sims	Lisa Sims Ltd

### 1. Apologies

The following were recorded as apologies:

Paul Crimp	South Wairarapa District Council
Mandy Armstrong	Environmental interests
Hugh Barr	COARNZ
Jamie Fallon	Federated Farmers NZ (alternate attended)
Garry Foster	Department of Conservation
Kevin Steel	Ministry of Primary Industries (IAF)
Peter Munn	Wairarapa Development Group
Pim Borren	Masterton District Council (alternate attended)
Horipo Rimene	Rangitane

## 2. Observer

Hamish Carnachan

Wellington Fish & Game Council

## 3. Matters arising from record of last meeting

The Chair tabled his memorandum (#1) and introduced a discussion regarding communication between him and Wellington Fish & Game Council (Hamish Carnachan) requesting rewording of the draft record from both the 28 May and 9 July meetings. The Chair tabled some suggested amendments which each of the members were then provided with an opportunity to comment on, as well as the general SAG process to date.

The draft meeting records will be amended consistent with the two recommendations tabled by the Chair. They were:

- (a) Re Item 5 of the 28th May 2015 meeting, it was noted that the Chair had overlooked the record of the meeting already stating that Lisa and Hamish would meet.
- (b) Re Item 5 of the 9 July 2015 meeting, in respect of water being drawn off the Waiohine, the meeting record be amended to say “*Fish and Game is very strongly against this...*”, rather than stating “*Some members were concerned....*”

At the suggestion of members, further to the written comments received prior to the meeting (refer **Attachment 1**) instead of the meeting record detailing the discussion on the SAG process such as meeting procedures and the meeting record, it was agreed that members could submit a written account of their views on such matters. Any responses will be appended to the meeting record. Members were given until 10 September (2 weeks from the meeting date) to submit their views to Bruce Geden. **Attachment 2** lists written comments that were subsequently received by members within the above timeframe

Concern was expressed that the procedures and processes by which SAG operated were not sufficiently robust or clear and would like this addressed.

**Action:** Michael made an offer to meet the Forest and Bird representative before the next SAG meeting to discuss their particular concerns.

## 4. Project update

The report was taken as read with Michael Bassett-Foss providing a slightly more updated report on some aspects regarding recent progress.

## 5. Feasibility scoping

The report was taken as read; the following was also noted or discussed:

- Feasibility includes a task to investigate options to source additional capital; there are no additional funds past this work to conduct further social, economic or recreation studies etc. – advice is being sought from IAF and CII.
- Feasibility investigations need to proceed on the basis that workstreams don't get too ahead or behind each other as many are interrelated
- Geotechnical work has been significantly scaled back to enable other investigations to proceed
- Land use intensification (LUI) environmental effects and farmer demand are biggest current risks
- WWUP will need to co-ordinate with the LUI scenario work being conducted for Waitua – a significant amount of modelling work is still being conducted in this area
- The project is a long way yet from 'pre-consent' as understood by some; the current investigations are just the 'first pass' of the feasibility with a significant amount still to come
- Input will be sought from key stakeholders as part of the proposed feasibility ecology walkovers
- Review points are scheduled for May and October/November 2016, plus any instances where investigation findings indicate the need to do so - this approach is consistent with WWUP's previous investigations
- It was noted that there are "challenges" with on-plains storage option concerning water availability

## 6. Farmer Case Studies and Survey Work

The report was taken as read; in addition, the following was also noted, discussed or queried:

- Will there be a case study scenario which includes future farming technology under an assumption of less water and greater environmental constraints?
- Given Overseer only applies to half the proposed case study land uses, how are the rest going to be measured/compared – how are nutrient balances for the other land uses going to be assessed?

- Overseer doesn't pick on 'Smart Farming' practices – how will this be taken into account?
- A key risk of using Overseer for the case studies is the lack of connection between the root zone (where Overseer stops) and the river. How is this being accounted for?

**Action:** A response to these issues and questions will be provided prior to the next meeting.

It was also reported that since the last SAG meeting, 28 farms covering 2000 hectares, have been interviewed by Greg.

## 7. Communications update

The paper was taken as read.

## 8. Feedback/Opportunity to comment

Attachment 2 of SAG's last meeting Feasibility Scoping Report noted feedback was received from members as to what areas could be investigated during feasibility. In response to that, the WWUP compiled a series of suggested responses for each of the points raised. These are provided in **Attachment 3** to this record.

It was noted that for clarity, point (1) of the Attachment 2 pertains to effects from just WWUP, not already existing water takes.

**Action:** A request was made to list all the research that's been undertaken for WWUP.

The document "Our water, our people" can be provided by Campbell Gillam.

The option of managed aquifer recharge (MAR) was discussed as means of providing replenishment to depleted groundwater systems, some preferring it to the option of valley-stored water.

It was noted that WUUP explored the option of groundwater reservoirs in 2013, but overall it was concluded that the risk (i.e. it may not work) was too high due to too many unknowns that time. In light of possible interest on groundwater storage from some on the Whaitua, its possible that this could be revisited.

**Action:** Michael to set up a meeting between Whaitua and WWUP representatives, and a Wairarapa groundwater scientist to discuss an approach on MAR.

**Action:** The Review Points on the draft WWUP coloured timeline need to be amended to clearly show they are potential 'off-ramps'.

**9. General Business/Feedback**

There was no general business or feedback.

The next meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.