

## MEETING MINUTES

<b>Subject</b>	Manaia Drain Consultation Meeting	<b>File No.</b>	
<b>Time/Date</b>	4.30pm, 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	<b>Location</b>	GWRC Chapel St

	Attendees	Company
1.	Tim Lewis (TL)	Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)
2.	Fraser Woods (FW)	Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)
3.	Scheme Member 1 (SM1)	Landowner/Scheme Member
4.	Scheme Member 2 (SM2)	Landowner/Scheme Member
5.	Scheme Member 3 (SM3)	Landowner/Scheme Member
6.	Scheme Member 4 (SM4)	Landowner/Scheme Member

**Apologies:** A total of 50 scheme members were not present

Item		Completed By	By When
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>		
	TL – Introductions	NOTE	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Manaia Drainage Scheme Presentation/Feedback</b>		
	SM2 has requested to provide input as the meeting proceeds	NOTE	
	TL answered, yes to SM2 and started the presentation	NOTE	
	<b>SM2</b> explained that going back to the basics in Manaia Road. I have resided there for 38 years. We have never had a problem apart from the past 5 years. The drain provides a cause-and-effect scenario. I get the effect of the drain. I get the result of the blockages. Flooding within the drain can be attributed to the culverts.	NOTE	
	Over the past 6 – 7 years, why have the costs increased. Do other regions have the same problem? There needs to be a suggestion moving forward. Potentially a 6-month spraying program? Previously a resident has contacted the press regarding, killing of the ecology within the drain.	NOTE	
	Celery weed has started to occur causing problems and a real Pandora's Box has been opened. The Manaia Drain has been well opened to the environment causing the celery weed to spread. The flood that caused the most damage was 2 years ago. A digger uplifted the first section of the blockage (celery weed) and it was like an explosion had gone off. GW turned up with a rake to remove the weeds. If they were successful,	NOTE	

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	<p>they would have gone through the culvert like a potato peeler.</p> <p>2 ½ years ago, Nelson City Council put in place a programme to control this celery weed. SM2 read an article on Celery Weed. Nelson City Council has a plan for the obnoxious weed and has a team set up to manage it. I am not an expert, but I know what I see. Celery weed is a concern for the Wairarapa, and it will spread throughout the Wai.</p> <p>Watercress has also been suppressed by the celery weed. Celery weed is like rust; it never sleeps. I am requesting a plan to control this weed with backup from both MDC and GW.</p> <p><b>SM1</b> advised that she is representing her mother. SM1 explained that her mother's bridge was wiped out which could have been catastrophic. Celery weed caused the problem, celery weed from the neighbouring property. The current maintenance programme is not effective, and something has to change. There is not enough money for this (maintenance). The weed is out of control and machine cleaning every 5/6 year is not effective. The upstream property is the issue.</p> <p>SM1 requested that a detailed strategy is put out to scheme members, stating the proposed works and when (timing) – a plan. If it's an issue, then both will be aware. Where to from here? SM1 requested more spraying and maintenance.</p> <p><b>SM4</b> advised that he had owned his property for 3 years. Spraying the drain once a year is inadequate. They have also only sprayed one side of the creek. We also lost our bridge as well (in the same event as SM1). We built a new bridge when we arrived (brought the property).</p> <p>Yes, the celery weed is a major problem. We have spoken to other entities and thanks SM2. We are more than happy to manage the drain ourselves. We also propose shading out of the celery weed, as it won't be so invasive. We believe we will do a better job than the council. The celery weed is prolific, we can't even see the creek flowing. The drain has only been sprayed once in the past year. A digger was seen on the neighbouring property.</p> <p>I am happy to do the works myself, however I need resources. I propose to plant out the drain, there are other natural solutions. However, along Manaia Road, nothing can be done</p>	<p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p> <p>NOTE</p>	
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to shade it out. I have lost 8 hectares of property this year due to flooding.		
<b>SM3</b> advised that; I'm here no mic sorry, agree with all the comments said. New to the area – via chat.	NOTE	
SM1 requested a green light to complete the maintenance works themselves and are happy to do it	NOTE	
SM4 advised that cattle love to eat the celery weed, however with the new legislation, cows are required to be fenced off from the creek	NOTE	
SM4 advised that the only option to remove the celery weed is to spray it or plant it out (provide shading)	NOTE	
SM2 advised that the celery weed is damaging the stream. If you don't spray it, it won't fix it. Nelson/Tasman are working on/planning to eradicate the weed. Eradication should be a separate plan enforced by the council	NOTE	
SM4 advised that at the moment we are being reactive, and we need to be proactive. An annual spray is not affective, and the landowners need a long term solution	NOTE	
SM2 agrees that we are being reactive. We need to be proactive with boots on the ground before it starts growing/seeding	NOTE	
SM4 advised that he was sent a letter 2 years ago stating that GW were taking over the management of the drain	NOTE	
SM2 advised that this is a region wide problem and being reactive is not the answer	NOTE	
TL advised the next steps. The meeting minutes will also be published online and more info will be presented online	NOTE	
TL will advise when and what works have been planned and will get in touch if there are any more queries	ACTION	NEXT MEETING
SM2 asked, why does a sign go up 28 days before spraying and not 28 days after spraying?	NOTE	
TL advised that a sign is installed pre and post spraying	NOTE	

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SM2 advised that the celery weed has tripled in growth and GW have been out twice to see the weed	NOTE	
TL advised that he would collate all of the information presented and there will be a further meeting in a couple of months' time	ACTION	NEXT MEETING
SM2 asked, if most scheme members want to manage the scheme themselves and if some don't; can we carry out work on their property and charge them for it?	NOTE	
SM2 advised that if landowners are to take over the scheme, they need power to go on other properties (to carry out maintenance works on their behalf)	NOTE	
SM4 advised that 2 months is too late (for the proposed follow up meeting). This is being reactive.	NOTE	
SM4 wants to be able to purchase spray and plant native trees (utilising the Manaia Gravity Drainage Scheme fund for purchasing of the spray and native trees)	NOTE	
SM4 advised that scheme members upstream are proactive, however, private property is where the problem is	NOTE	
TL requested, what are you asking us to do?	NOTE	
SM4 advised that there is a capex fund to manage the drain, how much does it cost per meter to maintain the drain?	NOTE	
SM4 requested that funds should be available to the landowner and wants to be able to utilise the fund	NOTE	
SM2 advised that something that is considered an obnoxious weed should be managed by the council. A neighbouring property would also be able to manage the weed on their land	NOTE	
SM2 advised that if the celery weed is designated as an obnoxious weed (classification), then all belts will be off, and the council will be into it	NOTE	
SM1 asked, how do I get a hold of the records for the works completed on the neighbouring property?	NOTE	
TL advised scheme members to send an email requesting the required information and we will provide it	NOTE	

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SM1 agrees with SM4. Can they carry out works as needed (the scheme member)	NOTE	
TL advised, yes. But you must follow the permitted activities for any works	NOTE	
SM2 advised that weeds will be too large in November (in relation to the proposed spraying timeframe)	NOTE	
TL advised that GW could bring sprayers in earlier but there is a risk that the drains will be too full of water	NOTE	
SM2 advised that he feels like an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff	NOTE	
SM4 advised that he is happy to pick up Glyphosate tomorrow and continue with the spraying and requested resources from GW	NOTE	
SM4 is also happy to maintain the neighbours property also	NOTE	
TL advised that he would check what chemicals we have available	NOTE	
SM4 advised that he can spray Garlon	NOTE	
TL advised, no we would require a resource consent to spray Garlon	NOTE	
SM4 advised that this is a regional problem and downstream will suffer. We should be planting the water ways and shading them out (celery weed). If stock are fenced 5m back from the drain we should utilise the capex fund to plant out the drain.	NOTE	
SM2 & SM4 requested a long-term solution, the drain is a long-term asset not just a cost	NOTE	
TL closed out the meeting	NOTE	
<b>Meeting Closed: 5.37pm</b>		