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Committee Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Subcommittee
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Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Project Manager's Report

1. Purpose

This report outlines the general progress of the Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), as well as outlining other activities being undertaken within the catchment area by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

2. Progress

Overall, the project is three months behind the original schedule. The forward work programme has been restructured to enable the original objective of recommending a preferred option combination in December 2015 to still be met.

Additional workshops are proposed with the Subcommittee to accelerate development of options.

The proposed dates and times for these workshops is shown below;

Date	Time	Topic
30 th March	0900-1300	Rural Western Options
2 nd April	0900-1200	Rural Eastern Options
21 st April	0900-1300 before the Subcommittee meeting	Masterton Urban options

3. Masterton Flood Protection options

Cost estimation for the two different Masterton flood protection options is due for delivery on the 9th of March. This will be reported in a presentation to the Subcommittee at its meeting on the 10th of March.

The two options were presented at the Masterton A+P show as part of the GWRC stand.

4. Victoria University Wellington Project

The Victoria University Wellington landscape architecture class is supported by GWRC. In 2014, the landscape architects conceptualised options for the redevelopment of areas of Lower Hutt near the Waiwhetu stream. This project involved consideration of a range of factors affecting development of this area including flood risk and sea level rise. The students, during the course of the year, carried out site visits, spoke to local community groups and developed concepts for the area.

This year the students will work on concepts along the Masterton reach of the Waipoua River. This will include looking at a range of drivers including economic development and/or redevelopment potential, environmental restoration and flood risk management.

Masterton District Council have been contacted regarding the opportunity, and the 'My Masterton' campaign co-ordinator is enthusiastic about the opportunities that may come from the collaboration.

5. Regional Plan

Work is progressing on amendments to the draft plan following initial public consultation in November 2014, with a view to issuing a proposed plan in June 2015.

6. Wairarapa Water Use Project

The Wairarapa Water Use Project is in the final stages of completing pre-feasibility phase investigations to assess the most viable schemes to progress through to the full-feasibility phase starting in mid-2015. The current focus is to identify areas for cost optimisation, particularly in matching appropriate water service levels and scheme water capacity and reliability. Work over the coming months will bring together the various investigations across social, environmental, cultural and economic areas in a multi-criteria approach to scheme selection.

7. Te Kāuru area River Scheme Operations

7.1 Ruamahanga

Recent erosion has been identified near River Road, Masterton. It is planned to install some rock groyne edge protection within the next few weeks, subject to meeting the necessary consent conditions for working during low river flows.

7.2 Waingawa

Scheme operations are mainly complete for this financial year. Managing gravel extraction for river alignment purposes near Hood Aerodrome is the priority at present.

7.3 Waipoua

Channel maintenance work is mainly complete this financial year. Remaining work consists of vegetation control (spraying) on scheme stopbanks, some Old Man's Beard control, and channel accretion control.

7.4 Kopuaranga

This year the Kopuaranga scheme is spending about twice the recent annual maintenance budget in order to complete some of the scheme development work that was started in 2007. This work was nearly completed in December. It was decided to hold off on completing the work until later in the financial year, with the risk of flood debris blockages needing to be managed if they occur. If there is budget surplus remaining towards the 4th quarter of the year we hope to complete the planned crack willow removal.

7.5 Taueru and Whangaehu

Annual willow regrowth spray maintenance has been completed.

7.6 Rock supply

The delivery of rock for edge protection structures is proving to be a challenge this year. This is due to an ownership change of the preferred quarry. The Te Ore Ore scheme, in particular, has had the work programme delayed. Staff are working with the new owners to resolve the issues.

7.7 Resource consents

All gravel extraction in the Ruamahanga catchment is controlled by the Flood Protection Department under a single resource consent. This consent, granted in 2001, had specific restrictions for extracting gravel from the Waingawa River in the Bridges reach due to significant bed degrade in the early 1990s. The latest bed level survey data has been reviewed and it was determined that these restrictions could be relaxed in order to allow extraction at the Hood Aerodrome area. There are significant channel alignment issues opposite Hughes Line where river erosion is progressing towards the Aerodrome grounds. A variation to the gravel consent was granted in January 2015 and extraction has begun near Hughes Line for the purpose of channel alignment and control risk to the Aerodrome.

8. Communication

The following communications have occurred since the last meeting of this Subcommittee:

- 21 February – Masterton A+P Show
- 27 February – Letter advising of flood risk sent to Masterton tenants
- 3 March – River Management Scheme members.

9. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

9.1 Engagement

In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

10 Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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