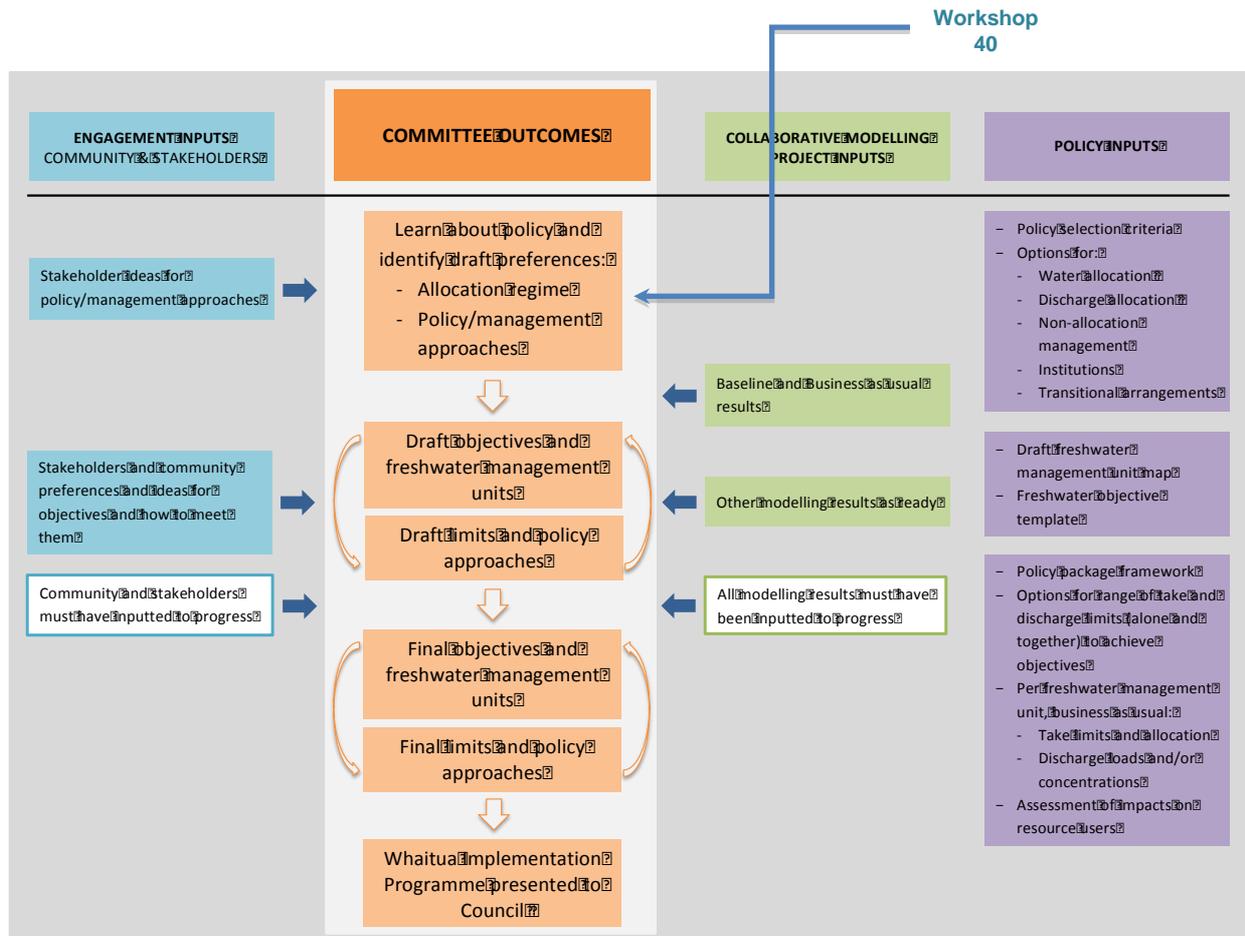


Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

Deliberations Phase 3 – Workshop 40

Monday 3 April 2017, 1:30-6PM

South Wairarapa Working Men’s Club, Greytown



Summary This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held 3 April 2017 at the South Wairarapa Working Men’s Club in Greytown.

Contents These notes contain the following:

- A** Workshop Attendees
- B** Workshop Purpose and Agenda
- C** Workshop Decisions
- D** Workshop Actions
- E** Farm Scale Planning
- F** Sub-catchment Planning

Appendix 1: Photos of Flipcharts

A Workshop Attendees

Workshop Attendees

RW Committee: Peter Gawith, Mike Ashby, Chris Laidlaw, David Holmes, Mike Birch, Colin Olds, Esther Dijkstra, Aidan Bichan, Ra Smith, Russell Kawana, Rebecca Fox, Andy Duncan.

Greater Wellington & Project Team: Alastair Smaill, Kat Banyard, Murray McLea, Horipo Rimene, Natasha Tomic, Hayley Vujcich, Mike Grace, Jon Gabites.

Modellers: John Bright.

Independent Facilitator: Michelle Rush.

Apologies: Vanessa Tipoki, Philip Palmer.

B Workshop Purpose and Agenda

Purpose

1. Refresh understanding of what makes for effective farm plans; and in tandem with this, build an understanding of the policy settings and institutional arrangements that best provide signals and incentives for effective farm plans and their implementation. Reach consensus on one or two options to take out and test with the community.

2. Discuss and reach an understanding of where various management decisions are best made between the property scale and the sub-catchment scale, and out of this, determine one or two preferences in relation to sub-catchment groups to test with stakeholders and the community
3. Confirm the RWC’s overall policy approach to managing discharges.

Purpose 1 was partly achieved. Purpose 2 was achieved. Purpose 3 wasn’t achieved.

Agenda

The agenda is detailed in the table below.

Time	Task
(1:30 - 1:45PM)	Welcome (Peter Gawith) and Karakia (Ra Smith) Purposes (Michelle Rush)
(1:45 – 2:45PM)	Richard’s philosophy on farm scale planning (Richard Parkes)
(2:45 - 3:30PM)	Discussion on farm scale planning
(3:30 - 4:00PM)	Afternoon tea
(4:00 – 5:15PM)	Sub-catchment planning
(5:15 – 6:00PM)	Articulating the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee’s approach to managing contaminants

C Workshop Decisions

Ideas around sub-catchment groups to test with the community

- Groups should be enabled but not be compulsory.
- Groups may not necessarily be catchment groups – they may reflect social catchments.
- Test the idea of different funding mechanisms for groups as no consensus within the Committee.
- Support for industry good practise guidance and programmes.
- Local leadership backed by a support programme.
- Provision of catchment monitoring to support the group.
- Group purpose is to achieve freshwater objectives and live within limits.
- Group is a vehicle for implementation – has practical focus.

D Workshop Actions

Actions

There were no actions arising from this workshop.

General discussion:

- Part of this is about creating an environment where farm plans work. What is the outcome the Committee are looking to get from a farm plan?
- The National Science Challenge is looking at changing land use classes to land use suitability. Considering producing for the land, rather than just market forces.
- Decisions need to be made at a level where they empower people and where change occurs.
- Important to give farmers what they need, rather than what we think they need.
- GWRC needs to think about talking to farmers with one voice. The Committee needs to think about what institutional change they want and then the change will follow.
- Collaboration is important as it allows people to get new information and develop a better plan.
- Continuous improvement – question why we do what we do, come up with a new idea, try it and evaluate. Repeat.



- Need to employ holistic thinking. It's about getting people to make change – more than just the environment.
- People must understand the issue they're trying to deal with.

Things that were appealing in Richard's presentation:

- Looking at the social outcome you want and working towards that.
- Complex farm systems require a complex plan.

Things that were challenging in the presentation:

- Getting everyone to work better together – there will be different levels of understanding and debt in a sub-catchment. Getting different institutions to work together.
- The Committee comes up with the objectives but then it is hard to get the different institutions to change.
- Creating the right environment where people are allowed to challenge each other to improve their practice. Improvements come from people doing left field things.

Messages from Richard's presentation for policies that will enable/promote/activate sustainable land and water use in its broadest sense:

- Take a team approach at the catchment scale (and we can break it down to smaller scales beyond this).
- Make sure people know what the issues are so that they can start to go through the behaviour change process (and we have started that already in this Whaitua).
- Continuously review communications and education needs over time. Maybe take a multi-disciplinary approach, e.g. a multi disciplinary advisory service e.g. 'one stop shop'.
- All of us are in this together – urban as well as rural.
- Policies and regulation should not be too prescriptive – they must be flexible enough to allow for continuous improvement.
- Have policies that enhance **continuous** improvement.

It was decided to move onto a discussion about sub-catchment scale planning rather than an activity about farm scale planning as a more natural continuation of the conversation at this time.

F Workshop Notes – Sub-catchment Planning

Overview

Alastair Smaill gave an overview of how resource management decisions might be taken at different scales, using the example of sediment to articulate the difference between decisions at the catchment scale, decisions at the sub-catchment scale, and decisions at the property scale.

Working in breakout groups, RWC members and PT then worked through the following questions:

- 1) What decisions should be made at a catchment scale, sub-catchment scale and at a property scale?
 - a. Where in the catchment do you prioritise actions?
 - b. If you decide you want to share the cost where and how might that be appropriate?
- 2) What institutional arrangements could we put in place to make those decisions?
 - a. Formality
 - b. Authority
 - c. What level of support?
 - d. Who pays?
- 3) What does that look like as a preferred package to take out and test with the community? Be clear about the scope of the group (the sorts of decisions made at the sub-catchment level); and the preferred institutional arrangements.

Key points and break out session notes are described below.

Summary of key points from report back session – all groups

During the plenary discussion following the breakout groups the following themes emerged:

- Groups should be enabled but not be compulsory.
- Groups may not necessarily be catchment groups – they may reflect social catchments.
- Community and stakeholder consultation needs to include the advantages of having such groups in the explanation.
- Funding mechanism for the group – no consensus yet – seek feedback through consultation round on the choices of:
 - regional rates
 - targeted rates
 - being self-funded
- The funding mechanism could depend on the work of the group and the need e.g. targeted rates, government funding

etc.

- Support for industry good practise guidance and programmes.
- Local leadership backed by a support programme.
- Provision of catchment monitoring to support the group.
- Group purpose is to achieve freshwater objectives and live within limits.
- Group is a vehicle for implementation – has practical focus.

**Breakout
Group 1**

Decisions at sub-catchment

- Maximum support for decisions
- Peer pressure within group
- Can't commit individual timing and expenditure
- Power of information sharing about catchment
- Funding flexible – fall where costs lie or collective

Institutional arrangements

- Self forming – Informal
- Agency cooperation
- Supported
- Local leadership
- Templates

**Breakout
Group 2**

For the example of sediment:

Decisions made at catchment scale – based on load at the bottom of the catchment.

Issue results from actions - land use and human interaction.

For remedies and impacts:

Farm Scale

- (a) Keep soil on hills (farm)
- (b) Current practice (levies, rates) as per flood programme

Sub-catchment Scale

- Keep it in the catchment
- Planting banks
- Slowing flows
- Flood management of the river
- (b) Current practical levels, rates (as per flood programme)

Catchment Scale

2. Formalised through community decision

- Supported (Catchment support through rates) (BAU 40 30 30)
- Informed (Educated on issue)

- Educated (Educated on solutions)
- Process – Collective decision for catchment benefit

Landowner and Community (pays and receives benefit)

**Breakout
Group 3**

**Two types of group:
Cohort type**

- Share ideas and support one another
- Accessing value of informal communication
- When there are communities already, e.g. gun club, school, it is not necessary to have the group be on a catchment basis

Catchment Type

- This works when there is a resource limit to share.
 - How to identify where there are ‘self-start communities?’ – NB, limits ability to do catchment scale work.
 - Governance of one-stop-shop needs to enable communities.
 - Regional council needs to enable community groups to grow out of their own energy including support for novel and extension ideas.
 - Rules, governance and leadership for transformative change including looking at land use suitability.
 - Need “farming institution” to support communities - could be semi-formal with agreed song sheet. GWRC has role as responsive advisers.
 - Least formal arrangements as possible.
 - Policy to be enabling of sub-catchment groups.
 - Also educational/advice/support groups, supported by Regional Council, who have relationships with farmers and can therefore, be seed sowers - GWRC role in this is to provide access to experts, both for operations and for governance.
-

**Breakout
Group 4**

Sub-Catchment Groups

Criteria:

- Whatever scale leads to a more efficient result.
- Equitable allocation of funding; user pays.
- Scale of problem vs scale of catchment e.g. if everyone in catchment has similar problem it makes sense to work together to solve it e.g. Admiral Valley – social pressure led to change.

Institutional Arrangements

- Why? Every catchment is different so apply the criteria

(above).

- More formal arrangement in areas with an already degraded environment or higher risk.
- Support – need a community leader (champions).
- Administrative support – from GWRC or equivalent:
 - Sharing of knowledge – link between – sub-catchments
 - Help to develop a management plan
 - Education
 - Explanation of issues
- Utilising carbon credits related to planting – sub-catchment scale - using funding to help develop wetlands.
- One landowner might do nothing on his property for e.g. shading, but will be doing actions for other issues.

Question 3 - Preferred package

- Based on existing communities (social catchments) as much as possible.
 - Each catchment has the opportunity to implement own solutions.
 - SCIP – Sub-catchment implementation programmes.
-

Decisions at sub-catchment

- Maximise support for decisions.
- Peer pressure within group.
- Can't commit individual timing and expenditure
- Power of information sharing about catchment
- Funding flexible - fall where costs lie & collective.

Institutional arrangements

Self forming - Informal
Agency co-op.

Supported

Local leadership

Templates

→ Utilising carbon credits ^{related to planting} - sub-catchment scale.
↳ using funding to help develop wetlands.

→ One landowner might do nothing on his property for e.g. shading but will be doing actions for other issues.

Qu 3 - Preferred package

→ Based on existing communities (social catchments) as much as possible.

→ Each catchment has the opportunity to implement own solutions.

→ SCIP - Sub-catchment implementation programmes.

Sub-catchment groups:

Criteria:

- Whatever scale leads to a more efficient result.
- Equitable allocation of funding User pays.
- Scale of problem vs. scale of catchment e.g. if everyone in catchment has similar problem makes sense to work together to solve it.
- e.g. Admiral Valley - social pressure led to change.

WHY? Every catchment is different to apply the criteria.

Institutional arrangements

→ More formal arrangements in areas with an already degraded environment or higher risk.

- Sharing or knowledge (link between sub-catchments)
- Support - need a leader - admin support community (champions) - GWRC or equip
 - help to develop a management plan
 - education - explanation of issues

① Sub-catchment at scale "cohort" type
→ share ideas + supporting one another
→ accessing value of informal communication ^{limit necessary to be on a catchment basis eg. gym, club, school...}

(Catchment) type
→ when there's a limit to share where there is community already.

→ how to ID where there are 'seed start' communities? - limits ability to do catchment-scale work.

→ governance of one-stop shop → needs to enable communities

→ regional council needs to enable community groups to grow out of their own energy; incl. to support novel + extension ideas

→ rules, governance + leadership for transformative change, incl. looking at land use suitability

→ need "forming institution" to support communities

→ could be semi-formal in agreed song sheet

→ RC has role as ~~Wales~~ responsive advisers

→ least formal arrangements as possible

→ policy to be enabling of ^{sub-catchment} groups
→ also education/advice/support groups, ^{publicly} supported by RC at seed sowers ^{experts} + governance scale