

Draft Minutes of Ngakahu Steering Group

Held at Collard's Tavern, Kaitaia , on 11 February 2022 at 5:30 pm

Present: Cr Mate Radich (Chair), Cr Dave Collard, Cr Moko Tepania, and Cr John Vujcich, Peter Wiessing (NRC Manager Kaitaia), Dave Bellingham and Brian Bellingham (Bellingham Quarries)

Opening Karakia

Moko Tepania

Mihi (Welcome from the chair to all those present)

Chair Mate thanks and introduced those in attendance

Apologies:

Kelly Stratford (invited by Chair)

Moved: Mate Radich; Seconded John Vujcich

Carried

Note: all Steering Group members were present

Minutes of last Meeting.

No previous minutes as this meeting is the first meeting of the Ngakahu Steering Group.

John Vujcich noted the wording on the amended Council report and its recommendations passed by Council on the 14 December establishing the Ngakahu Steering Group. That *“the Steering Group will keep meeting records, and provide regular updates to Council. Council will support the Steering Group and not enter into any action that would compromise the effectiveness of the Steering Group in achieving its purpose”*

The amended Council document will be attached to these minutes.

Inwards Correspondence

- Email dated 12 January 2022. Invitation to meet with Ngakahu Trust (the Trust) on 18 January 2022
- Email dated 24 January 2022. The Trust's minutes of the meeting onsite at the Kauri Dam and at the REAP centre including the draft option No 1 report.
- Email dated 31 January 2022. The Trust providing the Draft option No 2 report.
- Email dated 4 February 2022. The Trust's minutes of 3 February 2022
- Email dated 4 February 2022. From the Trust which included an additional paragraph to section 5 of the option report No 2 as requested by John Duder
- The Chair tabled the final draft of John Duder's report listing options for the Dam.

That inward correspondence be accepted

Moved: Cr Mate Radich; Seconded Cr John Vujcich

Carried

Outwards Correspondence

- Email dated 3 February 2022 from Mate giving a response to all elected members regarding the background of the John Duder's report.

That outward correspondence be accepted

Moved: John Vujcich; Dave Collard

Carried

Discussions Arising, and Recommendations

The Chair requested the meeting be based on John Duder's tabled report: in particular, taking note of the response from the Ngakahu Trust, as they had a meeting and were happy with the report. It was noted the Ngakahu Trust's preferred option was option 4.

The meeting discussed all options and came to the following key points and subsequent recommendation.

Key Points:

- The Trust does not want any dam liabilities, annual inspection costs, 5 yearly safety review costs or any maintenance costs whatsoever.
- The Steering Group does not have all the information needed for a final recommendation nor does it know what state the dam is in.
- Any action must minimise environmental damage to the whenua and its waterways.

Recommendations to Council

Recommendation 1

Obtain the processed and analysed data from the Regional Council sonar soundings of the dam, done in 2017.

Reason: This would provide the necessary data to assess the current state of the dam, volume of water and extent of silting. It would better enable decision-making for the best strategy to decommission the dam.

Moved: Mate Radich, Seconded John Vujcich

Carried

Recommendation 2

Council stage the lowering of the dam water level, beginning with a water level drop of 2 metres. Once lowered the water level will be maintained at the lower levels.

Reasons: Lowering the dam water will also help in determining the state of the dam and extent of leakage. It will allow the exposed banks to dry and grow covering vegetation, reducing future silting and erosion. It will enable engineers to assess the potential impact of the lowering of the dam, and reduce the risk to streams from high volumes of algae or poorly oxygenated muddy water being discharged into waterways.

Moved: Moko Tepania, Seconded Dave Collard

Carried

Recommendation 3

Prepare a report showing a visual presentation, including landscaping, of the preferred option, or options, with a rough order of cost to implement.

Reasons: This report will give a clear vision of what the Trust and Council hope to achieve, and indicative costing. It will enable Council to better understand and justify the mutually preferred option. It will demonstrate good will and also that Council recognises it has a duty of care to leave the land in the best possible state. It creates an opportunity to better “tell the story” to other parties and potentially attract external funding to assist with the restoration and exit from the Whenua.

Note: The Ngakahu Trust will be actively engaged in and participate with creating the vision for how the final decommissioned dam and surrounding land will look. This will ensure that the Ngakahu Trust’s desire for no future financial liabilities or risk is achieved.

Moved: Mate Radich; Seconded John Vujcich

Carried

Closing Remarks

Chairman thanks everyone for attending.

The next meeting date is not set; it is expected to be called when necessary

Closing Karakia

Moko Tepania

Meeting Closed 7pm

Attachments to Minutes

With the minutes are three attachments:

- 1) Covering email from the secretary of the Ngakahu/Ngakohu Whanau Ahuwhenua Trust giving permission for the draft John Duder report and its attachments to be made available to Far North District Council elected members
- 2) John Duder’s report and attachments
- 3) The amended Council report and its recommendations passed by Council on the 14 December establishing the Ngakahu Steering Group

Ngakahu/Ngakohu Whanau Ahuwhenua Trust 07:39

to John, Mate, dave.collard, Moko

Morena Cr Vujcich, Cr Radich, Cr Collard, Cr Tepania Cr Vujcich,

In response to your phone call last night.

I contact the trust chairperson and Deputy Chairperson who have giving their consent for the John Duder Draft Options report NO 2 RE: Decommissioning of the Kauri Creek Dam, for your committee to make this report and attachments available to the Far North District Council elected members.

DRAFT OPTION REPORT NO 2.

We would request that this email is also provided in conjunction to the Draft Option NO 2 report RE: Decommissioning of the Kauri Creek Dam.

1. The trust met with Cr Radich, Collard, Tepania, Stratford, Vujcich on 3 December 2021 for an informal meeting re decommissioning of the Kauri Dam. The trustees gave the elected members a commitment to working with you councillors to achieve the decommissioning of the Kauri Creek Dam.
2. At this meeting the trustees stated very clearly the trust would engage the services of a qualified dam engineer to prepare an options report so the trust at least knew what options were available.
3. The Trust engaged the services of John Duder to prepare this options report only which the trust are paying for, **[not Council.]**
4. The trust also agreed to share this draft option report with the Council appointed committee to start the discussions off only.
5. This was the first time anyone from Council has actually met with the trust to listen and discuss what the trust wanted to happen with the dam despite statements from Council staff claiming Council have tried negotiating with the trust re exiting of the dam.
6. What is very much at the forefront of the trustees minds is seeing the dam totally gone all the pipes gone so we can develop the land and provide housing for the Ngakahu whanau without the requirement of having to indemnify Council against a dam failure which is now being suggested.
7. The trust thanks Cr Radich, Cr Tepania, Cr Vujcich, Peter Wiessing David and Brian Bellingham for meeting with the trust and the trusts qualified dam engineer at the Kauri Creek Dam on Ngakahu Trust owned land on 18 January 2022. The trust looks forward to further meetings with the Council appointed committee to further progressing the exiting of the dam as soon as possible.

Nga mihi
Des Mahoney
Secretary Trustee

Ngakahu/Ngakohu Whanau Ahuwhenua Trust