Symposium

With support from...

greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

ANDREW STEWART

NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi
Cleaning up the Manawatū River:
A collaborative approach

Richard Thompson
Independent Chairman
Manawatū River Leaders’ Forum
Manawatu River tops dirty table

River the most polluted by far of 300 tested in the Western world

THE Manawatu River is the most polluted river of 300 tested in the Western world, according to new research.

The Manawatu tops a new pollution measurement of 300 rivers and streams across North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, released by the New Zealand Environment Agency.

The river's pollution is shown as consistently high, with little or no improvement from previous tests.

Jon Morgan and Kelly Burns

"Perception of river at an all-time low"

Manawatu ‘among worst in the West’

THE Manawatu River is one of the most polluted in the Western world, according to new research.

The Manawatu tops a new pollution measurement of 300 rivers and streams across North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, released by the New Zealand Environment Agency.

The Manawatu was found to have high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, as well as high levels of sewage and industrial waste.

Dr Young said the research showed the need for better management of the river.

"Agricultural use is most of it, nitrogen runoff, mainly."

Other factors were the shallowness and width of the slow-moving river, which exposed it to sunlight and encouraged algae growth.

Massey University ecologist Mike Smith said the research showed the need for better management of the river.

"It’s a really important river for the health of the environment."

Jon said the research showed the need for better management of the river.

"It’s a really important river for the health of the environment."
The Facts

Probably NZ’s most polluted river:
– Low water clarity
– High nutrient concentrations
– High sediment loading
– High pathogens
– Loss of fish & bird habitat, remaining areas under threat

But depends on where and what flow.....
THE MANAWATU RIVER FLOWS THROUGH ALL OF US. IT SHAPES OUR REGION AND REFLECTS OUR PEOPLE. IT IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE IT IS OURS. NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND UP AND TAKE OWNERSHIP. WE NEED TO IMPROVE AND PROTECT THE MAURI (LIFEFORCE) AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF THE MANAWATU RIVER CATCHMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.
Kei te ora te wai, kei te ora te whenua, kei te ora te tangata
The Accord

• 32 signatories
  – Iwi
  – Environment
  – Production/industry
  – City and district councils
  – Horizons Regional Council
  ......but not farming
But not farmers....

“However, we acknowledge that the community has concerns and has identified that the river is in a poor state. It has been described as dirty, lacking life and culturally compromised.”
But not farmers....
The Accord

Contains a focus, vision, goals and commitments

Commitment 1:

“Establish a collaboratively owned and implemented Action Plan by March 2011...”.
Action planning

- Workshops of leaders (or delegates)
- Caucusing of sector sub-groups
- Independent and authoritative science
- Simplified the issues
- Developed common understandings
Action Planning hiccups

- Involvement of Federated Farmers (in or out)
- Being part of a longer term research project
- Iwi issues (treaty claims and mana whenua)
- Peripheral issues e.g. trout predation of native fish
- Some frustration and attrition

But

- Lots of goodwill and trust was built
- Strong desire to reach agreement, hence the plan is a compromise
Understanding the Mauri of the river
The River as a ‘provider’ and life form in itself

As we allow the river’s mauri to flourish, the river’s ability to provide will increase.

Cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of the river and its communities
Rongoā Māori traditional healing plants and resources in and by the river. Introduced food species in the river
Drinking water for people and stock
Swimming/other recreation/tourism
Food outside the river, agriculture
Flood protection
Gravel/sand extraction
Electricity generation

As the river’s mauri shrinks, its ability to provide will shrink too.
Action Plan

• “The Challenge”
• Key actions – prioritised and agreed by all
• Sub-catchment descriptions agreed by all
• Tasks: Put forward by individual (or groups of) organisations. All tasks accepted. 14 pages of tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>WHO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide funding assistance/incentives to dairy farmers to exclude stock from waterways</td>
<td>Horizons Regional Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote the need to meet Dairying and Clean Stream Accord targets\ and monitor the extent of progress towards them</td>
<td>Fonterra (with assistance in promotion from Federated Farmers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aim to reduce nutrient losses to streams and ground water to acceptable levels</td>
<td>Landowners and land users</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collect the existing nutrient management data from all farms in the Manawatū catchment (approx 600 farms) to develop a clear picture of where nutrient loss and nutrient use efficiency sits currently within the entire catchment. This will be achieved through using existing data from FMRA, using modelled data, or obtaining the information directly from the farmers. Commencing August 2011</td>
<td>Fonterra and Dairy NZ</td>
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REDUCE SEDIMENT RUN-OFF FROM EROSION PRONE FARMLAND, THE RURAL ROAD NETWORK, AND AREAS OF MAJOR EARTHWORKS THROUGH:

- continuation of Horizons Regional Council’s Sustainable Land Use Initiative
- adoption of road maintenance and earthworks best practice management practices
- meeting resource consent conditions, compliance monitoring and enforcement
- adoption of best practice management for earthworks

Central Government, Horizons Regional Council, Farmers
REDUCE THE NUTRIENT AND PATHOGENS FROM POINT SOURCE DISCHARGES THROUGH:

- resolving outstanding resource consent applications
- ensuring discharges meet regional water quality standards
- meeting resource consent conditions, compliance monitoring and enforcement
- requiring resource consents for stormwater discharges

Councils, Central Government, Industry
REDUCE THE RUN-OFF OF SEDIMENT, NUTRIENTS AND PATHOGENS FROM INTENSIVE LAND-USE SUCH AS DAIRYING AND CROPPING THROUGH:

- meeting resource consent conditions, compliance monitoring and enforcement
- achieving the Dairying and Clean Stream Accord targets
- adoption of Nutrient Management Plans and promotion of nutrient use efficiency

Central Government, Horizons Regional Council, Farmers
PREVENT OVER-USE OF WATER BY:

- ensuring consented takes meet regional standards
- meeting resource consent conditions, compliance monitoring and enforcement
- ensuring metering of all major water takes
PROTECT AREAS OF HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH, BIRDS AND TROUT BY:

- fencing and planting streams and bush/wetland areas, and pest control
- removing fish barriers
- meeting resource consent conditions, compliance monitoring and enforcement

Horizons Regional Council, Community Groups, Central Government, Maori
THE MANAWATU RIVER

LEADERS’ ACCORD

The Manawatu River flows through all of us. It shapes our region and reflects our people. It is precious because it is ours. Now is the time to stand up and take ownership. We need to improve and protect the Manawatu (Life Source) and ecological health of the Manawatu River Catchment for generations to come.

Our Goal:
The signatories are committed to improving the ecological health of the Manawatu River Catchment and assisting in the provision of habitats and waterways for all species of the region.

[Signatures]
Funding success

FRESH START FOR FRESHWATER CLEAN-UP FUND

Granted $5.2m (over two years), for:
• Municipal wastewater discharges (Dannevirke, Pahiatua, Woodville, Kimbolton, Feilding, Shannon)
• Cattle exclusion from waterways
• Native fish habitat protection
• Nutrient management farm plans ("Best Practice")
• Community involvement

Matches community finding of approx $25m
Lots of achievements:

- Community projects
- Cattle exclusion from waterways (208km)
- Native fish habitat protection
- 83 dairyfarm plans, 41 farms mapped (SLUI)
- Major wastewater improvement work
- 12 fish passage improvements
- 66,000 riparian plants
Progress Report - Science

Will take time to tell for sure. Some progress showing. Water quality targets not met but:

• Apparent improvements in nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria
• Periphyton getting worse
• Dissolved oxygen, clarity, temperature, cyanobacteria - too soon to tell
Where next?

- Resolution of iwi dissatisfaction
- Revise Action Plan and commit
- Apply for further funding
- And just carry on......
Collaboration

“COLLABORATION
The Leaders’ Forum’s commitment to collaboratively find solutions for the Manawatu catchment is like a journey of discovery, at times a rocky road. All parties are committed to collaborate and gain a better understanding of how to integrate and balance cultural, social, environmental and economic values.”
Insights

• Time-consuming
• Can be resource intensive
• Hard to keep leaders engaged (and delegates may not have authority)
• Needs careful and independent facilitation
• Helps to have a “sponsor”
• External political scene may impinge

But...
Insights

Yes! It is definitely worth doing:
• Improves relationships
• Clarifies facts
• Focuses attention
• Builds common goals
• Initiates collaborative action

E kore a Parawhenua e haere ki te kore a Rakahore
Water wouldn't move if it wasn't for rock
Partnership in ventures is essential for success
If the water is healthy, the land and people are nourished.

Kei to ora te wai,
kei te ora te whenua,
kei te ora te tangata.