

Paraparaumu Wastewater Treatment Plant – Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Held:

Tuesday 5 September 2023, 9:30AM – 11AM, EOC Briefing Room, Fytfield Place, Paraparaumu.

Chair:

Tess Drewitt (Compliance Consultant, Council) (TD)

Present:

Ramesh Pillai (Senior Asset Planning Engineer, Council) (RP)

Grant Stuart (WWTP Manager, Council) (GS)

Kim Mazur (Laboratory Manager, Council) (KM)

William Brown (Waikanae Estuary Care Group) (WB)

Pip Parkin (Regional Public Health) (PP)

Amanda O'Brien (Compliance Officer, GWRC) (AO) – online

Ami Coughlan (Fish and Game) (AC)

Robin Falconer (Friends of the Waikanae River) (RF)

Apologies:

Sean Mallon (Group Manager – Infrastructure Services, Council)

Philippa Ross-James (Senior Advisor Communications & Engagement, Council)

Wayne Cameron (Kapiti Fly Fishing)

Richard Mansell (Chair of the Waikanae Community Board)

Glen Olsen (Chair of the Paraparaumu Community Board)

Phil Teal (Fish and Game)

Distribution: PWWTP CLG

| Item | Action |
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| <p>1 Welcome/ Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TD welcomed everyone to the meeting. ■ Each member of the CLG introduced themselves and TD recorded apologies. ■ KM introduced herself as the Council's laboratory manager, having not previously attended a CLG meeting. ■ AO introduced herself as the new compliance officer at GWRC for the wastewater treatment plants. | - |
| <p>2 Agenda Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TD presented an overview of the meeting agenda. | - |
| <p>3 Matters arising since previous meeting</p> <p>3.1 Use of storm storage basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TD gave an update on the use of the storm storage basin since the last meeting. The basin was used a total of 6 times in 2022/23, the same as 2021/22. The Council needs to use the storm storage basin when flows exceed capacity. ■ GWRC sent KCDC a Please Explain letter about the stormwater pond exceedances. The consent only authorises it to be used 3 times a year. The Council responded on 19 June 2023, and the response was provided with the Q4 report. | - - |

- The CLG discussed the reasons for exceedance:
 - Increased rainfall intensity over the past 2 years (shown in presentation and Council's response).
 - Illegal connections – 10% of urban properties estimated to have stormwater connection with wastewater network, which increases stormwater flow into the network.
- TD and RP gave an overview of the actions being implemented by the Council to reduce the effects of the discharge, including lining storm storage pond, site-specific solutions for overflows, ongoing inspections, etc.
- AO asked what the process is for stormwater overflows into neighbouring properties. RP gave an overview of the stormwater team's investigation and response process: property owners might be asked to install a sump not a gully trap, Council officers communicate with home-owners directly about site-specific solutions. The Long-Term Plan includes budget for this work- will be available to the public Feb/March 2024.
- KM explained that a high groundwater table also contributes towards increased flows in the wastewater network. We've noticed high groundwater level over the past 12-months, sumps fill up quickly when groundwater is too high. If there's high rainfall events, the ground has less capacity to absorb the rainfall.
- RP said that a little bit of stormwater in the network is okay because it can dilute the wastewater. However, the network is not designed to take stormwater. KM also said that too much dilution in the plant affects its ability to operate as the bacteria rely on food source to effectively treat the wastewater. Therefore, keeping stormwater out of the network is in the Council's best interests.
- AC queried the stormwater infiltration rate into the pipe network. RP said CCTV investigations are underway to identify leaks in the network, which are then rectified. The Council also monitors flow rates through SCADA to see if there's any obvious leaks – RP gave an example of a leak in Otaki that the Council detected through monitoring rates of flow entering the WWTP.
- TD confirmed that GWRC has advised that the Council will receive a formal warning for the non-compliance. Once the pond is lined, the new consent will remove the limits on pond usage.

4 Review of Quarterly Report – Q4, FY23

- TD provided a summary of the quarterly report results that had been pre-circulated:
 - Largely compliant with consent conditions in Q4.
 - The Council held a CLG meeting in May 2023.
 - Boiler temperature dropped below 650deg between 6-12 May 2023 due to annual maintenance – new consent conditions to account for this – technical non-compliance.
 - Storm storage pond usage – technical non-compliance.
- RP gave an update on the sludge removal activities. The Council is still waiting for GWRC approval to fill two remaining ponds. This is a requirement of consent. AO reminded RP that the ESCP needed to be submitted to GWRC at least 10 days before works commence.
- RP also gave an update on the BPO process. Council is awaiting feedback from two iwi on how to proceed.

5 CAPEX Activities – Q4

- RP provided an overview of completed and ongoing works at the PWWTP, this is provided in the slides.

6 CLG Feedback on Quarterly Report

- WB said that the Waikanae Estuary Care Group wants the Council to look into incorporating the eDNA monitoring into its monitoring programme for the consent. eDNA profiling was discussed at the previous meeting. WB keen for the Council to look at the Wilderlab results and report back on how eDNA monitoring could be used going forward.
- KM noted that eDNA profiling is broad and the Council would need to know what was profiled, where and under what conditions. KM would be interested to see the results and understand how they compare against other streams in the region. KM said that 1L of water did not seem like enough to give certainty over the results for eDNA testing. WB said Wilderlab grows the DNA before testing.
- AO noted that Wilderlab has a map of DNA that's publicly available, but Mazengarb isn't there yet. WB confirmed that the data is not yet publicly available. AO said that she wasn't sure if GWRC is doing eDNA testing, but that it is a cheap and efficient way of getting a lot of information. However; understanding the parameters and how it should be used is important.
- KM said unless there is a national guideline for eDNA, it's hard to know how to use the data. She said she would investigate eDNA testing to find more information. WB said it's a good method to test for pollutants and find unwanted species within a waterway. Action: KM to investigate using eDNA in the Council's WWTP monitoring programme.
- AO provided a screenshot and website for more info:

KM



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Source: https://www.wilderlab.co.nz/explore ▪ Update: TD has sent the Wilderlab results to KM. | |
| <p>7 Other CLG feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other feedback raised. | |
| <p>8 Other matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WB queried the naming of the wetland at the Estuary confluence with Mazengarb Stream. Claire McKeivitt had previously noted it being called Kaitoenga Wetland. Update: TD reviewed the GWRC GIS maps and can see Kaitoenga Wetland is the name given to it in Schedule C – sites of significance to te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai. The KCDC District Plan does not give the wetland a specifically name, it is within a larger ecosite called Waikanae River Mouth (K081). ▪ The CLG discussed KCDC’s monitoring programme for the WWTP. KM gave an overview of the monitoring that is undertaken in accordance with the resource consent conditions. KM noted that 40% of what is discharged into the Mazengarb Stream comes from other sources, not the WWTP. The CLG agreed it would be helpful to understand the various contributions to the stream and monitoring that the Council is undertaking. ▪ <u>Action:</u> TD agreed to work with KM to produce some slides for the next CLG to give a wider picture of the various discharge sources in the Mazengarb Stream and the Council’s contribution to this. TD noted that a lot of this information is within the resource consent application for the replacement discharge permit. ▪ AO noted that GWRC is working on multigenerational and long-term continual improvement of waterbodies, referring also to the Kapiti Whaitua process. The Council and Waka Kotahi both have global stormwater resource consents for discharges within the catchment. The Council has an extensive monitoring programme, and Waka Kotahi is developing a programme for monitoring. ▪ RF noted that as community representatives it is important for himself and WB to understand what is going on with the catchment, including the WWTP but also other contributions towards water quality, monitoring, etc. | TD/KM |
| <p>9 Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CLG agreed the next meeting would be in February 2024 (to avoid Christmas/summer holidays), with quarterly report to be circulated prior. ▪ KM/TD will prepare a summary of the monitoring the Council is doing for the Mazengarb Stream catchment and a description of all other contributions to the catchment to put the discharge into perspective, for presentation at the next meeting. ▪ KM to investigate using eDNA in the Council’s WWTP monitoring programme and report back at the next meeting. | TD/KM KM |

Minutes by: Tess Drewitt, Kāpiti Coast District Council