

Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

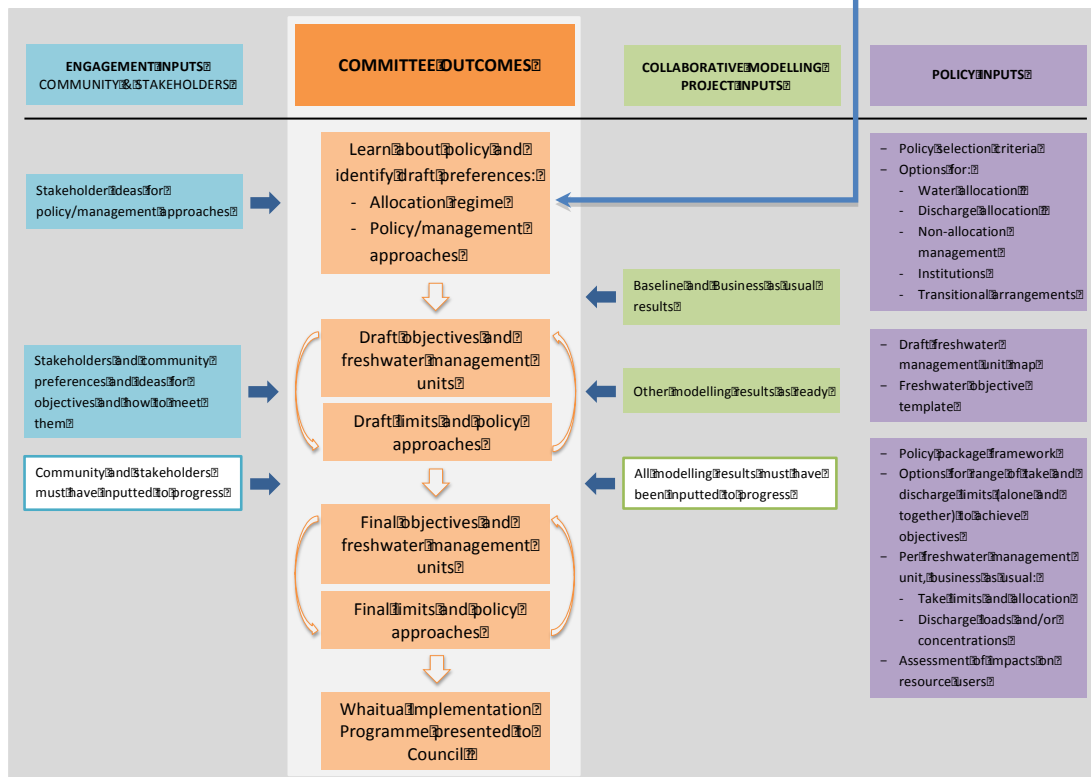
Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 36

Monday 13 February 2017

1:30 PM – 6:00PM, at

Carterton Events Centre, Carterton

Workshop
36



Summary This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 13 February 2017 at the Carterton Events Centre.

Contents These notes contain the following:

A Workshop Overview

- Attendees
- Purpose
- Agenda

B RWC Deliberations – process from here to WIP delivery

C RWC Decision Making Process

D Policy Approaches - Discharges

E Community and stakeholder engagement

Appendix – Photos of Flipcharts

A Workshop Overview

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee: Esther Dijkstra, Aidan Bichan, Philip Palmer, Mike Ashby, Andy Duncan, Chris Laidlaw, Ra Smith, David Holmes, Mike Birch, Rebecca Fox, Russell Kawana, Colin Olds.

Greater Wellington: Alastair Smaill, Kat Banyard, Murray McLea, Hayley Vujcich, Horipo Rimene, Natasha Tomic, Jon Gabites, Grace Leung.

Modellers: John Bright

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush

Apologies: Peter Gawith, Vanessa Tipoki.

Purposes

1. Review the work plan and understand the major phases from here to the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP).
2. Understand the decisions needed for managing discharges and determine what will and won't be allocated for N, P, sediment and pathogens - both point sources and non-point (diffuse) sources.

3. Review the Community Engagement Plan and identify who and where from RWC will be involved
4. Confirm the RWC decision-making process.

Purposes 1, 2 and 3 were achieved. Purpose 4 was achieved in part.

Agenda

Welcome (Peter Gawith) and Karakia (Ra Smith), Purposes (Michelle Rush) (1:30 - 1:40PM)

Reporting back on planning session (1:40 – 2:10PM)

Collaborative decision making process (2:10 - 3:15PM)

Afternoon tea (3:15 - 3:45PM)

Discharges to water (3:45 – 5:00PM)

Stakeholder engagement (5:00 – 6:00PM)

B RWC Deliberations – process from here to WIP delivery

Summary

Alastair Smaill reported back on the planning session held with the Project Team and RWC members Peter Gawith and Ra Smith, held on 3 February 2017.

The major questions and steps to delivery of the WIP were presented and discussed.

[Key questions the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will need to answer](#)

[Process diagram - from here to the WIP](#)

Main points of discussion:

- Community and stakeholder input, modelling results and policy information all input into the Committee's decision making.
- More detailed scheduling work is being completed.
- GWRC will be translating the modeller's technical reports to shorter, easier to understand documents. These will be checked by the modellers for accuracy. The Committee can also be involved in this review.

- The project team are trying to maximise the time the Committee already has scheduled and to pre-load as much as possible ahead of the modelling results.
- The Committee should check the questions and add any missing. The questions could be useful for stakeholder input.
- There are questions where the Committee already has their own learning and thoughts, and community feedback. It's about starting to 'package' all this information together.

C RWC Decision Making Process

Our Understanding of Consensus and Collaboration

RWC members discussed their understanding and perspectives of consensus, and what it meant in their context. The following was identified:

Understanding of what consensus decision making means

Consensus means that:

- If we (RWC) disagree, we then look for another way;
- That when a decision is made we all take responsibility for it. This means our decision must be an enduring decision;
- That we must each be crystal clear that we understand **what** we have agreed to, and **why**, and that we must **say so** if it is not clear.

Our requirement to reach a consensus decision means that if there is disagreement that we cannot resolve, then:

Council would make the decision where we cannot, and that decision is fundamental to what we need to do.

Collaboration is the process by which we reach consensus.

Considerations around RWC Decision-making.

- We need to reflect our values
- Our decisions must have a sound basis
- We must do a good job at our Community Engagement
- We need to communicate any discomfort to colleagues
- We need to 'circle the wagons' so RWC members aren't left high and dry
- Our decision making needs to reflect the Terms of Reference – they are not negotiable
- We need to keep our eye on achieving the 'best solution' we can.

- Have we learnt from the mistakes of other regions? So important to get people engaged before the WIP comes out.
- Once the Committee agrees the decision making process it is very important that we stick to it.

Communicating Committee Decisions

- Use the community engagement process to engage the community in the decision process that the committee must follow, e.g. put out a position statement
- Signal it as a ‘RWC decision’
- Be clear when decisions HAVEN’T been made
- When a decision IS made, ensure all members know how to explain it.
- Pre-empt – explain now how the decisions RWC will be making, e.g. through the newspaper.
- Have a way of dealing with misinformation.
- No decisions which come out in the WIP should be a surprise to anyone.
- Use the ‘On the land’ section of the Wairarapa Times Age to signal potential changes. Mike B could help with this.
- Some sectors of the community don’t realise the ramifications of what we’re doing. Need to shock these people into engaging with us.

RWC
Perspectives
and Comments
on the Waikato
CSG Process

Following on, RWC members took time to read and discuss the decision making process that was adopted by the Waikato River Community Stakeholder Group (CSG). This process was based on the Twyford’s model of collaborative decision making.

[Waikato Terms of Reference - Collaborative Stakeholder Group - See appendix 1 for decision making process](#)

The following concerns were identified with this process, and various amendments suggested:

- It was noted that the ‘stand aside’ option looks like agreement in public.
- What value does noting who stands aside add? Answer: It was acknowledged that it might help the Council to know how many people stood aside (E.g. where they must make a decision when the committee can’t).
- The conditions for ‘standing aside’ aren’t wide enough, e.g. someone could choose to ‘stand aside’ in a situation where there are two options, but they disagree on the one that is chosen.

- Process dimension – People need to take the time to understand why someone is disagreeing or standing aside.
- The section titled ‘What is collaboration?’ doesn’t reflect us. Needs to be focused on the community, rather than stakeholders. Can we look at other groups more closely aligned with ours?
- Chairperson making the call. This doesn’t work for us: as a RWC we have already agreed that there would not be a casting vote.
- It is not the role of the Chair’s to have a say on process – the independent facilitator aides the consensus process.
- Reword “at least” to read ‘one or more.’
- If there is disagreement then we need to loop back around to concerns raised. In some cases consensus may only be reached when the package becomes clear.

D Policy Approaches - Discharges

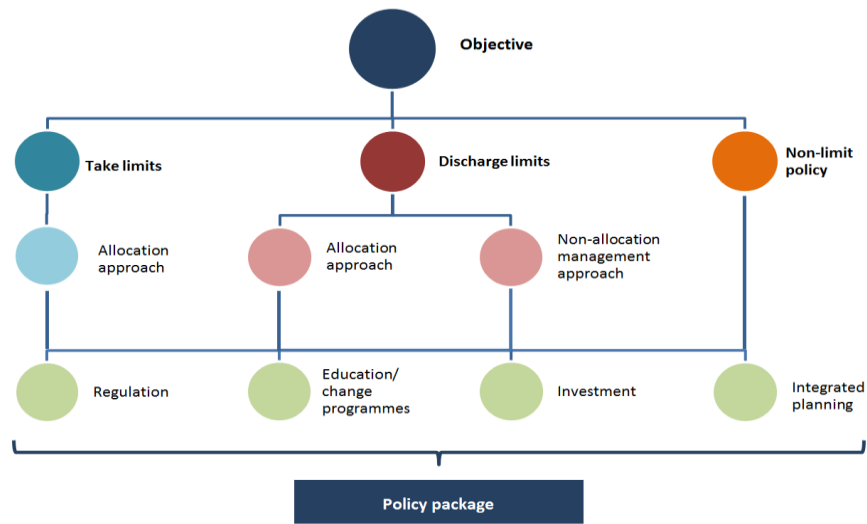
Summary

Alastair outlined what the Committee needs to decide in respect of discharges to water. Two key points were:

‘Allocation’ gives someone a property right, i.e. gives them a right to discharge up to a certain amount (and if they don’t they are then able to ‘trade’ that with someone else who might not have that right.) It is therefore important it can be clearly defined.

The package of tools will look different in each freshwater management unit.

The diagram drawn by Alastair roughly outlined the following:



Questions to Committee

Following the presentation, the Committee broke into two groups. One group considered the contaminants of Nitrogen and Phosphorous; and the other group considered the contaminants of pathogens and sediment. The groups were asked:

For your contaminant:

Can we meet the criteria for allocating at the level of the resource user for:

- (1) Point Sources
- (2) Diffuse Sources

Criteria

- Can you attribute an amount back to an individual?
- Can you continue to monitor/estimate what that person's allocation is doing?

Results of Discussion

The table below summarises the results reported back from the groups, considering the question of **COULD** allocation at the level of the resource user be used as a means of managing this contaminant? I.e. was it possible to meet the criteria?

Next steps – at the next workshop the Committee will discuss, for those contaminants that could be allocated, what are the benefits in doing so and what are the issues if you don't?

COULD allocation at the level of the resource user be used as a means of managing this contaminant? I.e. was it possible to meet the criteria?

	Nitrogen	Phosphorous	Sediment	Bugs (Pathogens)
Point Sources Y / N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Comments			Attribute – stormwater – yet would be close (consented activity) Measure/estimate – stormwater – would be done	Attribute – yes Measure/estimate - yes
Non-point (Diffuse) Y / N	Possible	Possible	N	Not really
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can estimate (attribute) what an individual is discharging through diffuse discharge. • Do we have enough info to measure/estimate? – Low confidence level and need to get more info. • Overseer is a tool that allows allocation to be estimated. • We can work towards improving level of confidence. • An improved methodology for measuring allocation needs to be implemented first up. • Many drivers can apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can estimate (attribute) what an individual is discharging through diffuse discharge. • Do we have enough info to measure/estimate – low confidence level? Need to get more info. • Overseer is a tool that allows allocation to be estimated. • We can work towards improving level of confidence. • An improved methodology for measuring allocation needs to be implemented first up. • Many drivers can apply. 	Attribute – on a sub-catchment basis – maybe Measure/estimate – on a sub-catchment basis – maybe	Attribute – not really – tools are available but too expensive. Measure/estimate – would not get accuracy. Theoretically maybe yes but is it feasible?

E Community and stakeholder engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement plan summary

Jon gave a presentation of the proposed approach to community and stakeholder engagement.



RWC stakeholder engagement approach

Key points:

- The plan will continue to be iterated until it is finalised. It will leverage off the information already got from the community and stakeholders.
- It's about going out there with clear messages and enabling the community to walk in the Committee's shoes and understand the complexity of the decision making.

Areas of Focus for upcoming engagement

In discussing the proposed approach, RWC members identified the following areas of focus upon which to engage with stakeholders and interested members of the community, on an 'issue by issue' basis:

1. Nitrogen management – allocation and other options
2. Sediment management
3. Urban water – the three waters (reticulated water, storm water and waste water)

Water Allocation:

WHO: Engage with dairy farmers (key farmers in each area) and also other irrigators and other stakeholders with an interest in water allocation.

PURPOSE: To discuss alternatives to the current way that water is being allocated, being clear that we are at limits now in some areas, therefore continuing the status quo is not an option, and that with climate change, issues are going to become more pronounced.

Do this by putting out the **options** available, e.g. alternatives to Grand parenting; go out with **information on the problem**, e.g. irrigators already dealing with reliability issues; the need to raise minimum flows (and to get a gauge on how much) and **go out with a shortlist of policy options**.

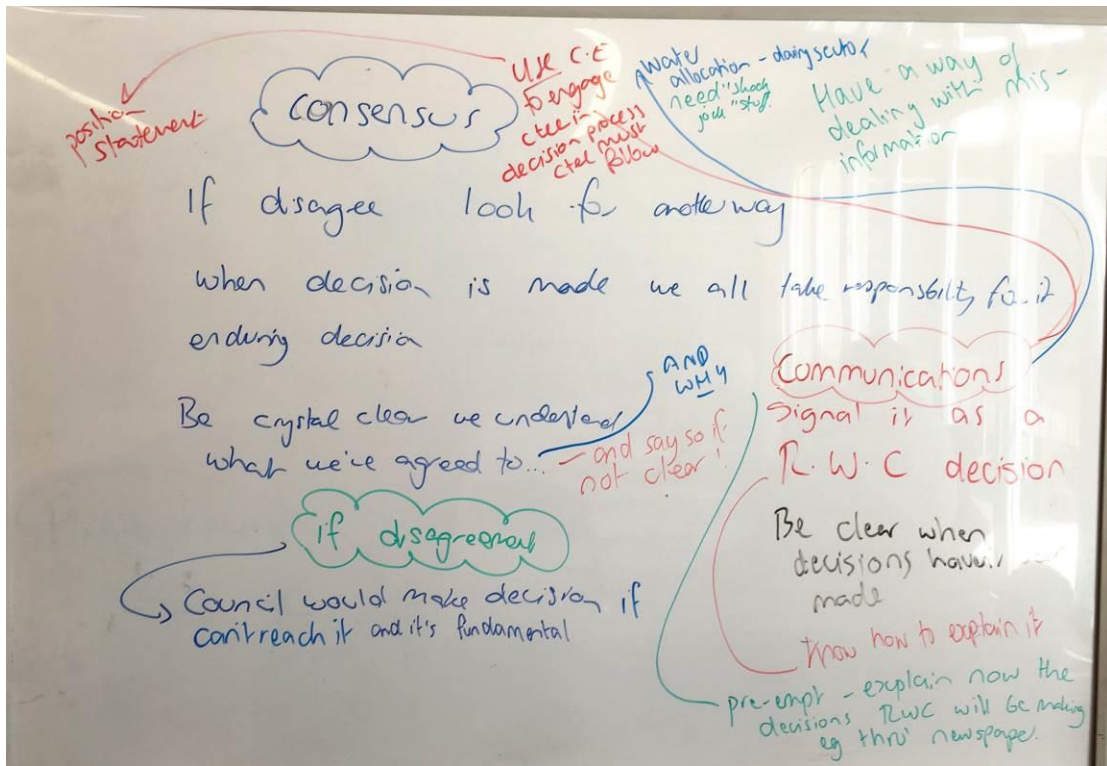
And, **allow for some 'left field' ideas**, e.g. aquifer recharge to come through from the community and stakeholders.

GENERAL APPROACH:

The Committee agreed that as part of what was done for each matter, the following was required:

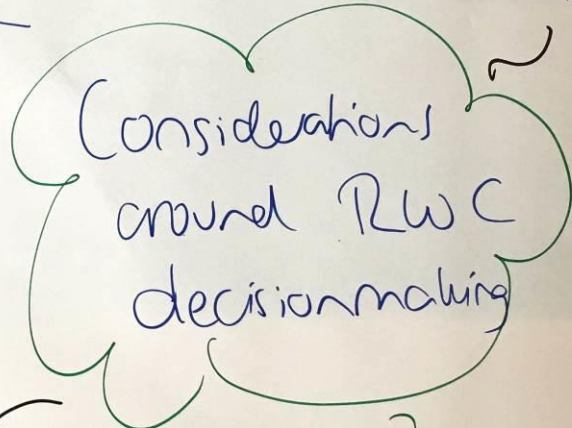
- A clear statement of the problem (in a manner that would gain stakeholders' attention, e.g. how irrigation will become significantly more unreliable with climate change unless changes are made to the current allocation regime). Perhaps use the questions the committee will need to answer to engage.
 - Some preferred options that the Committee has identified, as a basis for initiating the discussion
 - A clear statement of the Committee's process to date, and the considerations they have to make to reach their decisions.
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APPENDIX – FLIPCHART & WHITEBOARD PHOTOS



need to reflect our values

Have a sound basis



Do a good job at our Community Engagement

Need to reflect the Terms of Reference - are not negotiable

Communicate discomfort to colleagues

circle the wagons so people aren't left high and dry

keep eye on "best solution" we can

Concern - 'stand aside'

option -

What value does
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Could 'stand aside' because

2 options but disagree
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process dimension - people understanding
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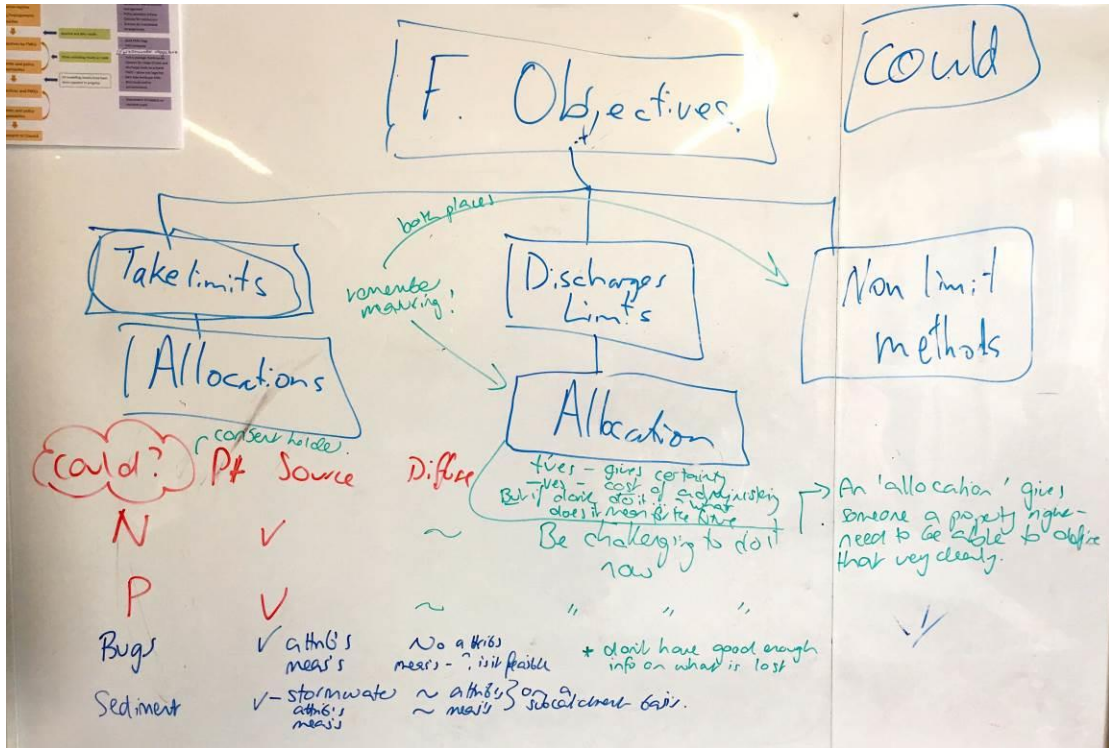
What is collaboration? section
↳ does it reflect us.

concern - chairperson making the call

- RWC - already agreed
No casting vote

concern - not role for Chair to
have a say on process

"at least" - should be one or more.



RWC ideas
 for, policies / management
 actual options

proposed limits ← to meet these

- 'non-limit' options

N allocation options

Sediment

urban w/w - 3 water

