

StAG Subcommittee, 16 September 2014

BORPC, 1125 Arawa St Rotorua 1:10 pm

Present: Stuart Morrison (Collective Rep); Sarah Omundsen, Sandra Barns, and Anna Grayling (BOPRC); Tanira Kingi (StAG Chairman); Simon Park (Subcommittee Chair); Gwyn Morgan (Fed Farmers); Warren Webber (LWQS); Ben O'Brien (B+LNZ).

Apologies: Gloria Zamora

Previous minutes: taken as read, with all actions noted or covered in agenda

Agenda (based on follow up from the morning StAG meeting):

1. Farm Nutrient Plan requirements, SMP and LEP linkages
2. Farmer mental health and resourcing
3. Collating information on current farm N loss status
4. Risks to 100 tN incentive fund
5. Catchment economic analysis
6. General Business: Possible Grow Rotorua symposium on land use opportunities – Warren Webber

| ACTION LIST |
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1. Gloria Zamora: to add Land TAG minutes to website when they are completed.
2. Lisa Power: re-draft FNP minimum requirements, circulate to FNP working party
3. Anna Grayling: contact Lakes District Health Board for list of contacts to amend KVH diagram.
4. Simon Park: talk with Lee Matheson and present dairy N loss status/progress table at next StAG.
5. Stephen Lamb: incorporate accountability of 100 tN incentive fund in paper to Council
6. Sandra Barns: circulate revised catchment economics project brief for next StAG plus give a summary presentation of what has been done already
7. Sandra Barns: progress district level project brief with Ben O'Brien and Ollie Parsons
8. Simon Park, Anna Grayling and Warren Webber: meet Grow Rotorua on land use opportunity symposium

Item 1: Farm Nutrient Plan (FNP) Requirements, SMP and LEP linkages

- a. LEPs and SMPs take a broad holistic approach, much wider than N. They were developed and are used for farm management purposes, as opposed to regulation and enforcement.
- b. The dairy SMP identifies where you were, where you are and where you could be. Although it is voluntary, DairyNZ has amended SMPs to meet different regional council rules (e.g. effluent rules)
- c. There is confusion about farm plan terminology and hierarchy – consider:
 - Whole Farm Plan / Farm Management Plan – broad and encompassing many elements
 - Nutrient budget – described nutrient inputs and losses at a point in time
 - Nutrient Management Plan – incorporated NB and where/how you are going
 - FNP – a hybrid of above? Clarity is needed.
- d. Farmer and industry body concern that previous FNP minimum requirements were too prescriptive, too detailed and covered P mitigation when that is not consistent with the N policy driver (435 tN). Linkages with broader SMP and LEP remain unclear but we need to avoid multiple “plans” per farm.

ACTION: Lisa Power to re-draft Council FNP minimum requirements and circulate to FNP working party.

Item 2: Farmer mental health and resourcing

- a. Gwyn recapped on Collective letter to Councils and ongoing discussions with MPI – given it will possibly take a while to sort out national needs, local support still needs to be resourced
- b. Anna tabled the Kiwifruit Vine Health support diagram (see KVH [link](#)) which can be amended to suit

ACTION: Anna Grayling to contact Lakes District Health Board for list of contacts to amend KVH diagram.

Item 3: Collating information on current farm N loss status

- a. Work within SFF project (as per StAG action point) – this is dairy sector only but can show N loss changes since 01-04 data (but not economic comparisons). Simon will talk to Lee about the hypothetical/real farms in the recent NDA analysis and what inferences can be made about the do-ability of 44 tN by 2022. Note that NDA report farms were not a “representative” sample.
- b. Drystock farms: B+LNZ can collate nutrient budgets as follow up to LEPs and target 14 largest farms

ACTION: Simon Park to talk with Lee Matheson and present dairy N loss status/progress table at next StAG.

Item 4: Risks to 100 tN incentive fund

- a. Noted that Robin Conner’s paper was intentionally provocative as it showed a possible spectrum of mechanisms if the incentive fund target was not met.
- b. Assuming we are committed to the target, what are the possibilities for making it work? Although it is understood that future Councils can make different decisions based on progress, farmers still want greater clarity now on the degree of Council “ownership” of the 100 tN.

ACTION: Stephen Lamb to incorporate accountability of 100 tN incentive fund in paper to Council.

Item 5: Catchment Economic Analysis

- a. Focusing on farm level mitigation cost curves i.e.: how many farms we need to model, mitigation protocols, costs of mitigation – all across different farm types.
- b. Peer review of current design of project completed – the main points were:
 - Supportive of general process but questioning economic analysis of allocation methods as these are primarily equity/political questions rather than economic
 - Different researchers use different models – consider N-manager
- c. Noted that potential alternative land uses are not modelled – too many unknowns
- d. Modelling can only show one point in time – difficult to account for allowing 20 years for changes

ACTION: Sandra Barn to circulate revised catchment economics project brief for next StAG plus summary presentation of what has already been done

ACTION: Sandra Barns to progress district level brief with Ben O’Brien and Ollie Parsons.

Item 6: Possible Grow Rotorua Symposium on land use opportunities

- a. Consensus that late 2014 is too soon: not enough is known about the rules; major landowner concerns about the draft rules; feedback process and other work (s32) still underway.
- b. People want to see land use alternatives but some have not been robustly tested / reviewed. The Land TAG will have a role here.

ACTION: Simon Park, Anna Grayling and Warren Webber to meet Grow Rotorua on land use symposium

Meeting ended 3 pm

NB: There is no scheduled StAG subcommittee meeting in early October. Next StAG is 22 October 2014.