

Workshop 4 Summary Small Groups

Afternoon sessions were split into 4 small groups (Iwi, Environment, Land-use and Councils and Industry) each assigned specific questions to answer.

Iwi

Questions:

1. Collaboration in governance has been identified as an aspiration of iwi. What could it look like in the Manawatu catchment under the current RMA and Local Government legislation? (We need to recognise that this process is not part of the wider treaty negotiations process).
2. What actions could increase mana and pride that have not, or may not be, captured by other proposals? Are there opportunities for additional actions specifically targeted towards mana and pride?
3. Is the action planning process meeting iwi needs? If not, what would improve it?

Iwi opted to not answer the questions posed. Instead they will have a one day hui before the next workshop hosted by Ngati Kauwhata. Section 33 of RMA and 7a and Schedule 10 of LGA provide for co-management and iwi want to explore how this can be incorporated in the action plan.

There is a need to decide 'what is an acceptable state for the river'. It may be that some parts of the river network need to be 'pristine' for the mauri to be intact but for others a lower quality than this is acceptable. If possible it would be good if the environment group and iwi worked together and came up with a joint agreement on the acceptable state for the river.

Environment

Questions:

1. What actions can the environment sector contribute (or is already contributing e.g advocacy, monitoring)?
2. How should the Action Plan be formatted so it flows logically and is accessible and understandable to a wide audience?
3. Communication and community buy-in: How can we communicate what we are doing and ensure that the public understands and supports the eventual plan? This will mean considering how to get buy-in from farmers.
4. Is there anything else that this group thinks we should be addressing i.e have we got the focus on the right things?

Answer: Question 1

- State of environment monitoring – could be improved.

- Fishery monitoring – could be improved.
- Analysis of above for trends.
- Contribute to info and understanding (magazines, web,...).
- Advocacy.
- Holding an open forum with public to share info.
- Identification of places/projects for restoration, and on the ground assistance/expertise.
- Providing speakers to groups.
- Communication and engagement plan.
- Participation/watchdog role in RMA processes.
- Able to bring in specialists.
- Can be a “conscience” for the River & Forum.
- Wetland rehabilitation (is increasing).
- Advocate for and support reviews of existing consents affecting the river (common catchment expiry dates).

Answer: Question 2

Needs: (we support the “alternative suggestion”).

- Clear outcomes at a high level.
- Different versions for different layers of engagement.
- Needs to be inspiring.
- Needs time frames (short, med, long).
- Need to be able to measure progress of improvement.
- Be able to state what you’re going to achieve, and by when.
- Be able to state who is responsible for delivering what (accountability).
- Actions targeted to both common issues and to issues specific to sub-catchments.

Answer: Question 3

- Catchment care groups → education, ownership, best practice implementation, recognition.
- Support for restoration/planting days.
- Link the river to “Green Prescriptions” for health and wellbeing.
- Learning journeys → taking people to show them the river and issues.
- Work with Destination Manawatu to tell the story of the Manawatu.
- Magazines, web pages, media, schools.
- School curriculum, mesh what we do with it.
- Develop Communication & Engagement Plan.
- All efforts needs to be coordinated and communicated between all Accord parties.

Answer: Question 4

- Advocate for appropriate funding to central govt and NGOs.
- Continue as an environment sector group.

Land-use

This covers mostly non-point source, but includes minor point source discharges such as dairy shed effluent.

1. Does the material gathered so far include all the actions and proposed actions in this sector? If not, please identify the gaps and preferably initiate or at least suggest ways to collect this.
2. Considering what we know about the agreed issues and condition of the catchments, and actions (existing or proposed), are there opportunities to do more? If so, please identify, cost and prioritise them?

Answers

- Hill country erosion is under control with SLUI and poplar planting
- Farm dairy effluent is ok. Mainly under control and tidying up last of problems. Deferred irrigation storage required on many farms.
- Stream fencing – still place for more gains. Need more incentives. Early adopters already in. Need to deal with the usual bell curve of early adopters, the great mass and laggards. The question is how to capture the minds of those who are lagging behind. The Clean Streams Accord needs tightening up. Reported numbers not verifiable.
- Education needs to be provided with a voluntary timeframe for implementation. Then implementation of stream fencing needs to be mandatory. This will require co-ordination across stakeholder groups.
- Non point run-off - the framework for action is there, but the targets need to be firmed up, debate around timing and roll out needs to be had. Sometime in future need to have cut off point and advocate for farmers to come in early. Nutrient management plans – need to agree on what the best method is. All dairy farmers have to have NMP. Bigger challenge getting compliance.
- Gaps in information. What is being spent by farmers and how this money is being spent. For example, there is no data on waterways fenced. A catchment by catchment survey of fencing by employing university students over summer break may be the best way to measure this.

Councils and Industry (point source)

1. Does the material gathered so far include all the actions and proposed actions in this sector? If not, please identify the gaps and preferably initiate, or at least suggest, ways to collect this.
2. Considering what we know about the agreed issues and condition of the catchments, and actions (existing or proposed), are there opportunities to do more? If so, please identify, and, if possible, cost and prioritise them?
3. Ways to address accessibility issues

Answer: Question 1

- Compliance of consents not covered. Progress requires regular review and action to deal with non-compliance.

- Gaps in material provided by Councils and industry on point source discharge. Information lacks detail, lacks definition and no standard format for analysis. All Forum members need to fill in gaps, note other gaps and suggest ways to collect information.
- Contaminants – wastewater and industry
 - o Primary – N, P, Bacto and DO/BOD
 - o Secondary – Oils, Greases, Paints
- Stormwater (Cu, Zn, N,P, Bacto)
 - o Education
 - o Engineering
 - o Enforcement
- Current position we are in is one of ever increasing environmental regulation. New regulation needs to be:
 - o Appropriate
 - o Based on good knowledge/sound science
 - o Not creating another problem when trying to find a solution

Answer: Question 2

- TLAs meet to share knowledge. An action for the Action Plan could be to set up a TLA Officers forum.
- Industry forum to share knowledge? An action for the Action Plan could be to set up an Industry forum.
- Forum to lobby central government for more support for environmental funding and community schemes such as the Incentives Community Assistance Programme (CAP).
- Stormwater – First flush capture (shown to be expensive for results). An action for the Action Plan could be to make mandatory water sensitive urban design for new developments and daylight drains where appropriate.

Answer: Question 3

- Accessibility for walking, cycling, and the disabled can be improved with walkways and toilet facilities. Also the provision of information boards, signs, history etc to increase public appreciation and build community values.
- Dischargers have open days so people can see impact of sewage etc. PNCC has wastewater monitoring meetings twice a year.

Other: The question of impacts of pesticides in both urban and rural areas was raised. This may be an important issue around Levin where intensive horticulture is practiced.