

**MINUTES OF THE WAIPARA RIVER WORKING PARTY
Inaugural Meeting - 8 December 2008**

ATTENDEES

Ross Little	Ecan Councillor
Paul Williams	Waipara District Residents Association
Ross Williams	Manager of the Boys Brigade Camp
Fred Murray	Forest and Bird
Julie Coster	HDC Councillor
Dale Mainwaring	River User
Rob Gerrard	Ecan Staff Member
Ian McCrory	Fish and Game
Jake Lewis	Waipara Resident
Sarah Hughes-Games	Waipara Promotion Waipara Cycling and Walking
Gareth Renowden	Waipara River Protection Group
Mark Jones	Waipara Resident
Leigh Love	Waipara Resident
Brent Maguire	Combined 4WD clubs
Sharleen Jameson	Motorcycle Clubs
Greg Bennett	Amberley Beach Residents / Amberley Coast Care

APOLOGIES

Garry Jackson, Norton Hiller, Chris Pansters, Douschka Saunders, Kingsley Timpson

Meeting Opened at 7.00pm

INTRODUCTION

Mr Feierabend introduced the meeting and outlined the process that was proposed to resolve issues in the Waipara River. He stressed the purpose of the working party was to find solutions to the problems identified and as far as possible get a consensus position on the way forward. The Working Party agreed that this was the right process to follow.

Mr Feierabend then suggested that each member of the Working Party should introduce themselves, the group they represent and the particular interests they have in the Waipara River.

Adding an additional land owner representative

The Working Party discussed the merits of adding an additional land owner representative to the Working Party. It was agreed that landowners were underrepresented. It was agreed there should be three landowner representatives on the group one from the upper, middle and lower reaches of the River.

Action Point - Mr Renowden to inform Mr Parrish on who the additional land owner representative would be.

WORKING PAPER ONE – ISSUES

Mr Parrish presented an overview of Working Paper One. The Working Party considered the recommendations contained in this report. The Working Party

agreed that it would be beneficial to use a template style approach to managing issues in the Waipara River. The Working Party also agreed that it was important that cultural issues were also discussed for each section of the River. It was acknowledged that in looking at each section of the river the characteristics and values of each stretch would need to be evaluated.

Action Point – Mr Parrish to contact by phone Te Runanga O Tuahuriri

RECOMMENDATION ONE

- THAT THE WORKING PARTY CONFIRMS THAT THE ISSUES AND VALUES IDENTIFIED IN THE TABLE BUT NOT LIMITED TO THIS WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR ASSESSING EACH SECTION OF THE RIVER AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PREPARING AN OVERALL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE WAIPARA RIVER.

Property Ownership
Which are the areas of the river the public may access
Are there any restrictions on the types of activities permitted on that land
Recreational Interests
What activities are currently occurring at specific locations
What types of activities are suitable at specific locations
What environmental effects may occur if certain activities are permitted within each section of the river
Which activities may adversely affect other activities and identify ways to mitigate or minimise conflict
Environmental Issues
What are the important environmental values in each section of the river
How will these values be protected into the future
Consider and if deemed necessary provide management solutions to deal with:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rubbish; o Pest and Weed species; and, o Ecological restoration
Cultural Issues
What are the important cultural values in each section of the river
How will these values be protected into the future

Mainwaring Moved
McCrory Seconded

Carried

WORKING PAPER TWO

Terms of Reference

The Working Party discussed the terms of reference in particular what the bounds of the Waipara River would be. A number of different suggestions were made including assessing the entire catchment of the Waipara River and using the fence line between private land and the river bed. It was eventually agreed to restrict the discussion to the main stem of the River.

RECCOMENDATION ONE

- THAT THE WORKING PARTY MANAGEMENT RECCOMENDATIONS EXTEND TO THE MAIN STEM OF THE RIVER AND ALL THE LAND BETWEEN THE CADASTRAL PROPERTY BOUNDARY DESIGNATING PRIVATE PROPERTY ON THE TRUE RIGHT BANK TO THE CADASTRAL PROPERTY BOUNDARY

DESIGNATING PRIVATE PROPERTY ON THE TRUE LEFT BANK OF THE WAIPARA RIVER.

Mainwaring Moved

Bennett Seconded

Carried

AMF Rights

A significant amount of discussion was had on the principle of AMF rights and the ownership that this right would entail. Mr Renowden explained that this was one of the areas of the working papers that had generated the most controversy with land owners and that he felt that the amended recommendation addressed these concerns. It was agreed that the landowners were the most affected party to this resolution. Mr Renowden made it clear landowners did not want to stop access to the riverbed but they did want to see it managed in a way that protected the rivers values.

RECCOMENDATION TWO

- That the Working Party acknowledges the AMF Principle and the property rights that this provides but it puts them to one side at this point in time and focuses on a consensus solution to manage the issues and values in the river bed.

Murray Moved

Renowden Seconded

Carried

Sections of the River

The Working Party next considered the breaking up of the river bed into a range of sections for the purposes of developing a management response to each section. It was agreed that there should be seven sections of the River not the six suggested in the working paper as listed bellow:

- Waipara River Mouth (upstream to Webbs Road)
- Waipara Mouth to SH1 Bridge (Webbs Road to Wash Creek)
- SH1 Bridge (Wash Creek to the Eastern Boundary of Fiddlers Green Vineyard)
- SH1 Bridge to Stringers Bridge (Fiddlers Green Vineyard to Stingers Bridge)
- Stringers Bridge to White Gorge (Stingers Bridge to the down stream side of White Gorge)
- White Gorge to Doctors Gorge (inclusive of both White Gorge and Doctors Gorge) and
- Doctors Gorge to the Source of the Waipara (defined in this case as being the confluence of the three rivers).

The Working Party then went through each section of the river (except the Doctors Gorge to source section) and outlined the points that they thought were most important in each section of the river. These points covered both positive and negative effects within each section

Waipara River Mouth

2 Signs have been vandalised	Paleontological Values	Native vegetation
Important bird nesting site	Nohanga Sites	Farming in the Estuary
Whitebaiting	4WD / Motorbiking	Gravel Extraction
Fly tipping	Mountain Biking	
Camping	Access to Rocks	

Waipara Mouth to SH1 Bridge

4WD's Motor Bikes Travelling Fast	Vehicles cutting across horseshoe bend	Fishing
Camping at Greenwoods Bridge	Broom and Gorse	Grey fronted turn
Weeds and Pests	Gravel Extraction	Pied Stilts
2WD vehicles in River Bed	Bird Nesting	
Dumping of Vehicles	Shooting	

SH1 Bridge

Same issues as Waipara Mouth to SH1 Bridge but worse	Tyres being burnt	Fires in Fire Ban
Rubbish	Camping	Locality of Hotel
Cars dumped in river bed	Too many access points	Gravel Extraction
Building Rubbish	Highest Density of Use	No Toilets

SH1 to Stringers Bridge

Fences Cut / Stock Shot / Poached	Trout Fishing	Limited Camping – Stringers Bridge halfway between SH1 and Stringers
Fires – location of vineyards	Limited amount of Water	Duck Shooting
Less traffic but more 4WDers	Willows	

Stringers Bridge to White Gorge

People defecating on fences	Geological values	Driving up White Gorge
Shooting	Boby Stream Fossils	Picnic Spot
Access	40 Vehicles in One Weekend	Change in Geography
Water Quality	Vehicles Stuck	Fishing
Flooding to clean river	Weeds and Pests	

White Gorge to Doctors Gorge

Gods Marbles	Fossles	Camping
Laidmore Road is a Ford	Forestry / Fire Risk	KT Boundary
Fossilised Sharks Teeth	Museum Field Trips	Highly Scenic
Marine Reptile Fossils	Bishops Head and Limesotone Shapes	Worlds Oldest Penguin

The Working Party agreed that a fieldtrip to investigate these values was a good idea and that this should proceed as soon as possible. The field trip should be carried out over two weekends and that Saturday was the preferred day for the field trip by the majority of members.

RECOMMENDATION THREE

- THAT THE WORKING PARTY RESOLVES TO UNDERTAKE A FIELD TRIP EXTENDING FROM THE COAST TO DOCTORS GORGE.

- THAT THE SEVEN SPECIFIC AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE MINUTES PAPER ARE CONFIRMED AS THE AREAS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, SUBJECT TO ANY FINDINGS/AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY ON THE FIELDTRIP

Mr P Williams Moved

Mr Renowden Seconded

Carried

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and indicated he considered the evenings discussions had been constructive in establishing a good foundation on which to progress the working party process.

Meeting Closed 10.10pm