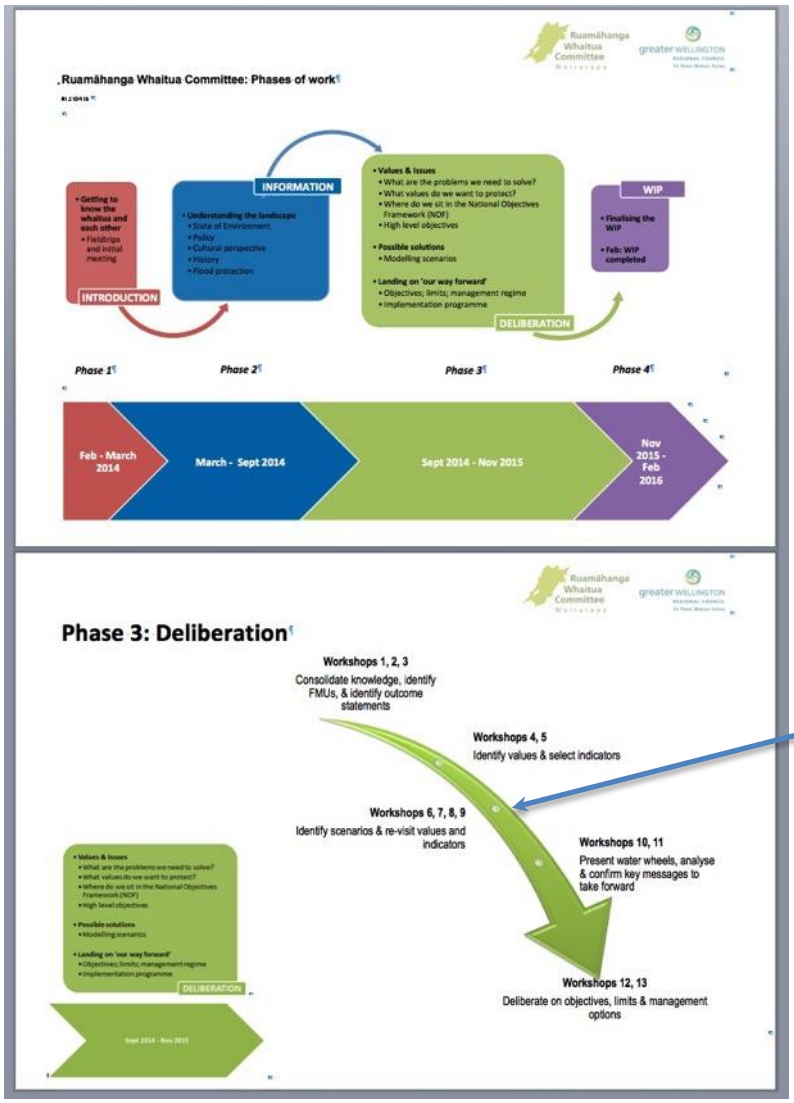
Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 33

November 21 2016 4:00PM – 8:00PM

Carterton Events Centre



Workshop 33

Summary

This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held November 21 2016 4:00 – 8:00pm at the Carterton Events Centre.

Contents

These notes contain the following:

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee: Esther Dijkstra, Peter Gawith, Aidan Bichan, Andy Duncan, Rebecca Fox, David Holmes, Mike Birch, Chris Laidlaw, Mike Ashby, Colin Olds.

Greater Wellington & Project Team: Alastair Smaill, Kat Banyard, Horipo Rimene, Mike Grace, Natasha Tomic.

Modellers: John Bright, Nick Taylor, Jim Sinner, Suzie Greenhalgh.

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush**.**

Apologies: Vanessa Tipoki, Philip Palmer, Russell Kawana, Ra Smith.

B Workshop Purpose and Agenda

Workshop Purpose

1. Build knowledge and understanding of the equity aspects of natural resource use and management, and
    - Identify and confirm a set of criteria to use in assessing the equity dimensions of policy and management options for freshwater management for the Ruamahanga Whaitua;

2. Build an understanding of the social and economic impact assessment component of the CMP, and as part of that;

    - Confirm the social wellbeing outcomes RWC wishes to see the scenario modeling report against. Understand the sorts of attributes that can/will be measured as part of this analysis.

    - Refresh understanding of the economic modeling component of the CMP, and as part of this, the economic attributes the model can and can't assess

3. Building on our work at the previous workshop continue to:

    Identify, discuss, and assess the various policy approaches available for the implementation of management options, with the following applications in mind:
    - Policy approaches to underpin each management option within each management option bundle (and which can therefore be 'tested' as part of the CMP work)
    - Policy approaches to underpin the other management options that cannot be modeled, but for which RWC must still make recommendations, e.g. fish passage (and which therefore can be further investigated and considered); and
    - Policy approaches in relation to the specific management option(s) that the RWC would like to discuss and debate with stakeholders and the community.

Purposes 1 and 2 were achieved. Purpose 3 was not achieved, and will be carried forward to the next workshop.

Workshop Agenda

The agenda is below.

Committee only session (3:00 - 4:00PM)

Welcome (Peter Gawith) **and Karakia** (Ra Smith), **Purposes** (Michelle Rush) (4:00 - 4:15PM)

Equity matters in resource management – presentation and workshop session (Jim Sinner) (4:15 - 5:00PM)

Assessing impacts on social wellbeing – presentation and workshop session (Nick Taylor) (5:00 - 5:45PM)

Economic attribute selection (Suzie Greenhalgh) (5:45 – 6:30PM)

Dinner (6:30 - 7:00PM)

Workshop – identifying policy approaches (7:00 – 7:45PM)

Report back on identifying policy approaches (7:45 – 8:00PM)

Close (8:00PM)

C Equity matters in resource management

Summary

Jim Sinner gave a presentation summarising equity issues in natural resource planning and decision-making. A related paper was circulated to the committee prior to the workshop.


Equity considerations in freshwater manage


Equity considerations in freshwater manage

Following this, participants identified and debated typical policy conundrums.

The break out group instructions were:

- Identify a specific principle for an equity issue of concern and frame it as "…. Should have…."
  - A fictitious example is: *"No-one should be allowed to water their lawns/gardens unless they are growing vegetables."*
- Then in your group, discuss this, and identify qualifiers or conditions to resolve incompatibilities in equity.

If you get time:

- Identify some questions RWC could ask during its decision making to help consider equity dimensions.
- What would you look at to work out if that principle had been met?

The results of the break out groups are below.

Following the workshop Jim Sinner put together some notes for further consideration by the Committee.


Notes from equity session for RWC on 2

Group 1

Statement starting point:
To meet soil conservation objectives, hill country farmers should keep their soil on the land.

(Thinking points within this group)

- The responsibility for sediment mitigation lies with the landowner
- Compensation
- Vulnerable soils / high risk land; community shares the sediment mitigation cost burden of high risk land

Measure
Rate at which sediment practices are adopted on high risk land

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Group 2

Statement starting point:
In cleaning up water quality issues, councils should be given time to move to land disposal.

(Thinking points within this group)

- A time frame that is affordable
- Council provides a service, is a not for profit.
- Process needs to be equitable between the dairy farmer; municipal authorities; sheep and beef and DOC (both creating sediment issues); trade waste; and we need to see treated waste water as a resource.
- FMU's.

Group 3

Statement starting point:
Everyone should have access to drinking water.

(Thinking points within this group)

- The handing out of rights to abstract water and discharge contaminants should not be at the expense of an individual to access water for their personal needs (WHO, USEPA).
- Principle – that personal needs guaranteed in policy
- All humans have a right to access water for individual needs (personal)
  - Access to drinking water
  - Volume required for drinking / washing etc
  - Access to 'clean' water
  - Cost of treatment

- Onsite domestic compared with municipal treatment
- Cost of development
- Institutional arrangements in the way water has been allocated
- Right to pollute (institute)

Group 4

Statement starting point:
No one should be hindered in accessing water for irrigation or business due to privileged access for others.

(Thinking Points within this group)

- Each catchment needs to be mapped
- Existing water users need to be given time to get a return on existing investment: consent holders will be aware that there is no right in perpetuity to their allocation.

How would you know? Plenary discussion

Policy would result in a transparent allocation of water.

Question: What is fair treatment of different categories of discharges?

- Look at what it means for personal needs / use – look at whether the scenarios provide for this. Personal need is the priority as everyone has a right to water for this.
- Rate at which sediment practices are adopted in the hill country. Should farmers take equal responsibility for sediment coming off their farm? Mitigation measures could occur downstream from farms e.g. wetlands.
- What / how do we communicate in relation to the equity elements of our decisions? Case studies as to how it has been done.
- How do we measure it? How do we measure the 'happiness' of things that can't speak for themselves?

D Assessing impacts on social wellbeing

Summary

Nick Taylor gave a presentation explaining what social impact assessment was, and how it can assist in natural resource planning and decision-making. A related paper was circulated to the committee prior to the workshop.


Social Assessment - Process and discussio


Ruamahanga Social Assessment Project 1

Following this, participants worked in topic groups to identify what it was they were particularly interested in understanding from the impact assessment process.

The topic areas were:

- Recreation
- Economy
- Community

The Break Out Group Instructions followed for this were:

In your group and for your category:

- Identify 3-4 social outcomes that you would like to see reported on by the scenario modeling team.

- Be specific, e.g. if you have the 'recreation' category, identify the attributes that are most importance to achieve, e.g. in regards to recreation, is wade-ability or swim-ability of most importance to you towards the social outcome you are trying to achieve?

- For each outcome, identify at least one measure or indicator that would tell you if you are achieving progress over time.

The results of each breakout group discussion are below.

Recreation

- Minimum flows
- Suitable quality - Water quality such as algae or clarity affects enjoyment of recreation.
- Sufficient access (Riparian planting) - There needs to be sufficient access over the length of the river, including private land and across riparian planting.
- Sufficient flows for recreation - Sometimes quantity is more important than quality –e.g. flooded rivers for some users.
- Trend in 7 day low
- Illnesses + perception + enjoyment (Clarity, risk of illness, periphyton)
- The best recreational swimming spots are now in the streams going into the main rivers in the western

foothills – where the water is cleaner and cooler. A management approach or objective that effectively extends these spots down river through rules on abstraction and nutrient discharges that are stricter in these areas.
- Increased depth, clarity and amenity would improve the lake for recreation.

Community

- Increased local pride in the quality of the natural environment (attitudinal change) – amenity values of water. Public perception of water.
- More recreational opportunities and social benefits ("Families who wade together stay together" - reduction of antisocial behaviour) - Usage by picnickers.
- More participation by schools and other groups in community water educational environmental activities (numbers of schools participating, others etc.).
- More options for peaceful interaction with the local environment (higher usage + higher satisfaction survey)
- Shared sense of responsibility between urban and rural communities and iwi groups (stronger relationships; more consultation between groups) - The extent to which people "own" the water issues.

Health

- Physical and mental.
- Being by the river:
  - Ability to go to river and feel good
  - Sense of place and river
- Minimum flow:
  Able to use river for spiritual and physical wellness - A continuity of water supply is good for mental health.
- Reliability of supply:
  Availability=confidence - Support long-term sustainability of farming, e.g. succession planning.
- The way in which the water is managed within the system.
- Ability of Marae to access and utilise local water bodies for cultural harvest. Sense of place.
- Model falls below health settings - Water quality relates to illness.
- Events - e coli/ability to consume fish/ Mahinga kai.
- Confidence of supply for all water users. Health of water body for public perception, mental health - Need to consider mental health of farmers in particular.

E Economic attribute selection

Summary

Suzie Greenhalgh gave a presentation refreshing how the economic analysis of the various scenario options would be carried out, and what information could and couldn't be generated from this.

Ruamahanga
Economic Catchment

She then asked RWC members to confirm what sort of information, and in what form, did they wish to see from the economic modelling componentry of the work. The results are below.

RWC ideas for economic modelling

- Carbon sequestration- yes would like economic modelling to show this.
- Mean household incomes.
- Increasing permanent employment (Wairarapa people- not outside contract workers).
- What % of population in the catchment is unemployed?
- Water reliability.
- Tourism and hospitality.
- Importance of flexibility of water use - available to a variety of sectors and processing.
- Farm expenditure is important to know – it is being modelled.
- When the Committee make decisions on their policy approaches the appropriate level of detail needs to be provided for the economic modelling. E.g. if retiring land – will that involve specific types of land being retired, or payments to incentivise land use change, or a rates rebate, or direct payment to compensate for lost revenue or something else? Several options can be modelled. Another option is to protect land, rather than retire and this can be modelled.
- Number of jobs – John Bright is looking to organise other work to provide this information.

In regards to how outputs are presented it was agreed to provide results to the committee in all formats and then decide which is most useful.