

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 28 April 2006

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

I am settling into my role as (Acting) Manager, and finding that my feet have grown considerably in an effort to fill Geoff's shoes! It is a fascinating role and I am enjoying the challenge, although it is sometimes hard to find enough hours in the day. With 8 direct reports a considerable amount of my time is spent in meetings, and I am also getting to know the Rimutaka Hill road, with a trip over to Masterton for a Manager's meeting every fortnight.

The Easter/Anzac Day combination meant that many staff took leave over this time and fortunately we missed out on the heavy rain experienced by those in the north and south of the country.

This reporting period it was business as usual, with projects generally progressing as anticipated. Highlights are outlined in the following sections of this Manager's Report.

1.2 Staffing

Garry Baker has confirmed his retirement, effective 29 September 2006, after 13 ½ years as Area Engineer, Kapiti. He has made a major contribution to the effective management of the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers through actioning the floodplain management plans and his management skills and knowledge of Kapiti's watercourses will be sorely missed.

Wayne Angus, from the Mabey Road team is leaving GWRC on 5 May 2006 after 18 years with the Council. Wayne is leaving to concentrate on his diving business.

2. Waikanae River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Jim Cooke Park

The main activity for the last month has been the delivery of the A Grade rock for the rock lining. The actual construction of the lining will commence mid April and is programmed to be completed by mid May 2006. The area under the bank to be protected is to be cleared using an electric fishing technique to ensure no fish are trapped during construction. Also a sample of what is believed to be a petrified tree is being taken so that it can be carbon dated.

2.2 Friends of the Waikanae River

No major issues arose from the Friends Group meeting on 12 April 2006. The next meeting is planned for 27 June 2006.

The work on reviewing the Environmental Strategy and developing an action plan for the next 5 years is continuing. The next milestone action will be a workshop session in mid June 2006 to consider what has been achieved, review the remaining actions and agree the specific actions for the next 5 years. The workshop will include Councillors, the community and officers from the respective agencies involved in the management of the Waikanae River.

3. Otaki River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Friends of the Otaki River

Cathy Strong has agreed to act as the secretary of the Friends of the Otaki River until a permanent appointment can be made. The meeting planned for 26 April 2006 at the Estuary was postponed due to insufficient Friends being available on the day.

3.2 Chrystalls extended stopbank

Work is now progressing on the detailed assessment of the alternative alignments for the stopbank to confirm which alignment provides the best, long term solution to flooding in Otaki township. We plan to report back to the 10 August 2006 Landcare Committee meeting with a recommendation on the preferred alignment.

The Mayor and Chief Executive of Kapiti Coast District Council were briefed on 11 April 2006 about progress with the project and the land ownership issues.

3.3 South Waitohu stopbank

The design of the new stopbank is largely complete and we intend having tender documentation and the resource consent application completed by the end of June 2006 as programmed. The Otaki and Porirua Trust Board has however just responded to us regarding the issues they have with the proposed stopbank following our last meeting. This could require the whole reasoning for the stopbank to be addressed, which may take some time.

3.4 2006 Cross Section Survey

The cross section survey of the Otaki River has been completed and the data has been handed over to GW for checking. The analysis of the data is programmed for July 2006. The two key outcomes of the survey will be to help set the quantity and location of gravel extraction in the Otaki River and to allow the hydraulic model to be updated with the latest cross section information.

4. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

4.1 Ava to Ewen project

Juno Civil Ltd continues to make good progress on the Opahu Stream pumping station contract. Juno is now working on the new outlet structure and installation of the box culvert units to extend the existing culvert. Juno expects to complete the outlet structure before the end of April 2006 and commence installation of pipes for the pump station.

Barry Foster Contracting and their subcontractors are progressing with the Alicetown stopbank finishing works. Environmental planting will be completed in May 2006.

4.2 Boulcott/Hutt stopbank

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank feasibility study commenced on 27 March 2006 with the appointment of MWH NZ Ltd as the principal consultant. A site walkover with the consultants, specialist advisors and Hutt and Boulcott Golf Club representatives was completed on 10 April 2006. A newsletter announcing the feasibility study and giving summary details of the project and the consultation process was distributed to local

residents and stakeholders in mid April 2006. Informal meetings with local residents and major property owners to identify issues are planned for April/May 2006.

4.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank

A public meeting was held on 11 April 2006 in the Silverstream College auditorium. In this meeting, we explained the project and obtained feedback from the local residents. The main concern of the residents living adjacent to the stopbank was the removal of trees to construct the upgraded stopbank.

There are delays to the necessary land purchase programme for this project. Silverstream College (SC) is now asking us to complete some drainage works prior to completing the purchase agreement and also to not shift the power line towards their land. Wellington Golf Club (WGC) is still occupied with their rezoning application and are not able to start land purchase negotiations until later in May. Further meetings with SC, WGC and Upper Hutt City Council have been scheduled to advance the land purchase.

4.4 District plan measures

The appeal period for the Hutt City Council district plan change ends in mid May 2006.

Upper Hutt City Council officers are preparing the draft plan change document. However, we expect this plan change process to progress well in to the next financial year.

5. Planning and development services [Phillip Purves]

The following table summarises the situation in regard to the number of formal, written requests attended to during March 2006:

	March 2006	YTD
Requests brought forward	6	12
Additional requests received	15	101
Responses provided	16	108
Outstanding requests	5	5

We were recently approached by a developer requesting approval to encroach into an easement, in favour of Council, that we jointly hold adjacent to the Porirua Stream. The proposal included erecting structures, altering the existing ground level and undertaking landscaping in the easement as a retirement village on the Tawa Shopping Centre site is developed. The request was declined because the easement is needed for stream maintenance purposes and we want to avoid development so close to the stream.

6. Investigations

6.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study [John Eyles]

Report 06.170 provides the minutes from the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meetings held on 21 November 2005 and 4 April 2006.

6.2 Waitohu Stream Study

The draft Summary Report, component report and Mouth Cutting Guidelines are now complete. The draft Summary Report has been sent to KCDC, community groups, key local residents and landowners for their feedback. Once comments (if any) have been received on the draft Summary Report these will be reported to the Landcare Committee together with the final report. At this time we will provide advice to the Committee on how we intend to implement the reports recommendations. The Mouth Cutting Guideline has also been forwarded to the interested landowners and care groups for their information.

6.3 Mangaroa River flood hazard assessment [Phillip Purves]

The consultants are preparing their final reports, following comments on the drafts by staff. The Summary Report will be presented to the Landcare Committee as a draft document in June. This will allow input from the Committee, and referral to the UHCC for their comment, before the final GWRC document is produced.

6.4 Pauatahanui Stream flood hazard assessment [John Eyles]

We are still awaiting an overall proposal from PCC on the work required and future stream management options resulting from the recently completed flood hazard study.

6.5 Pinehaven flood study [John Eyles]

Upper Hutt City Council have made provision in their proposed LTCCP for this study in 2008/2009 for Phase 1 and 2010/2011 for Phase 2. The commencement dates in the GWRC LTCCP are 2006/07 and 2008/09 for Phases 1 and 2 respectively. We will work closely with UHCC officers to ensure the timing coincides.

7. Operations

7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]

Hutt River

John Ray Ltd has now started delivery of rock. The rock is being carted by rail in purpose built wagons to the Wellington port and then by truck to site. We are receiving on average nine wagon loads of rock per week (360 tonne).

The lease at 56 Connolly Street has now been terminated and staff have been busy clearing up the mess left on site. This included several pallets of asbestos cement roofing sheets and a large amount of demolition timber and roofing iron.

Hutt River Trail

Maintenance has included the reshaping and resurfacing of several hundred metres of trail along Harcourt Werry Drive, rubbish removal and general vandalism repairs.

Hutt River ranging services

Duties over this period have been the usual public relations, patrols and enforcement when required. Two presentations have been given to the territorial authorities on river trail projects and access issues.

Two organised events were held over the last period. The first was a women's health fun run and walk with a turn out of 500 participants. A similar number turned up for the Trentham harriers fun run and walk.

Watercourses

We are currently undertaking work to protect the Faulke bridge abutments on the Wainuiomata River. Mr Faulke is paying 50% of the cost of this work.

Stream runs are also underway in Hulls Creek, Kenepuru Stream and Porirua Stream.

Work for other departments

Concrete pads have been installed for air quality monitoring equipment in Wainuiomata and Melling.

7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

General

Weather conditions have reminded us that Autumn is definitely here with some cool wet conditions, but also some fine still days. This has allowed our weed-spraying programme to continue in a satisfactory manner.

We are still experiencing delays with rock deliveries, but the Contractor has assured us that all works will be completed on time.

Waikanae River

Berm development work for the Waikanae Friends of the River has been completed, together with a few extras while the heavy machinery was in the area.

Weeds were sprayed on the rock groyne heads at Sunny Glen and Maple Lane.

A further 4,000 cubic metres of gravel was extracted off the berms and beaches above Greenaway Road.

Otaki River

Bare patches on the Katihiku left bank stopbank were oversown and fertilised.

Further spraying of noxious weeds was carried out.

Kapiti watercourses

Mangapouri Stream

A large tree was removed off the right bank of the Mangapouri Stream at St Peter Chanel School, Convent Road.

Waitohu Stream

The annual stream clearing run from Laurensons' to the motor camp was completed. The work carried out included the removal out of the channel of a large number of over-hanging and wind-felled trees and one blockage.

A further 400 cubic metres of gravel was extracted from the “deposition area” below the Rail Bridge.

7.3 Operations support [Jacky Cox]

Mowing contract

We successfully renegotiated the contract for the grass mowing of river berms in the Hutt Valley and Porirua with the current contractor Agricontracts Hutt Ltd. The new contract term is until March 2008 and provides for cost increases incurred by the contractor. This is a significant operational contract that involves the mowing of approximately one hundred and five hectares of berm area per round.

Waiwhetu Stream

Following a recent discussion with Teri Puketapu we are looking at thinning the ngaio trees adjacent to the stream through the Te Whiti Park reach. The trees were planted in 1998 as an alternative weed control method, and were an initiative from the stream management plan. However, the trees have now effectively formed a barrier between the berm area and the stream, and there are concerns regarding the safety of children playing in and around the stream. The removal and thinning will also increase the capacity of the floodway through this reach.

Asset management

A visit to Horizons Regional Council was made on 23 March 2006. An agreement to annually peer review each other's assets was discussed, which will provide an independent check of our asset's condition. We are sorting out the finer points of the agreement with Horizons and plan to undertake the first peer review in July or August.

We also viewed the operation of their award winning, state of the art Asset Management System. Their AMS has been specifically designed to manage river based flood protection assets and has many desirable and useable applications for us here at GWRC. However, the technology is still cutting edge and there seem to be a few technical hitches and bugs that cause problems. For these reasons it is recommended that GWRC not consider implementing the AMS at this time.

Health and safety

We are continuing with the implementation of SafeTsmart, Greater Wellington's health and safety management system, Jacky Cox have attended a number of meetings to introduce SafeTsmart to key staff. The system is essentially live and ready to use, and we are now logging all occurrences in the system. The next stage in the implementation process is to update our existing hazard registers with information from the system.

A health and safety meeting is scheduled for all operational staff in early May, and preparation for this meeting is underway.

Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of March 2006 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2005/06 (cubic metres)		Year 2004/05 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	8,274	38,262	50,105
	River	Horokiwi	12,823	58,716	30,717
Otaki	River	Winstones	10,864	38,702	35,366
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	0	2,790
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	3,560	8,760	10,828
TOTALS			35,521	144,440	129,806

Sharyn Westlake
Acting Manager, Flood Protection