

## FLAG MEETING NOTES: 06 April 2017

<b>Purpose:</b>	Takaka Freshwater and Land Advisory Group (FLAG)– Meeting 30
<b>Date:</b>	06 April 2017
<b>Time:</b>	9.30am-3.00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Takaka Fire station
<b>Present:</b>	<p><b>FLAG members:</b>            Graham Ball (GB)            Greg Anderson (GA)            Mike Newman (MN)            Piers MacLaren (PM)            Mirka Langford (MLa),            Kirsty Joynt (KJ)            Martine Bouillir (MB)            Mik Symmons (MS)            Matt Rountree (MR)            Margie Little            Tony Reilly (TR)</p> <p><b>Staff:</b>            Steve Markham (SM – Principal Policy Planner)            Joseph Thomas (JT -Resource Scientist - Water &amp; Special Projects)            Pauline Webby (PW– Policy Planner- Natural Resources)            Trevor James (TJ- Resource Scientist – Water Quality &amp; Aquatic Ecology)</p> <p>Cr Sue Brown (SB – Golden Bay Ward Councillor)</p> <p>Rochelle Selby-Neal (RSN -Independent Facilitator)            Andrew Fenemor (AF - Landcare Research)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Lisa McGlinchey (LM – Coordinator- Natural Resources Policy)
<b>Notes taken by:</b>	Pauline Webby (supplemented by other staff)
<b>Definitions and Abbreviations</b>	AMA = Arthur Marble Aquifer FLAG = Freshwater and Land Advisory Group FoGB = Friends of Golden Bay l/s = litres per second MALF = Mean Annual Low Flow NOF= National Objectives Framework – under the NPS-FM NPS-FM 2014 = National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 TLA = Takaka Limestone Aquifer TRMP = Tasman Resource Management Plan (the Plan) TUGA = Takaka Unconfined Gravel Aquifer TWMC = Takaka Water Management Catchments TWS = Te Waikoropupu Springs SOE = State of the Environment WCO = Water Conservation Order application for Te Waikoropupu Springs and recharge area FM = FLAG member
<p><i>Note: records of discussion points have been grouped into similar topics and are not necessarily in the order discussed at the meeting. Notes in square brackets [ ] have been added post meeting for clarity.</i></p>	
<p><b>FLAG MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:</b> If you have any questions or need anything between meetings, then please contact Lisa McGlinchey by email: <a href="mailto:lisa@tasman.govt.nz">lisa@tasman.govt.nz</a> or by phone ddi 03 543 8409.</p>	

### **NOTE about these meeting notes**

*These notes provide a summary of the points raised by individuals at the FLAG meeting – they are not necessarily a representation of the views held by any or all members. The comments cover the diversity of experiences and opinions on the group. The views expressed here are also open to develop and change at any time.*

### **Purpose of Meeting**

- Sharing knowledge and wisdom, and increasing understanding about: key sources of contaminant discharges to freshwater in the Takaka FMU
- “Good Management Practice” approaches for land and water uses that impact freshwater quality
- Mana o te Wai - Maori perspectives on freshwater and approaches to maintaining the mauri and mana of water
- How to maintain or improve water quality

### **Session 1: Welcome/Outline of the day/Context**

- Welcome and karakia

### **Check-in**

**FM A query around the comments on meetings being identified with initials or not. A general discussion around maintaining the confidence to have open discussions**

**Agreed:** All FLAG members Ok with Initials OFF comments on meeting notes.

**Action:** Staff to remove FLAG members initials from meeting notes.

Post meeting note: The same discussion and outcome was made in the first FLAG meeting of 2017, though some FLAG members absent then.

**FM Following public feedback there is a sense of stress of weighing up the science, iwi perspective and public opinion. How is everyone feeling – is anyone else feeling stressed or conflicted?**

#### **How would you weigh up and balance different views under the RMA?**

- Is difficult because science is measurable, with public opinion need to sift out misinformation but strongly listen to holistic worldviews.
- Don't know what to do – but different perspectives are valid, one day emotional intelligence will be linked to rational.
- Relies on information. Open days were more balanced than media portrayed.
- Runs on perception as much as science, sense at public meetings that some people are comfortable in public spaces making statements, whereas others aren't - a number reflected a feeling.

#### **Can use the public feedback to test out the science.**

- Confusion in public some stakeholders didn't know about the current absence of controls on takes.
- Some people misunderstood this consultation process is the beginning and there is more opportunity to come for public input via submissions on Schedule 1 processes.
- Agree, only part of the process- after the science- one component

- One way of thinking about the feedback is to ask what type of feedback (science or policy) has been received.

SM: Public feedback can be usefully categorised as information and views on:

- 1 causes of environmental problems
- 2 changes in environment
- 3 what needs to be done – management actions
- 4 what should be the improvements (results in environment).

Asserted facts need to be subject to evidence on technical issues as well as public feedback on what's important being checked against the values information held.

Cr Brown tabled a letter for FLAG and commented that FLAG should sift out emotion and the work of this group is to undertake evaluation.

**Action:** Cr Brown to forward letter to Lisa to be emailed to FLAG members.

Future letters not to be read at FLAG meetings, but forwarded first to Lisa, then forwarded to FLAG members via email.

**Action:** Consultation Sub-Group to draft up a media release as a public thank you in response to the open day and referencing the Q and A on website. FLAG to approve. Have Q and A ready first and then media release.

### ***Manawhenua ki Mohua hui***

SM: Hui booked, not a field trip, brief them on latest thinking science report is now available. This is a formal hui to take lwi with FLAG from here on. An opportunity to learn more about how to account for mauri and cultural values in the FLAG recommendations.

### **Website update**

In Lisa's absence, she said to let you know that the FLAG website pages have been updated and navigability improved. The new pages include:

- Key points from feedback
- Key points from Open day
- Q and A coming.

### **Ongoing public engagement**

FM:

- Wary of public interaction with FLAG when FLAG should pass information (about problems) to Council and Council takes the flak.
- Important that it is FLAG's process - it will be Council's later. But does leave FLAG exposed if Council's actions are not appropriate or cut across your roles - speak up so we change to allow unfettered access to public.
- Proposed plan drafting work stopped for this period, whilst dealing with community engagement, information requests....
- Q and A need to be ready to go with media release. Concerned that Lisa's time gets taken up with responding to public enquiry - cannot get on with drafting tasks, minutes and other necessary FLAG work.
- Staff process being slowed down - longer it takes the more complicated.
- Council tested - FLAG now being seen as the next group to attack.
- Brief overview Q and A to finalise the end of the first public feedback opportunity.
- Is it OK to have a time where public could come into meeting at end and ask questions. But not if not constructive feedback – though questions need to be answered.
- Media release – Ask Lisa to liaise with consultation subgroup.

**Action:** LM to liaise with consultation subgroup on media release.

**Action:** Put posters from the public meetings up in a public place (eg library), Info Online, Q and A before media releases.

### Science report is out

The release has been given to FLAG – it will not be released until FLAG decide what to do with it.

FM:

- Get report out ASAP
- Who is deciding- implies that is owned by someone, uncomfortable with that wording and the implications.
- Who owns the report = “ Collective Scientist ownership”
- How do you use the information
- Science is needed to improve knowledge and TDC can influence decisions on future research funding Dairy industry had no science input but contributed funding.
- R Young was hammered for being too conservative in one plan process and then here the opposite position expressed.
- Needs wording to be clear.
- Differing opinions
- Science needed, needed funding, Council wouldn't fund, so Dairy NZ funded for FLAG at FLAG member suggestion because farmers pay levy for R&D and non-biased science agreed between the experts was needed by FLAG. Dairy NZ had no input into report
- Published by Cawthron- letterhead
- A range of science input

**Agreed:** FLAG approves release of report

**Action:** Staff to put Science Panel report online.

## Session 1 Critical source areas for contaminant discharges from farms and their impacts

*Trevor James discussed issues present in the GB area relating to water quality*

### Issue: Discharges to Sink holes

- The leaky ones are most important to do something about because they are likely to discharge to the AMA.
- Concerns over sediment and fertilizer from cropping areas eroding and washing into sinkholes during rain events.
  - Example shown: during a rain event after a relatively long dry spell. Groundwater levels would have been low and storm flow would've gone to the AMA.
  - That runoff is gone to ground by the end of the flood event.
- Potential solutions include: Re-contouring the land to ensure that stormwater does not erode cropping areas (in this case the amount of earthworks would be minimal) and installing a wetland and grass swale to intercept and treat the runoff.

FM Discussion:

- No regulation around ephemeral sink holes – impossible to regulate. How far do you go? Some years an issue and some years not because of the variations of nature. This is part of what farmers have to deal with.
- Best management practices are in place already via BMP not in regulation in the TRMP. For example, swale planting and setbacks.
- Two distinctions – one is the management approaches, one is the ways of implementing the management approach

### **Issues: Identifying and Managing On-Farm Contaminant Sources - TJ**

The following examples of faecal and sediment discharges from various farm sources have been found to be widespread in Tasman District, but are not currently specifically mentioned in the Tasman Resource Management Plan or the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord and therefore do not get much attention from farm environmental management systems.

#### **Faecal source investigations in Tukurua Catchment:**

- *E. coli* in the lower reaches of Tukurua Stream (campground playground site) showed regular exceedences of guidelines for swimming from 2010. *E. coli* concentrations upstream of the farm were very low (almost always below the level of detection). Genetic tests showed that source at the campground playground site to be mainly of human and ruminant animal sources (a small influence from wildfowl).
- In 2012 a survey of all septic tanks in the catchment found three failing systems. The following year, once the proper function of the septic tanks were restored, the genetic tests showed no human source, but still a strong ruminant and weaker wildfowl influence. *E. coli* concentrations were still high so further investigations.
- The farmland in the catchment is a dairy support block, was all fenced and there were no regular stock crossings. No faecal sources were found on repeated visits to the farm until in the 2013-14 season when a stock drinking water trough located very close to the stream was found to be over-flowing and cattle effluent was built up and flowing over the bank. Once the trough was moved back from the bank the *E. coli* concentrations for the rest of that swimming season and the following (2014-15) season reduced and no exceedences of the 540 *E. coli*/100ml guideline were recorded.
- Over the 2015-16 season *E. coli* concentrations were back to the high levels found prior to the discovery of the trough. A second over-flowing trough and similar effluent discharge to Tukurua Stream was found, but was quickly relocated away from the stream by the farmer. High cover of filamentous green algae was found in the stream associated with the discharge. Unfortunately there were still high *E. coli* concentrations for the rest of that season.
- In winter 2016 a small feed pad (for cows not part of the milking platform) located adjacent to the stream with associated effluent discharge was discovered. This feed pad has been used intermittently over the years, but this was the first time evidence of effluent discharge was recorded. It is likely that the disease-causing organisms discharged from these sources get entrained in the bed of the stream for long periods of time, and bleed off for months afterwards. This feed pad was relocated away from the stream within two months of notification.
- Over the 2016-17 season *E. coli* concentrations were the lowest on record. Hopefully, we have found all the major sources faecal contamination.

These examples show that there can be many different contaminant sources that occur intermittently over time and so can take a long time to identify. Given Tukurua Stream is a small catchment, the effort required to manage large catchments is high.

#### **Issues: Effluent and Sediment Discharge from Farm Races**

Effluent commonly builds up on races and without proper design around stream crossings stormwater discharges direct to waterways. In addition, without regular reshaping, berms form on the edge of the raceway causing effluent to flow into drains and streams.

Potential solution – create a hump over the waterway to divert stormwater to a grassy swale, rather than direct to stream. Re-grade races regularly so storm runoff discharges to pasture and filters through grass.

#### **Issues: Effluent and Sediment Discharge from Winter cropping/ break feeding areas**

- Setback rules for winter cropping on sloped land – eg Southland.
- Important to address because a lot of sediment and faecal contamination.
- Southland guide available at GB Rural Service Centre.

- Several parties have to be involved – eg contractor coming to put seed in – the contractor is very important. The people that sell the seed, getting through to contractors etc.
- An Environment Plan would direct the contractors
- This change is happening but not perfect.

### **Issues: Effluent and Sediment Discharge from Wet Pugged Areas Adjacent to the Stream**

Initial fencing has often been very close to, and parallel to, the stream. Moving the fence out a little away from the stream in areas where pugging occurs in wet areas during wet periods, is likely to significantly-reduce faecal indicator bacteria and sediment levels in waterways.

### **Issues: Effluent and Sediment Discharge from Pasture Runoff**

Stormwater from most farm paddocks enters waterways at specific low points. These have been described as “funnel points”. Identifying these and fencing up the low point allows long grass to develop and achieve filtration of faecal and sediment and thereby reducing contamination to the waterway. If the values in the waterway are high, then there is more imperative for this solution to be applied more widely.

NIWA research shows that the installation of wetlands of only 1% of the paddock area to intercept pasture runoff during rain events is very effective. The Aorere Catchment Group – targeted faecal contamination in run-off from small to medium-sized rain events and have shown that these practices has improved *E Coli* and aquaculture harvest times improved

Faecal bacteria – important because of impacts on:

- Humans
- Stock but more tolerant
- Not an issue with fish etc, provided you rinse well, and cook

### **Summary comment**

TJ: “While I think there is a lot of room to improve the “swimmability” of our waterways (levels of disease-causing organisms measured by faecal indicator bacteria) we are unlikely to achieve swimmable rivers all of the time with pasture upstream. This is because dung from stock remains on the pasture and runs off in storms. Our objective should be to reduce the peak concentrations and the length of time faecal indicator bacteria remain above guidelines after a rainfall event.”

FLAG discussion:

- How much regulation verses education?
- One rule for all?
- Or some creeks with a higher standard because of ecological values etc?
- Where do you start and where do you stop?
- Where will you get your biggest bang for buck?
- GMP v BMP?
- Where’s the sheriff?
- Picking on farm in a rain event, verses the salmon farm putting out *E Coli* continuously?
  - There is a high compliance rate from salmon farm, they have a lot of compliance monitoring, they do not produce *E Coli*
- Concern over diggers cleaning out ditches.
  - Should you require ditches to be dug progressively rather than all at once? – But there are cost and practicality implications.
  - Need to dig out because they are sediment traps – so if loose function by filling up, you do need to dig them out.

- Ditch is great habitat for koura and eel – so spend a lot of time out of the digger picking these out and putting back in ditch.
- Big piles left on side of streams (?)
  - Best soil on land so might as well use it – there is a benefit to putting it in a good place.
- Once ditches are fenced – cleaning interval becomes much longer – natives come up underneath
- Nothing is static on a farm – there is a lot of maintenance to get into psych
- Question about ability of TDC to carry out compliance monitoring and prosecution.

<Kapu Ti>

## **Session 2 - Good Management Practices (GMP) in dairy farming**

*Presentation – Mirka Langford*

- GMP – GMP was defined 2 years ago. So it is a whole new concept.
- BMP – Industry doesn't talk about this anymore
- GMP covers 18 policies, overlain onto six areas:
- Land/Soil, Water/Irrigation, Waterways/biodiversity, Effluent, Nutrients, Infrastructure/waste
- GMP refers to all land uses – pastoral
- Required to back up with evidence as for H&S, It is a full time job to record what you are doing.
- Find that many people are doing good practice but not recording it.
- GMP = broad statements that guide discussion with the farmer. Doesn't set the detail.
  - For example, manage soil exposure – may result in making sure the paddock is not bare for a long period of time.
- States a broad category with goals, doesn't say the how.
  - E.g. Nutrient management – use a consultant that is certified
- Uses lots of words like “minimise” eg risk of leaching. Minimise the amount of water used...
- Feed – maize/palm kernel – where you feed in out under high rainfall

### **Agreement - FLAG members – general agreement to keep the headings from the GMP Framework for Pastoral and build on that**

Individual Farm Plans – include a risk analysis

Need to consider how far to take this in TRMP. Eg. TRMP requirement may be to identify critical source areas.

ECan – EFP required to have consent to farm but it is \$3000-10000/plan/farm – consultants trained to audit plan are certified \$1000-3000/audit. Audit template from ECan.

- A pass = not audited for 3 years unless change manager
- B pass = audited 2 yrs
- C pass = audited 1 yr
- Fail – audited 6months

Mirka – doesn't like the “consultant” industry this has created, cost to farmers or the change in manager requirement.

How do you define a farm? Anything over 8ha.

GMP – The paper work is an issue.

Other options for planning:

Farming permitted – if part of an industry plan/scheme that is audited or require resource consent.

## Discussion

- How to develop a GMP template
- Not supportive of creating a new industry around farm plans and auditing.
- Need catchment specific conditions brought into the EFP – how to develop the template. Who does the compliance stuff, so not creating perverse incentives..
- Concern about silage leachate discharging to the Takaka River near the SH60 bridge at Waitapu.  
*[Post meeting note: following the meeting TJ visited the site and confirmed the leachate and the farmer put in place measures to avoid the discharge.]*
- Concern also raised about soil erosion from the Takaka River banks under the Waitapu (SH60) bridge.  
*[Post meeting note: TJ visited this site following the meeting and confirmed there was in the order of a couple of truck loads of soil that has been eroded in the last few years from the true left bank of the river. Smothering of shellfish beds in Golden Bay by fine sediment is a real concern. This is an issue for Council river engineers and NZTA to work through. Although rock lining of large areas of the river is not necessarily the solution as this is likely to prevent inanga spawning and fish habitat, including mahinga kai.]*

**Action:** SM and PW to find out whether there has been service requests to roading engineers or deferral to NZTA.

**Action:** LM/PW to email link to Mirka's presentation for FLAG *[presentation is available online under meeting folder]*

Audit covers – quality of the plan as it applied to the farm plus farmer actions.  
Speed of action/response – relative to risk/outcome etc.

<Lunch>

## Session 3 Mana o te Wai – Māori perspectives on freshwater Mana o te Wai – Maori perspectives on freshwater, and water quality management

Mihi mihi, welcome & introductions.

Korero – Barney Thomas & Kura Stafford - *Request that this discussion be oral and private – no recording or sharing beyond those present.*

Karakia & Waiata to close.

<End of meeting>



## Action Points – Council Staff/Facilitator/Advisor

No.	What	Who
1.	Staff to remove FLAG members initials from meeting notes.	LM/ PW
2.	Cr Brown to forward letter to Lisa to be emailed to FLAG members	SB/ LM
3.	LM to liaise with consultation subgroup on media release.	LM
4.	Put posters from the public meetings up in a public place (eg library), Info Online, Q and A before media releases.	LM
5.	Staff to put Science Panel report online.	LM
6.	SM and PW to find out whether there has been service requests re leaching staining on river bank at at Collingwood from roading - NZTA	SM/ PW
7.	LM/PW to email link to Mirka's presentation for FLAG. [ <i>presentation is available online under meeting folder</i> ]	LM/ PW

## Action Points – FLAG members

No.	What	Who
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## Action Points – FLAG Sub-groups

No.	What	Who
8.	Consultation Sub-Group to draft up a media release as a public thank you in response to the field day and referencing the Q and A on website. FLAG to approve. Have Q and A ready first and then media release.	MS/ MLa/ KJ/ MB

## Scheduled FLAG and FLAG Subgroup meetings

<b>Date</b>	24 April 2017 – MKM –FLAG -TDC Hui
<b>Time</b>	9.00am
<b>Venue</b>	Onetahua Marae
<b>Agenda Items</b>	

## Information and resource documents identified during meeting

Date	Title	Author/Source
	None	

*\*Key documents available electronically will be added to the online PDF document bibliography.*

## Issues or topics identified during meeting for future consideration

Topic/Issue Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>

*\*Issues or topics unable to be addressed at the meeting, but requiring future consideration will be recorded in the Takaka FLAG 'Information Eddy'.*