

WHY A WHANGAWEHI CATCHMENT GROUP ?

Back ground information

- The group was born in 2011 when the consultation process undertaken in relation to the resource consent applications for the waste water treatment plant identified deep concerns from the local community about the potential effects of the scheme on the cultural, historical, recreational and ecological values of the Whangawehi catchment.
- The different parties involved also identified a shared desire to create better management of the natural, physical, cultural and spiritual resources of the catchment as a whole and resolved to enter into a Memorandum of understanding.



Image courtesy Wairoa Star

- At the moment, the group encompasses a number of landowners in the catchment, Tangata Whenua and several agencies(Wairoa District Council, Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Department of Conservation).

A COMMUNITY DRIVEN PROJECT

A collaborative approach



Randolph Whaanga. Image courtesy Wairoa Star

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in July 2011 between the W District Council, the HB Regional Council, Tangata Whenua of Mahia, (represented by Kaiuku Marare Trustees, Tuahuru Marae Trustees, Ruawharo Marae Trustees and with

other Marae to come on board), Mahia Maori Committee and Landowners in the Catchment

- This document outlines the importance Tangata Whenua place on the Waste water treatment scheme and the wish for the parties to engage in a respectful, meaningful, balanced and mutually beneficial decision making process.
- The MoU identifies that the WDC and the HB Regional Council will consult with Tangata Whenua and landowners for the development of a Catchment Management Plan.

What is a Catchment Management Plan ?

A catchment management plan (CMP) is a document encompassing all the information available on the catchment relating mainly to land use and water quality and a range of actions in order to improve water quality and protect endangered habitats.

The core objective of the document as defined at the September 2011 Hui is to :

“ maintain or improve the different cultural, ecological, recreational and economical values of the Whangawehi catchment identified by the community, in short, maintain or improve a healthy Awa”.

The development of a CMP is seen as an opportunity to involve the whole of the community and provide extra knowledge, education, and funding. It is also clear to all that both the landowners and Tangata Whenua must be willing to fully participate if concrete management actions are to occur on the ground.



A Catchment Management Plan (stage one) has been commissioned by the group and was released in July 2012. This document which is an inventory is available to the public and will be further developed into an Implementation Plan in the year 2013.

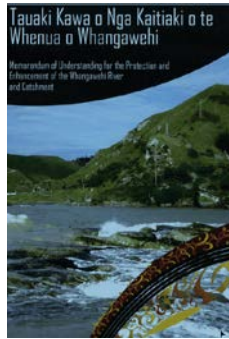


What has been happening

- **April 2011:** Water monitoring on 9 sites (funded by HBRC) in order to produce a robust bench mark data set and identify issues and threats in the long term.



- **July 2011:** Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between stakeholders.
- **September 2011:** Hui at the Tuahuru marae in order to progress the development of the Catchment Management Plan (Stage 1) and to identify the values associated with the Catchment.



Goals for 2013 ?

- Undertake a land and stream assessment (inventory) and work with land owners to decide on the best way to manage the catchment.
- Keep searching for external funding.
- Develop a website and send out newsletters in order to communicate with the wider community and potential funders.
- Discuss with the schools the opportunities for the group and the schools to work together on the CMP.



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Whangawehi Catchment Newsletter January 2013



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