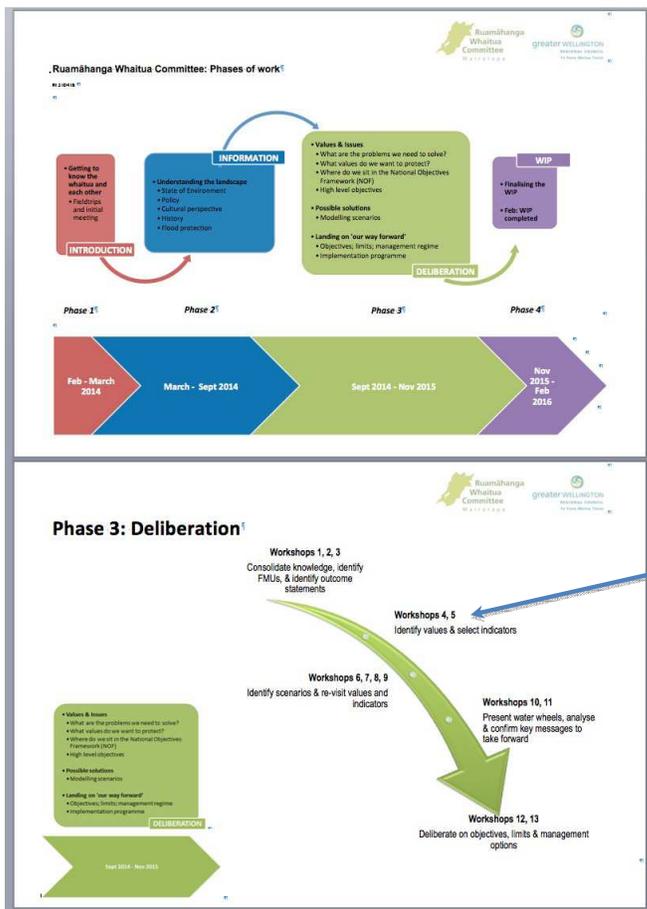


# Meeting Notes: Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

## Deliberations Phase 3 - Workshop 5

March 16 2015 5:00pm – 9:00pm

St Andrew's Hall, Greytown



Workshop 5

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**Summary**

This report summarises notes from a workshop of the Ruamahanga Whaitua Committee held March 16 2015.

The report includes a brief explanation of each session, and notes for the following:

- RWC General Business items, including an update on Community Engagement activities and a discussion on RWC communications arrangements.
  - Notes from the session reviewing the values identified and grouped following the February 2 2015 meeting.
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**Contents**

This meeting report details:

- A. Workshop Attendees
  - B. Workshop Purpose
  - C. Workshop Actions and Next Steps
  - D. Workshop Notes
    1. General Business
      - a. Modelling team
      - b. Guest Speaker – Jamie Falloon
      - c. Community engagement reports
      - d. Communications
    2. Values Workshop
- 

**A Workshop Attendees**

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**Workshop Attendees**

Mike Ashby, Aidan Bichan, Mike Birch, Andy Duncan, Esther Dijkstra, Rebecca Fox, Siobhan Garlick, Peter Gawith, David Holmes, Chris Laidlaw, Colin Olds, Philip Palmer, Ra Smith, Vanessa Tipoki.

Kat Banyard, Brigitte De Barletta, Mike Grace, Russell Kawana, Horipo Rimene, Michelle Rush, Alastair Smail, Andrew Stewart, Natasha Tomic.

Apologies: Emily Greenberg

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## B Workshop Purpose

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### Workshop Purpose

The workshop purposes were:

- a) Review the values identified at the February 2 2015 meeting, the groups they had been categorised into by the project team, and the names given to each group
- b) Check the values against the NPS FW National Objective Framework (NOF) compulsory and non-compulsory values and the values in the draft GW Natural Resources Plan;
- c) Review the interim Freshwater Management Units.

Items (a) and (b) were achieved.

Item (c) will be carried over to the next RWC Workshop.

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## C Workshop Actions

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### Actions

The following actions were agreed:

#### **Jamie Falloon Presentation**

- Kat to send out a hard copy of Jamie Falloon's presentation to all Committee.

#### **Values discussion**

The next steps agreed were:

- a) Project Team to analyse feedback and revise values groups and titles accordingly.
- b) Revised values document to be provided back to the RWC for further consideration, e.g. in track changes.

#### **Process Questions**

- Committee asked the question: Are WWUP, Flood Management and RWC people all talking to each other?
- Not many economic values were expressed.
  - Issue: Do we need to solicit these?
- Is our periphyton data accurate enough when it is taken and where it is taken? How does what GW does to monitor it fit with what the NOF requires?
- Can a digital map showing what people do and where in the catchment e.g. swim, be created?
- Flood protection have already done something similar for their topic of interest, and this is available on the GWRC website. Can RWC access this to identify any further values?

**Action:** Project Team to provide answer

#### **Next non-public RWC Meeting**

Include in the agenda these held over items:

- Review the interim Freshwater Management Units.
  - check on follow up actions
  - confirmation of revised Information process
  - confirmation of revised RWC meeting agenda process
  - review list of suggested speakers

#### **Next public RWC Meeting**

Invite Jamie Falloon / TeamAg to give presentation on reviewing water quality.

#### **RWC Communications**

- A sub-committee will be formed to deal with communications outside of the committee meetings. This group will develop a plan for RWC:
- Members: Esther, Mike, Ra, Rebecca, Mike A and Vanessa

### **Community Engagement**

- Ra will write up notes summarising values expressed, any issues, and any desires for the future for these Community Engagement activities undertaken:
  - Wairarapa Moana Day (Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March)
  - Colorado State University Students (12 March)
  - Victoria University landscape architecture students - Year 4 group visiting in 2015. (10-11 March)

### **Community Engagement Opportunities**

Add these to table, and follow up with RWC members

- **23 March 2015 Stock access consultation 7:30 – 9:30 Carterton.** [Aidan and David H attended]
  - **30 March RWC Community Engagement Opportunity**
    - **Action:** Create a notice about this and send out to all the Committee to circulate through their networks
  - **Community Engagement at bottom of the catchment**  
**Actions:**
    - Schedule meeting at Pirinoa with information sent out ahead.
    - Date suggested is 28 April.
    - Vanessa to check dates with local people and report back.
    - Kat / Peter once date is confirmed.
  - **Balance FEA Dinner 1 April 2015 Carterton Events Centre**
    - Free tickets available to the dinner.
  - **Wairarapa Moana Field Day 1 April**
    - Farm economics focus
-

## D General Business – Modelling Team Introductions

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**Modelling team** Four members of the Modelling Team were introduced. These were:

- John Quinn, NIWA
  - Ton Snelder, LWP
  - John Bright, Aqualink and
  - Terry Parminter, GW
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## D General Business – Guest Speaker

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**Guest Speaker – Jamie Falloon** **Guest Speaker – Jamie Falloon, Provincial President, Federated Farmers Wairarapa**

Jamie Falloon talked about a range of matters of concern to Federated Farmers, and emphasised that the organisation was keen to be involved with the Committee at the scenario testing stage. They also reiterated the importance of the Committee basing its work on what the values, as expressed by the community were, when it came to setting objectives, targets and limits.

Technical issues prevented Jamie from sharing his slides summarising Federated Farmers' perspective of the key water issues in the region.

**Action:** It was agreed that Jamie be invited to give this presentation again at an upcoming Whaitua meeting that was open to the public.

## D General Business - Community Engagement reports

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**Overview** Committee members reported back on community engagement activities undertaken since the last report on these at the workshop on February 2 1015. These were:

- Whangaehu Taueru Catchment Field Trip & Community Meeting 26 February 2015
- A&P Field Day 21 February 2015
- Other opportunities including

Some additional Community Engagement activities were identified.

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### ***Whangaehu Taueru Catchment Field Trip and community meeting***

**Whangaehu Taueru Catchment Field Trip & Community Meeting** Whangaehu Hall, 26 February 2015, 3-5PM  
Ra Smith, Aiden Birchan, Phil Palmer, Mike Birch, Peter Gawith & Esther Dijkstra

Participants provided feedback in response to three questions:

- 1 What was the area like in the past?
- 2 What are the current issues?
- 3 What do you want to see in the future?

See **Appendix Three** for the full written report from this activity.

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**Qu 1 What was the area like in the past?**

- Fewer floods
- Could swim in the river

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**Qu 2 What are the current issues?**

- The river dries out in summer. The flushing return period is 44 days.
- Floods, sedimentation, planting of crack willow
- Hasn't been much change in the Whangaehu river
- Concerns about economic costs of potential environmental compliance. E.g. an example of a farmer with 8km of river frontage. Want to discuss the costs and practicality vs benefits of having to fence this much frontage.
- People are not sure how bad the river water quality is. Want it measured locally, e.g. at Taueru Bridge., e.g. periphyton. A good example given where one farmer upstream questioned whether it was an issue; another downstream said yes every time it blocks my pump it costs me \$1000 to fix!
- Only a handful of people knew what the RWC was doing.

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**Qu 3 What do you want to see in the future?**

- Want to be able to farm in a viable manner.
- Want to work together with underlying economic influencers / funding from GW for planting etc.

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**Reflection -** • **Fieldtrip:**

### What worked?

- A lot of the properties are under farm plans. Evidence suggests that these have been effective, e.g. the field trip farm that was visited.
  - **Being specific with the information presented**, e.g:
    - The information provided was of specific relevance to those catchments;
    - it explained, for example, that the background environment brings with it certain challenges, e.g. the naturally high phosphate levels in the soils
    - the information was clear where there were gaps in the data too.
  - **Community Engagement Section**
    - **Good attendance.** About 30 people attended the community engagement event held after the field trip.
    - People appreciated us listening.
    - Committee thanked Andrew for organising.
- 

### Reflection - What didn't work?

- Not enough information out early enough to the committee ahead of the day about the field trip, nor the follow up community engagement meeting.
  - Poor messaging before the meeting as to its intent. Some people arrived expecting it to be a stock access discussion.
- 

### Suggestions for future CE activities

- Repeat this sort of field trip across a representative range of different types of catchments.
  - There are differences in physical and social catchments.
    - This can be difficult to deal with. We need to recognise this as there might be several different social catchments within one physical catchment, and they may have very different views or perspectives.
  - Introduce and communicate the purpose of our meetings more clearly, and well ahead.'
  - Put out information ahead, e.g. information about water quality in that specific area ahead, so that people can engage at the meeting from a position of prior knowledge with questions etc.
  - Emphasise the catchment and how the system works together.
- 

### Questions from RWC for follow up

a) What makes periphyton grow if the river is otherwise low in nutrients?

**Answer:** Sediment which is high in Phosphorous, plus the variables of light and temperature.

b) Is our periphyton data accurate enough when it is taken and where it is taken? How does what GW does to monitor it fit with what the NOF requires?

**Answer:** Project team to organise someone to respond.

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## **A&P show**

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### **A&P show**

- RWC shared stand space with the Flood Management team from GW at the A&P show held in Masterton on 21 February 2015.
  - Approximately 20 people visited to discuss the RWC work.
  - A lot of those were urban. They did associate with the river however.
- 

### **What RWC heard at the A&P Show**

- People want to swim everywhere:
    - currently swim in upper Waingawa / Waiohine – report they wouldn't swim lower down
  - Also want safe access to drinking water
  - Keen to know what the RWC is doing – by when, who we're talking to – and how we'd get the messages out.
  - Want to be part of email forum so they could come to meetings and/or respond to us
    - **Issue:** People handwriting email addresses. Need electronic means to gather them, e.g. ipad or similar.
  - Would like to be able to have a map available showing the state of swimability of the region's rivers in the Wairarapa.
    - This would help people put their value on it, e.g. for fishing etc too.
  - Most visitors were there for flood plain management – concerned about effects on young families
  - Knowledge of the RWC was limited.
  - Visitors were able to use the Flood Management team's software, which enabled interactive adding to maps.
  - No farmers came to the stand.
  - Five ladies from Jacobs doing work for MDC came to the stand.
  - Not many economic values were expressed.
    - **Issue:** Do we need to solicit these?
- 

## **Other CE activities**

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### **Ra Smith -**

- Wairarapa Moana Day (Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March)
- Colorado State University Students (12 March)
- Victoria University landscape architecture students - Year 4 group visiting in 2015. (10-11 March)

**ACTION:** Ra will write up notes summarising values expressed, any issues, and any desires for the future.

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**Aidan**

Dairy NZ – individual farms

**Issues expressed:**

Concerns about weighting e.g. water allocation / flow decisions, e.g. one farmer lost 11 days last year and 14 days this year of water supply, despite council saying impact of reduced take (in response to higher minimum flow standard) would be equivalent to only one day's loss of supply per annum.

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**Chris**

Winegrowers:

- Not a lot of enthusiasm among winegrowers to engage.
- 

**Vanessa**

- Got publicity in the paper for her work rescuing fish from a drying riverbed on her property and relocating them.
  - A lot of families were helping out, e.g. eels and native fish etc. Some contrasting feedback from one party who saw her actions as anti-farming and pro-environment.
- 

**GW Linkages**

**Issue:** Committee asked the question: Are WWUP, Flood Management and RWC people all talking to each other?

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## D General Business - Communications

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**Communications** These were my notes from the communications section of the meeting:

**Sharepoint Page**

This is being established to enable the Committee to access and share RWC information, including a calendar of events, and opportunity to discuss matters.

**Webpage Feedback**

- It is not possible to establish a separate RWC web page.
- However, it is possible to improve the user-friendliness of the RWC information on the GW webpage.

**Facebook Page - Celebrating Wairarapa Waterways**

- There is both a FB group and a FB page
  - The FB group will be more Whaitua branded.
  - The FB page will be more emotional and celebrate the waterways.

- Committee members are encouraged to look at the Facebook page and group, and sign up if they wish.
- Even if committee members are not FB members they can still read the conversations going on.
- FB is the only digital communication tool the committee has at the moment.
- A process for adding editorial to FB has been agreed.
- If someone receives a complaint about any FB material or they are unhappy with any of the content, contact Mike or Ra and it will be taken down immediately. A further contact is Janine Ogg.

**Action:** A sub-committee will be formed to deal with communications outside of the committee meetings. This group will develop a plan for RWC. First meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> April 12.30pm, GWRC Masterton office:

Esther, Mike, Ra, Rebecca, Mike A and Vanessa

- Need to scope the problem
- Need to examine what the feed out
- Need to look at what to engage on
- Need to specify resource requirements from GWRC
- Will look beyond just social media options, e.g. a regular email newsletter, regular articles in the paper etc.

## D General Business – Community Engagement Opportunities

### Upcoming Community Engagement Opportunities

**23 March 2015 Stock access consultation 7:30 – 9:30  
Carterton**

**30 March RWC Community Engagement Opportunity**  
**Action:** Create a notice about this and send out to all the Committee to circulate through their networks

**Community Engagement at bottom of the catchment**  
**Actions:**

- Schedule meeting at Pirinoa - information sent out ahead.
- Vanessa to check dates with local people and report back.
- Kat / Peter once date is confirmed – suggest 28 April.

**Ballance FEA Dinner 1 April 2015** Carterton Events Centre.  
• Free tickets available to the dinner.

**Wairarapa Moana Field Day 1 April**  
• Farm economics focus

**ACTION:** Add to Community Engagement Table for follow up.

## Session 2: Reviewing Values Groups and 'fit' with NPS FW and GW Draft Natural Resources Plan

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### Introduction

After the purpose and context for the activity was introduced, participants separated into groups to discuss the values table that had been sorted into draft groups by the Project Team.

Working in groups, participants were asked to:

- Check if the draft groupings and their respective names were suitable
- Check the extent to which the NPS FW NOF compulsory values, non-compulsory values and the GW Draft Natural Resources Plan values are reflected
- Identify any values, around which they would like further information

Refer **Appendix One** for a copy of the detailed instructions given. Refer **Appendix Two** for the compiled feedback from each group.

### **ACTION:**

The next steps agreed were:

- a) Project Team to analyse feedback and revise values groups and titles accordingly.
  - b) Revised document to be provided back to the RWC for further consideration.
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## Appendix One – Values Discussion Breakout Group Instructions

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1) **Discuss** the proposed groups of values the project team have come up with in relation to the values the community and committee have identified thus far that are detailed in the attached spreadsheet. **Determine:**

- Are these groups useful, i.e. they represent a distinctive category of value?
- Do they miss anything?
- What additional / alternative groups would you like to see?

**Note:** This exercise is NOT about priorities. It is about ensuring ALL the values the community / committee members have identified thus far are represented

This exercise does NOT limit where attributes of measures might sit.

### **Document your decision and reasons**

2) Discuss the **names** of each proposed value group. **Determine:**

- The extent to which the name of each group reflect what is in each group and
- Relates reasonably well to the words the community has used to name the values in that group.

### **Document your decision and reasons**

### ***Check against NOF and Regional Values***

3) Discuss and **determine** the extent to which the **NOF compulsory values** are reflected for each FMU

4) Discuss the extent to which the NOF **non-compulsory values** are reflected for each FMU. Are there any gaps that might need reconsideration? Note: The requirement is a check as to whether these additional values might be relevant. It is NOT compulsory that they apply to one or more FMU's.

### **Document your decision and reasons**

5) To what extent have the **Natural Resources Plan values** been reflected? Are there any gaps that might need reconsideration? Note: The requirement is a check as to whether these additional values might be relevant. It is NOT compulsory that they apply to one or more FMU's.

### **Document your decision and reasons**

6) For which values, e.g. place specific values, use values etc, would you like more information? Who might be able to provide this? (e.g. seek through further community engagement; an expert or other)

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## Appendix Two Values Review – Compiled Feedback

The table below summarises the comments made by all the subgroups that relate to these draft groupings. The comments of each group are colour coded (see below.)

Where additional groups were recommended, the details are included in the nest section, along with the rationale for the comments made for both the value groups in the table and any proposed new groupings.

### Key:

Black text: Aiden, Rebecca, Esther, Colin, [Modeller: John Quinn], [Project Team: Mike Grace]

Blue text: Peter, Phil Palmer, Chris Laidlaw, [Modeller: Ton Snelder], [Project Team: Andrew Stewart]

Green text: Mike B, Siobhan, Mike A, [Modeller: Terry Parminter], [Project Team: Natasha Tomic]

Purple text: David H, Ra, Andy, Vanessa, [Modeller: John Bright]

Proposed Groups of Ruamāhanga Values for Discussion	
1	Public health – water quality for drinking and waste management that provides for human health.
2	Mauri Biodiversity and Habitat –Life force of water including variety of species and habitats. Water quality.
3	Mauri Natural Character – Te Mana o Te Wai – valuing the water body for itself.
4	Appreciation – people’s relationship to water. Includes non-contact activities.
5	Cultural Values - Individual and community long standing values and associations with water. Includes heritage, whakapapa, history, kaitiakitanga/stewardship etc.
6	Economic use. Includes the use of water for farming and industry.
7	Recreation Primary/Secondary. Primary is immersion, secondary is wading and splashing.
8	Māori Use – The interaction of Māori with fresh and coastal water for cultural purposes. This includes the cultural and spiritual relationships with water expressed through Māori practices, recreation and the harvest of natural materials.
9	Mahinga kai – The customary gathering of food, the food and resources themselves and the places where those resources are gathered.

**Comment [M1]:** Remove this word

**Comment [M2]:** Rename to include infrastructure, integrity and resilience

**Comment [M3]:** Separate Mauri biodiversity and habitat from the scientific values

**Comment [M4]:** Combine Mauri biodiversity and Mahinga Kai groups.

**Comment [M5]:** Split out Mauri Biodiversity and Mauri Habitat

**Comment [M6]:** Include waterway characteristics in here

**Comment [M7]:** Add in “and the value of its role as part of a larger connected system”

**Comment [M8]:** Combine Mauri Natural Character group with Appreciation.

**Comment [M9]:** 1.Reword definition of Mauri Natural Character to include: *Te Mana o Te Wai – valuing the water body for itself and the value of its role as part of the larger connected system.*  
a.Protecting river form – the mix of riffles, rapids and pools, flowing water, free flowing, channel process effect ecological habit.  
2.

**Comment [M10]:** Rename this Connectedness

**Comment [M11]:** Combine Appreciation with Cultural Values

**Comment [M12]:** See Comment [7] combine Appreciation with Mauri Natural Character

**Comment [M13]:** Needs to incorporate things like natural landscape as water is just a part.

**Comment [M14]:** Include all cultures in this meaning

**Comment [M15]:** Remove the words ‘long standing’

**Comment [M16]:** See Comment [6]. Combine Cultural Values with Appreciation.

**Comment [M17]:** Add in ‘and tourism, transportation and fishing’

**Comment [M18]:** Separate this group into two groups: (1) Swimming and Immersion; and (2) Any other recreational activity

**Comment [M19]:** Include fishing.

**Comment [M20]:** Combine Maori Use with Mahinga Kai.

**Comment [M21]:** Include water ways, wetlands and estuaries

**Comment [M22]:** Refer Comment [3] combine this group with Mauri Biodiversity and Habitat.

**Comment [M23]:** Refer comment[18] Combine Maori Use with Mahinga Kai ... [1]

## Sub-group reports

### Key

Black text: Aiden, Rebecca, Esther, Colin, [Modeller: John Quinn], [Project Team: Mike Grace]

Blue text: Peter, Phil Palmer, Chris Laidlaw, [Modeller: Ton Snelder], [Project Team: Andrew Stewart]

Green text: Mike B, Siobhan, Mike A, [Modeller: Terry Parminter], [Project Team: Natasha Tomic]

Purple text: David H, Ra, Andy, Vanessa, [Modeller: John Bright]

**Question 1 Discuss the proposed groups of values – do these make sense to us in RWC? AND**

**Question 2 Review the names of each value grouping – do these relate reasonably well to the words the community has used in naming its values?**

Retain all, but can amalgamate some.

*Rationale:*

Proposed groups are well covered.

Combine Mauri biodiversity and Mahinga Kai groups.

*Rationale:*

There is a good synergy and similarities in the values

Combine Appreciation and cultural values

*Rationale:*

These could be together as they are 'similar and intrinsic values.' Also these cross

Retain Maori use and Mahinga Kai

*Rationale:*

Important to distinguish these, even though we have joined Mahinga Kai and Mauri biodiversity.

Beef up Economic.

*Rationale:*

- Economic value enables towns to prosper. Economic resilience and prosperity is important
- There is an interdependence between social and economic interaction.

Appreciation value needs to incorporate things like natural landscape, as water is just a part.

*Rationale:* As a general principle, relating these values only to water may be a bit restrictive.

Separate Recreation into two groups: (1) Swimming and Immersion; and (2) Any other recreational activity

*Rationale:* To enable the opportunity to meet two different objectives for water quality.

Amenity use of water is missing. E.g. urban, rural water supplies.

*Rationale:* Public Health value grouping is only about quality. Quantity has not been mentioned.

Combine Mauri natural character and Appreciation

*Rationale:* These categories are similar.

Combine Maori Use and Mahinga Kai

*Rationale:* These categories are similar.

Separate Mauri biodiversity and habitat from the scientific values.

*Rationale:* To save confusion between science and spirituality.

Cultural Values. Include all cultures in this meaning

*Rationale:* Because our group recommended separating Mauri into another category.

Mahinga Kai

Include waterways, wetlands and estuaries in the description.

*Rationale:* To make clear that what is being talked about is more than just a river.

Combine Mauri Natural Character group with Appreciation.

Combine Maori Use with Mahinga Kai.

Public Health

Change Public Health to **Infrastructure Integrity and resilience**.

*Rationale:*

The term "Public Health" is too narrow and possibly has too many other connotations attached to it. In addition there's no direct reference to flood management in the stated values or to efficient allocation. Both of these could be included under this new heading using the definition provided in the draft NRP (under Infrastructure Integrity): *Reliable drinking water supplies, seasonal water harvesting and storage, coastal navigation, decreased flood risk, human potable water, recycling and reusing water, efficient use of water.*

Mauri Biodiversity and Mauri Habitat

Split out **Mauri Biodiversity** and **Mauri Habitat** – the two are distinctive.

*Rationale:*

We'll run into problems later on if the terms are too broad, particularly when trying to determine attributes and indicators.

## Mauri Natural Character

Reword definition of Mauri Natural Character to include:

- a. ***Te Mana o Te Wai – valuing the water body for itself and the value of its role as part of the larger connected system.***

*Rationale:* the current definition of “water body” by itself isn’t wide enough to include the holistic nature of the catchment or the principle of ki uta ki tai. The community feedback suggests that people do consider wetlands, aquifers and coastal water to be important and this broader term would capture this.

- b. ***Protecting river form – the mix of riffles, rapids and pools, flowing water, free flowing, channel process effect ecological habit.***

*Rationale:* given the NPS lists ecosystem health as a compulsory value it would seem prudent to include this definition of waterway character from the draft NRP.

## Appreciation

Rename Appreciation “Connectedness.”

*Rationale:* Agree that some of the values identified by the community are difficult to measure (ie. special place, chilling, relaxing) and should have a separate heading. Suggest ‘**Connectedness**’ might be a better term, than ‘Appreciation.’

## Economic Use

The definition of Economic Use is too narrow. Expand to include commercial recreation, eco-tourism etc.

Pull in some values about economic use, e.g. navigation, from the Natural Resources Plan

## Amenity Use of Water

Saw this as a gap. Suggestions made by other groups will sort it.

### ***Question 3 Check the extent to which the NOF compulsory values are reflected***

Yes. Checked. They match.

Yes. Checked. They match

NOF Value Health and Mauri of Water is reflected in Values 2,3,9.

NOF Value Health and Mauri of People (Human health for recreation) is reflected in Values 1,4,7,8,9

### ***Question 4 Check the extent to which the NOF non-compulsory values are reflected. Do any gaps that might need reconsideration?***

Yes. Checked. They match

Covered, but in more detail than in our values.

Gap: What about navigation?

Separate Mauri biodiversity and habitat from the scientific values. Rename each group Biodiversity and Habitat respectively.

Gap: Values 5,6 are missing.

**Question 5 Check the extent have the GW Natural Resources Plan values are reflected**

Many are covered by Economic value grouping, but not in enough detail.

**Question 6 Which values require more information?**

Need discussion and information on economic conversations.

**Other Points / Actions Noted**

- Where does access to water go?
- Have we traversed and captured values across the whole region?
- Is stock water missing? It goes beyond just economics.
  
- New heading: **Groundwater.**
  - *Rationale:* Community has identified the following as important – replenishing aquifers, minimum flows, rivers don't dry up, recharge – groundwater has been overlooked/undervalued and it is a significant contributor to the Wairarapa landscape. No groundwater = no summer surface water, no bore irrigation, reduced/no wetlands.
  
- Long term we should be aiming to remove the river as an infrastructure asset for waste disposal.
- Transportation is missing.

## **Appendix Three - Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee: Community Engagement on the Bideford Fieldtrip**

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Date: Thursday 26 February 2015, Time: 3-5PM, Place: Whangaehu Hall  
Committee attendance: Ra Smith, Aidan Bichan, Phil Palmer, Mike Birch, Peter Gawith, Esther Dijkstra. Project Team attendance: Andrew Stewart, Mike Grace, Russell Kawana, Kat Banyard and Brigitte Barletta. Public attendance: Roughly 30 people.

This document records the responses to three questions about what the waterways were like in the past, what the current issues are and what would people like the east coast hill country waterways to be like in the future.

### **1) What were the waterways like in the past and how were they used?**

- Intensive Grazing
- Flooding – 1977
- Planting
- 1977 – extensive slipping
- Government funding for river improvement
- Catchment board a servant of the community
- Flooding not the issue it used to be
- Stock water
- No trout
- Lots of cockabullys
- Clearer willows – deeper channels
- Cracked willows have always been trouble
- Less riparian fencing
- Secondary land clearance
- Willow planting
- Relatively stable bends and banks
- 1977 floods

- Mussels, eels, trout
- Stops flowing
- Land use stability challenges – floods, earthquakes
- Used for commercial eeling, stock water, irrigation, swimming, fishing, house water, rubbish disposal – dead stock, sheep dip and sewerage, recreation – swimming, fishing, possums.
- Less bullies, more trout
- Pasture has improved
- Planting of trees - poplar, flax, from Akura catchment, Jim Pottinger, Murray King, Natives
- Whangaehu – water quality, stock water, not human consumption SH20 protected
- Groundwater in some places
- Sediment
- Flooding
- Swamps – wetlands
- Drought regular
- Sediment – willowing
- FW mussels appeared again
- Crack willow GWRC
- Whareama good and clean
- Drainage of swamps
- More productive land
- Road construction
- Cropping changes – grapes
- School swimming pool
- Cracked willows there 1970
- Some pockets of native planting

- River not important for stock water, lots of on farm water supply

**2) What are important issues currently facing east coast hill country waterways?**

- Unknown future rules to farm by
- Is riparian planting the total answer
- Crack willow
- Retiring less productive, problematic land
- Removal of flood water
- Lower reaches
- Drainage – maintained by land owner, regional council, district council
- Co-ordinated community compliance
- Crack willow
- From the bottom up
- Water quality
- Septic tanks – need rules
- Crack willow – blockages and including poisoned
- Fencing to the edge – clean first, drains fill up, how on the river fences won't stay, sustainable planting
- Backing up
- Examples of removal
- Controlling stabilising with hills
- Fencing
- Know the health of what's living there – brown trout, freshwater mussel, bird life
- Crack willow
- Bank erosion
- Maintain hill country planting to limit sediment discharge

- Planting fee is buying insurance for high rainfall events 15-25MM rain per hour
- Scared about rules which can't be practically complied with
- Lack of definition in defining rules e.g. 3m rule – examples or exceptions?  
E.g. allow sheep to water but not cattle
- Whanaheue incised deeply, how far will it go?
- Willows cause flooding and damage
- Reversion of banks with fencing to weeds – gorse, blackberry, OMB
- Need permission to do things – very unclear what rules are
- Lack of quantitative measures on how successful past activities have been – lack of monitoring
- Dry weather not good for tree survival

**3) What would you like east coast hill country waterways to be like in the future?**

- Free grazing to the water line with stock, excluding cattle and deer
- Future progress – collaboration, education and information
- Guardians of the land sharing knowledge and experience
- Bathing quality water for community swimming holes
- Water quality recreational quality
- Water quality is the responsibility of urban and rural
- Co-ordinated community expectation and vision
- Technology to aid standard practice – draining
- Small steps to reach the vision
- For future generations to farm the family business
- Everyone needs to buy into
- Even responsibility
- Cast a fly into the river and its clear, supporting fish, supporting farming, thriving economy

- Storage dams – community solution for adequate water
- System for minimal red tape – remove impediments – fencing and draining too extensive
- Encouraging the rule
- Whatever we want must be economically viable
- Common sense policies
- Steady improvement for future generations
- What measurements are being done so you can quantify success
- Forestry planting needs a buffer of riparian planting
- Farming – intensity is important
- Management – let sheep have water access, one wire if cattle are an issue
- Support management that's already working
- More money for poles
- Remove periphyton as a measure of water quality – measure river cross section profiles to measure erosion and sediment
- Fencing – cost/benefit against other methods of sediment, nutrient and erosion control
- Future same as it is now - stock exclusion won't make any significant difference
- Maintenance costs
- Erosion is a natural process

ENDS

Refer comment[18] Combine Maori Use with Mahinga Kai