

NOTES OF THE RCA FORUM STORMWATER GROUP MEETING

Wellington City Council, Wakefield Street

8.30 am Thursday 8 December 2011

Present:	Wayne Newman Nicci Wood Craig Redmond Balt Gregorius Rachel Pawson Ted Taylor Ross Nicholson	Wellington City Council NZTA, National Office NZTA, National Office Greater Wellington Regional Council Greater Wellington Regional Council Horowhenua District Council	Convenor
Apologies:	Dale Nicholls Jon Schwass Melanie Hutton Amanda Moran	NZTA Operations, Napier Napier City Council Ministry of Transport Ministry for the Environment	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome and apologies	<u>Noted</u> apologies, and imminent departures of Ross and Ted from the group.	
2. Matters Arising	<u>Noted</u> a report from Melanie Hutton (and Amanda Moran of MfE) that no further progress has been made on the Guidance material for stormwater from roads being put on the Planning Notes website.	
3. Report on research	<u>Received</u> a report from Craig on the results of a project to identify whether macro-invertebrate community indices could be used to measure water quality and monitor runoff effects. <u>Noted</u> the trial site selection criteria produced a very limited pool of test sites. Two sites were selected on State Highway 1 on Kapiti Coast, two sites were selected on State Highway 58 in Upper Hutt and two sites were selected on State Highway 1 near Warkworth. The stream-beds	

	<p>of the sites near Warkworth were soft-bottomed and less ideal for the project. Extreme weather events caused difficulties at the Warkworth sites and delayed the project. The project sought to test two related hypotheses: densities of sensitive taxa would decline immediately below inflow from the highway and recover downstream; densities of tolerant taxa would replace the sensitive taxa immediately below the inflow. The testing suggests neither hypothesis is valid at normal highway traffic densities. The only site showing evidence of change appears to have responded to contamination from a sheep pass under the highway beside the stream, with less than minor effects from traffic.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> the results of this study indicate that macro-invertebrate community index monitoring of streams would not provide a cost-effective measure to indicate water quality able to be deployed in a national monitoring network for runoff from State Highways.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> the Group will support registration, in the latest NZTA research programme round, of the risk analysis screening project proposed by Laurie Gardiner. A funding contribution towards this could be made from the RCA Forum working groups development fund or unused budget in the current year.</p>	
<p>4. Regional Council's draft Regional Plan</p>	<p><u>Received</u> a report from Rachel on issues, explanations and objectives for the GWRC Regional Plan review.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> two stormwater issues have been identified, relating to degradation of water quality and to effects of water quantity. The draft plan proposes objectives to minimise the adverse effects of stormwater discharges and to minimise the volume and velocity of stormwater flows.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the review of plans is expected to be completed by the end of 2013 to give effect to the NPS, which requires limits to be set for quantity and quality for receiving waters.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> the Group does not need to be represented on any stakeholder group for the review of the draft regional plan, because GWRC is a member of the Group, but agreed to ensure better NZTA involvement in the process.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the resignation of Ted from the GWRC and the Group, and recorded the Group's appreciation of Ted's contribution.</p>	
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Noted</u> the last advice from MfE regarding the Guidance Note on Stormwater Runoff from Roads for the Quality Notes website was that the technical reference group for the project had reported that the Note was insufficiently robust and MfE had concluded that the Note needed significant</p>	

	<p>work to match the quality of the other Quality Notes.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the report from Melanie taken under item 2.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the On-Site Stormwater Management Guidelines and Research Report 260 Integrated stormwater management guidelines for the New Zealand roading network represent significant guidance material already available, but not being kept up-to-date with research findings since their 2004 publication.</p> <p><u>Agreed</u> Craig will begin a review of the On-site Stormwater Management Guidelines.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the revision of the FAQ pages has continued, with much of the historical review now augmented by reports from local and recent research, and the reference section greatly expanded with specifically New Zealand based recent research, but almost all the web-link addresses included two years ago are no longer valid.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the NZTA Stormwater Management Course provides an e-learning guide for practitioners that is now a contractual requirement.</p>	
6. General Business	<p><u>Received</u> a report from Ross on recent media reports of raw sewage entering Lake Horowhenua that had apparently overlooked the operation of a treatment plant that had been set up in 1985.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> the retirement of Ross from Horowhenua District Council and recorded the Group's appreciation of his contribution.</p> <p><u>Received</u> a report from Nicci on her participation in a US State Department funded symposium on climate change and sea-level rise.</p> <p><u>Noted</u> that US responses are still, where not denial, about mitigation, whereas NZ has already moved towards adaptation to the new norms. While higher level oversight and direction appears to be lacking, there is strong local initiation of responses to environmental issues, including those related to stormwater and run-off.</p>	
	Meeting concluded at 10:20	