

Meeting Minutes

Neighbourhood Liaison Group (NLG) Interim Meeting
Thursday 15 June 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Horowhenua District Council Ante Room, 125 Oxford Street, Levin

In attendance

Jenny Rowan (Facilitator)	Monique Davidson (HDC)
Dean Wilson	Taitiana Taukiri (HDC)
Jack Warren	David McMillan (HDC)
Charles Rudd	Daniel Haigh (HDC)
Rachel Shelby	Parekura McGregor
Viv Bold	Deanna Paki (Lake Trustee)
Billie Paki	Graeme Lindsay
Christine Moriarty	Greg Carlyon
Peter Everton	Trevor Hinder
Maree Everton	

Welcome and Karakia

Jenny welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked Dean to open with a Karakia.

Apologies

Eugene Henare, Peter Thompson, Sam Ferguson, Viv Taueki

Acknowledgment of Jennys Last Meeting

Charles raised a concern around the rules of the Resource Consent Conditions and notes that the NLG needs to be up-to-speed on the rules. NLG should receive all communications. Jenny notes we will come back to these matters.

Meeting Purpose

Daniel mentioned that having a central point of contact for the NLG will help strengthen communication lines between Council and NLG.

Earthtech Report (Presentation)

Daniel spoke to the presentation. The report will be released tomorrow.

Note that monitoring is in place. The data tells us that there is a plume of leachate that is moving from the old dump in the direction of the Hokio Stream.

The report gives a good understanding of the background levels of the old dump. The report provides an understanding of the shallow groundwater, surface water and aquifer levels.

Deanna asked if the new springs have been captured. Daniel replied that Council has looked at the history over the last 20 years and more work is needed to help decide on an intervention. There is potential for the leachate plume to worsen in certain areas if we do not intervene.

Noted that there is an opportunity to connect with hydrologist in the future.

Daniel commented that currently the Council is not in breach of any of the levels in the Hokio Stream. If we do not intervene, there is an option that the Council could breach their consent. The Council is taking an approach to see how they could intervene to ensure solute levels remain within the consent limit.

Noted that the mandate from Council was to investigate and further work to go back to elected members with results in coming months.

Jenny asked where the Regional Council stands on this. Dan Higgs answered that there are conditions in the consent to do this work, but timeframes have been missed. The BPO assessment ended June 2023. Daniel Haigh commented that the focus currently is to find a solution as quickly as possible and implement.

Daniel Haigh noted that the subsequent phases are to look at wetland rehabilitation and restoring mana and abundance of the Hokio Stream. The immediate phase is to understand leachate and make sure it is not slowly flowing into the Hokio Stream.

Jenny raised concern around the timeframes from the regional council. Dan Higgs mentioned that there is an option for the consent to be amended. It is unlikely enforcement will occur as work is being done.

Jenny raised concerns about the assurance from the Council for the community that the work will get done. Monique answered that this is a high priority for the Council.

Daniel Haigh noted that the report is an analysis of historic data. There is a need for more understanding before a decision is made.

Daniel discussed potential options:

Option 1). Construct a trench to act as a receptor for leachate solutes and put them through treatment processes on site and discharge them back through the likes of a reedbed or wetland system. Science would need to prove that it could be cleansed.

Option 2). Extract leachate solutes out and plug them into the leachate collection system which gets pumped into the wastewater system. Volume could be 15-100m³ per day.

Noted that there are onsite and offsite options.

Discussed the option to bring Earthtech to next hui to speak to results after next testing.

Question raised about the current depth of the plume. Daniel Haigh answered that it is sitting in the shallow groundwater profile. David answered, it varies between 2-5 meters.

A question was raised about whether a 5-meter trench is needed. Daniel Haigh answered that there will be more testing regimes done in the area. There is an option to put well-points (like bores) down, other than a trench. There is a need to better understand the area and where the intervention should be placed. If investigation shows that the system wasn't sufficient, there is an option to potentially locate it within the road reserve or option to work alongside the Tatana family about locating it on land not owned by the Council. The initial concept is that we should be able to locate the intervention on the Northern boundary of the Landfill site.

Jenny raised a question about the Council buying the Tatana land. Monique answered that it is not a topic of discussion.

Greg Carlyon asked about the depth of the test bores. Daniel Haigh answered that the deep-water bores are 12.5 meters and shallow water bores are 2-3 meters.

Question about the direction that the plume line is running. Answered that the line is running South to North.

Question from Greg asking, how do you build a picture of what is happening in the ground water profile below 2 meters (where the shallow bores are) as you head towards the Hokio Stream. Daniel answered, that's where they had to model it. 3D model built to get contour lines. Confirmed that it has been sampled at 2 meters. Next steps to continue investigation to further understand what is happening in that space. Daniel noted to be mindful of the hydraulic grade line for the ground water, flowing towards the Hokio Stream.

Viv mentioned that the natural flow would go to the Northern Farm drain at the bottom. Viv suggested that a closed drain could be better than bore sites. Daniel answered that the investigation could show that the best solution is both.

Deanna questioned whether the Council know the toxicity of Tatana land. Daniel replied that we need permission to do testing. Deanna suggested that the Council find out how toxic their land is because you don't want to make it more toxic unless you have too.

Greg commented that this is incredible when you look at where we were one year ago. He questioned whether there is an option to do some modelling of where the Hokio Stream will be in 40 years. The view is that if the Hokio Stream is going to be restored and water quality upstream will improve with time then it would be good to look at the relationship on the bases of the community expectations with the improvements in the Hokio Stream associated with the landfill discharge. Also questioned whether peer-review from other groundwater specialist an option.

Daniel answered that it was always an intention in conversations last year. It was met with the importance of meeting with landowners, iwi and hapu rather than jumping to conclusions. Daniel noted that something needs to be done here before the Council progresses to the next steps. Deanna mentioned that the Lake Trustees will need to be a part of that conversation. Daniel agreed.

Warren entered the meeting.

Christine asked about timeframes. Daniel answered that we do not have a program update now and there are delays with drillers. 6-8 weeks (about 2 months) starting at the earliest, once testing is done there is still analysing and modelling to undertake Likely to be in the 2–3-month window.

Monique mentioned that Council is under resourced, so we need to create one way of communicating and our energy goes into finding the best solution.

Confirmation from NLG that Daniel and the Council are on the right track. Support from NLG for the Council to go ahead with current work.

Moved: Jenny Rowan

Seconded: Greg Carlyon

“THAT NLG supports the program set out in today's meeting.”

Note: Subject to reading the report.

The report will be sent out tomorrow. Technical issues are to be saved for the technical experts.

NLG to choose a person to communicate with the Council as a single entity.

Jenny thanked Daniel and the HDC team.

Landfill Closure

Question raised about whether the Environmental Court needs to be notified. Answered no.

Concern raised around the next steps with regional council. Dan Higgs answered that there are conditions around closure. There is an option for the Council to surrender the current consent. Commented that this is a decision for the Council to consider.

Discussion around the uncertainty around the definition of ‘closure’. Monique clarified that the option that the Council has decided is for the landfill to not be a Class 1 Landfill. The council have also committed to a review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and want to explore the options for the future use of the site.

Acknowledgement of Complaint

Charles mentioned that there was no chance for the NLG to discuss the issue regarding the last minutes stating that ‘The council wants support from the NLG engaging with Ngati Pareraukawa and MTA’. Mentioned that there must be the right person to do a karakia.

Deanna mentioned that ahi kā should lead and suggested working collectively moving forward.

Monique replied that this is not a decision that Council should make.

Daniel responded and thanked everyone for the way we communicated today. Daniel replied saying that the reason it was documented in the minutes is because it was raised but due to the communication at the last meeting the message wasn’t heard. The complaint has been acknowledged and HDC has apologised.

Action: Taitiana to take the conversation offline and arrange karakia and hikoi.

Conflict of Interest

Charles raised concern around the agenda items not being in order.

Matters Arising

Will be discussed at next meeting.

Levin Landfill Compliance report update from Greg. The independent compliance assessment is complete and will come to PMG at the next meeting and then to NLG.

Hikoi te Whenua at Levin Landfill

Tuesday 20 June, 11:30am meet at the Landfill.

Deanna mentioned that the karakia will start at the gate.

Date for Next NLG Meeting

Facilitator and HDC to arrange a date no later than the end of September.

Charles raised concern around the compliance consent rules of the NLG. Suggested a meeting to go over the resource consent.

Monique mentioned that the rules have been in place for some time, and they do not always work. NLG all agree on two things, closure of the landfill and restoring the mauri of the whenua which we are working on. Process focused.

Daniel mentioned that we can send out communications straight away but there may be a delay in response.

Election of New Chair

Jenny believes that through the NLG and PMG that the mana of the Hokio people and Ngati Pareraukawa has been restored. Jenny is respectful of Monique for what she has brought to the discussion and the staff she has brought to the table with Daniel, David and Taitiana. Jenny commented that the project tonight is extremely encouraging. Said it will need to be monitored and the community will keep an eye on it.

Monique acknowledged Jenny for the personal sacrifice she had made and for the mana enhancing way she has worked with the Council.

Monique left the meeting.

Jenny wished everyone the best.

NLG members thanked Jenny.

Deanna nominated Parekura Macgregor to the new chair of the NLG.

Moved: Deanna Paki

Seconded: Christine Moriarty

Charles suggested letting people have time to think about the options for the new chair.

Voting took place.

The majority are in favour of the new facilitator.

Closing and Karakia

Dean closed the meeting with a Karakia.