

# **Minutes of the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee Meeting held in the Kauri Room, Distinction Hotel, 390 Fenton Street, Rotorua on Wednesday, 19 October 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.**

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## **Present:**

**Chairman:** M Whitaker

**Deputy Chairman:** P Sherry

**Councillors:** T Eru, T Marr, J Nees, I Noble, N Oppatt, D Owens, L Thurston

**Ex Officio:** Chairman J Cronin (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**In Attendance:** A Bruere (Lake Operations Manager), G Corbett (Manager Land Resources (Rotorua)), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), R Mallinson (Senior Land Management Officer), W Murray (Group Manager Land Management), P Scholes (Environmental Scientist), S Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)), K Tarboton (Group Manager Environmental Hazards), Rotorua District Council Staff E Cawte, N Claassen, A Lowe and G Manzano, members of the public and Rotorua Pastoral Collective Dr T Kingi, H Naere, R Moore, S Morrison, S Park, M Scott and N Webber, and S Cubbon (Committee Administration)

**Apologies:** R Bennett, J Mansell and P Thompson

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## **1 Adjournment**

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.30 a.m. and called for an adjournment to continue a briefing for members on the current response to the grounding of the container ship Rema. The meeting reconvened at 9.45 a.m.

### **Attendance**

Councillor Thurston left the meeting at 9.35 a.m.

## **2 Reports**

### **2.1 Chairman's Report**

The information from the Chairman giving an overview of the agenda topics and order of the day was accepted as read.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

**1 Receives the report, Chairman's Report.**

**Whitaker/Owens  
CARRIED**

**2.2 Bathing and Shellfish Surveillance Report 2010-2011**

*Refer Environmental Publication 2011/13 PowerPoint presentation A963533*

Environmental Scientist, Paul Scholes gave a PowerPoint presentation supporting the report and summarised the results of bathing suitability surveys carried out on approximately 80 river, lake and marine sites in the Bay of Plenty over the 2010-2011 bathing season. The monitoring showed open coastal and lake sites continued to have excellent water quality with generally low levels of faecal contamination. River and stream sites were generally suitable for bathing, although some had reached the 'red alert' level following rain.

Members were advised that as lake and coastal sites had consistently shown low levels of faecal contamination, monitoring would be reduced to every three years rather than annually, allowing resources to instead be focused on the poorer quality river and estuarine sites. The Group Manager Water Management, Eddie Grogan undertook to meet with Councillors who expressed concern to discuss questions regarding the reduction in some monitoring.

**Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

**1 Receives the report, Bathing and Shellfish Surveillance Report 2010-2011.**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

**2.3 Rotorua Lakes TLI Update**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A963535*

The Committee received the latest results of water quality monitoring in the Rotorua Lakes, showing that eight lakes now exceeded the TLI set in the Regional Water and Land Plan. Paul Scholes noted that Method 41 of the Plan required Action Plans to be developed where the three yearly average TLI was exceeded by 0.2 units for two consecutive years, and new Action Plans had been initiated for Lakes Ōkataina, Rotokakahi and Tarawera. Questions that arose from the report were responded to by Lakes Operations Manager, Andy Bruere. Members wished to advance the efforts being made in respect of Lake Rerewhakaaitu and resolved for this to happen.

**Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

**1 Receives the report, Rotorua Lakes TLI Update.****2 Recommends to the Strategic Policy Committee that an Action Plan be instigated for Lake Rerewhakaaitu, and as part of that process confirms the TLI target.**

**Oppatt/Nees  
CARRIED**

## 2.4 **Rotorua District Council Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A963450*

The Group Manager Water Management introduced staff from Rotorua District, in attendance to present to the Committee on issues relating to Rotorua District Council's consent compliance for Whakarewarewa Forest effluent application. Senior Scientist, Alison Lowe gave a PowerPoint presentation that explained the process of the wastewater treatment and disposal system.

### **Attendance**

Councillor Thurston rejoined the meeting at 10.45 a.m.

The treatment system design and subsequent upgrades, and recent initiatives to reduce nutrient discharges were outlined by Nico Claassen. As much nitrogen as possible was being removed at the treatment plant, but an abatement notice had been issued by Regional Council. Rotorua District Council were to seek a variation of their consent, and the members of the Committee accompanied staff on a site visit of the treatment operations to aid their understanding of the issues.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua District Council Wastewater Treatment and Disposal.**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

The site visit commenced at 11.20 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 12.45 p.m.

## 2.5 **2012 Operational Plan for the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 - 2016**

*Refer Draft 2011/12 Operational Plan for the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan 2011-2016 and PowerPoint presentation A963430*

The paper and PowerPoint were presented by Manager Land Resources (Rotorua), Greg Corbett and sought adoption of an Operational Plan for 2012 to implement the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 - 2016. The draft Operational Plan contained new pest management approaches and the continuation of some that had proved successful in recent years, and the key points were discussed with members.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, 2012 Operational Plan for the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 - 2016.**
- 2 **Notes that Council is required to prepare an Operational Plan to implement the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016 within three months of the Plan being made, this date being the 31 December 2011, under section 85 (1)(a) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.**
- 3 **Notes that funding allocated through the 2012 annual plan, of \$2,139,000, for biosecurity is insufficient to fully and effectively manage all pests as specified in the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016.**
- 4 **Agrees to the targeting of resources and funding to specific focus areas for specified pests as defined in section 4.1.6 of this report.**
- 5 **Approves the use of Council funding and resources to support landowners and the community to manage pests within the region through “approved programmes” as defined in section 4.13 of this report.**
- 6 **Approves the adoption of the draft 2012 Operational Plan for the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016.**
- 7 **Notes that the Operational Plan must be reviewed annually and progress with its implementation publicly reported not later than five months after the end of each financial year during the term of the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016.**
- 8 **Notes that staff estimate that an annual operating budget of \$2,800,00 would be needed to meet the outcomes and objectives of the Regional Pest Management Plan for the Bay of Plenty 2011 – 2016.**
- 9 **Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s strategic planning framework (Council’s Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.10 p.m. and reconvened at 1.45 p.m.

## **Attendance**

Council Chairman John Cronin left the meeting at 1.10 p.m.

## **2.6 Aquatic Weed Control for Amenity Purposes on the Rotorua Lakes**

*Refer APR reports ‘Aquatic Weed Control for Amenity Purposes on Rotorua Lakes – Assessment of Need, 20 June 2011 and Stage2: Consultation with Key Stakeholders, 2 September 2011 and PowerPoint presentation A960806*

Senior Land Management Officer, Richard Mallinson spoke to the report, the purpose of which was to seek the Committee's direction to make provision for aquatic pest plant control for amenity purposes in the draft Ten Year Plan. He pointed out the increasing number of requests for aquatic weed control for safety and recreational use, and noted that the management of Rotorua Lakes area involved a number of agencies, complicated by different policies which proved frustrating for the public.

Members heard that further work would be carried out on a full prioritisation of sites and costs. They expressed reservations that starting to fund such work may set a precedent and result in agencies such as LINZ no longer contributing. The question arose as to why the issue was not important enough to be included in the Regional Pest Strategy, however members did accept that the public expected their important recreational areas to be free of weeds.

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Aquatic Weed Control for Amenity Purposes on the Rotorua Lakes.**
- 2 Notes the recommendations made in APR Consultants Ltd report 'Review of Aquatic Weed Control for Amenity Purposes on Rotorua Lakes', 'Assessment of Need - 20th June 2011' and 'Stage 2; Consultation with Key Stakeholders - 2nd September 2011'.**
- 3 Requests that provision be made for aquatic pest plant control for amenity purposes on Rotorua Lakes in the draft Ten Year Plan to allow the opportunity for community feedback through the submission process.**
- 4 Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

Owens/Thurston  
**CARRIED**

Councillors Nees and Marr requested that their votes **AGAINST** the resolutions be recorded.

## **2.7 Sustainable Land Management Activity Report on Operational Work 2010/11**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A961852*

Simon Stokes, the Manager for Land Resources (Eastern) updated the committee on the 2010/2011 year with regards to operational activity covering Sustainable Land Use Implementation, Biosecurity, and Biodiversity programmes.

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Sustainable Land Management Activity Report on Operational Work 2010/11.**
- 2 **Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Act 2002, and Local Government Act 1974 and 2002).**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

## 2.8 **Rotorua Pastoral Collective**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A963428*

Members of the Rotorua Pastoral Collective were in attendance, and Dr Tanira Kingi presented a paper setting out the basis for joint action by the Collective and Regional Council. Members heard the group regarded it as necessary to meet best practice nutrient models and in order to do that everyone had to work together and keep dialogue open. Dr Kingi said benchmarking was now progressing well in the catchment. The Chairman thanked the Collective for their attendance and noted they were on the right track with the presentation.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Receives the report, Rotorua Pastoral Collective.**

**Whitaker/Owens  
CARRIED**

## 2.9 **Waiowhero Stream Constructed Wetland Concept**

*Refer Opus Report 2-34100.00 'Waiowhero Stream Treatment Options and Constructed Wetland Concept' and PowerPoint A963433*

The report was presented by Sustainable Farming Advisor, John Paterson and requested that members consider the continuation of investigations for a site specific constructed wetland concept for the whole treatment of the Waiowhero Stream. Members noted that the supporting Opus report contained some errors of fact. Mr Paterson advised that the Bonnington property lay adjacent to Rotorua city and the owners were amenable to some land use change from grazing to wetland.

### **Attendance**

Councillor Thurston left the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

The feasibility and cost effectiveness of the proposal were outlined for members in respect of the potential removal of nutrients entering Lake Rotorua.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report.**
- 2 Supports in principle the continuation of further investigations for a constructed wetland project on the Bonnington property.**

**Eru/Oppatt  
CARRIED**

## **2.10 Extension of time**

In accordance with NZ Standing Order 3.3.7, the Chairman called for a resolution to continue the meeting beyond six hours until no later than 5.00 p.m.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Agrees to continue the meeting beyond six hours.**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

### **Attendance**

Deputy Chairman Sherry left the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.40 p.m. and reconvened at 3.50 p.m.

## **2.11 Use of Department of Corrections offenders in Council operations**

This report was in response to a request made at the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee meeting on 16 June 2011 for more detail on the extent and types of work being carried out by offenders, along with the experiences of staff supervising the groups.

### **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Use of Department of Corrections offenders in Council operations.**

**Oppatt/Whitaker  
CARRIED**

## **2.12 Large Industrial Sites Compliance Monitoring Report: 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010**

Pollution Prevention Manager, Nick Zaman presented the report on Large Industrial Sites Compliance Monitoring and members were advised that all sites covered in the report had achieved good compliance.

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Large Industrial Sites Compliance Monitoring Report: 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010.**

**Whitaker/Owens  
CARRIED**

### **2.13 Quarterly Consents Update Report**

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Quarterly Consents Update Report.**

**Whitaker/Oppatt  
CARRIED**

### **2.14 Schedule of Enquiries, Complaints and Enforcement Activities: 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011**

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Schedule of Enquiries, Complaints and Enforcement Activities: 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011.**

**Oppatt/Noble  
CARRIED**

### **2.15 Group Managers Report**

*Refer Tabled Document 'A guide to managing farm dairy effluent Bay of Plenty'*

Nick Zaman referred to the booklet made available to members that had been produced in conjunction with DairyNZ who had suggested they would use it as the basis of a national guide. Based on farmer and rural professional feedback it was expected the booklet would be widely accepted as a guide managing dairy effluent by the farming community.

## **Resolved**

**That the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee under its delegated authority:**

**1 Receives the report, Group Managers Report.**

**Whitaker/Noble  
CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.**