

Minutes of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in the Conference room, Tuscany Villas, 57 The Strand East, Whakatāne on Monday, 31 October 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S Fisher (Opotiki District Council)

Members: Councillor C Chambers (Whakatāne District Council)
M Edwards (Member for Whakatohea)
M Manuel (Member for Upokorehe)
Councillor M Whitaker (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

In Attendance: S Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)), P Chapman (Manager Community Facilities, Whakatāne District Council), R Schlotjes (Environment and Planning Manager, Opotiki District Council), B Hughes (Environment Manager, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), T Senior (Biosecurity Officer), A Beattie (Environmental Scientist), J Douglas (Senior Land Management Officer), O Te Rupe (Waimana Kaaku), T Te Rupe (Upokorehe), Sonia Te Papa (Upokorehe), S Kameta (Committee Administration Officer)

Apologies: N Rua (Waimana Kaaku, Member for Ngai Tuhoe), K Merito (Member for Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), Fiona Hennessey (Department of Conservation)

1 **Mihi and Karakia**

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) opened the meeting at 9.34 a.m. with a mihi and karakia.

2 **Election of Committee Chairman**

In the absence of Nika Rua, the scheduled Chair, members elected a Chair for the meeting.

MOTION

Move: Manuel

Second: Chambers

Nominate Councillor Selby Fisher to preside as chair for the meeting.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

Resolved

That pursuant to section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be considered at this meeting.

3.1 **Verbal Update on Mangrove Management**

Reason

At the request of the Chairman a verbal update on mangrove management for Ōhiwa Harbour is provided.

Give Reasons

That it cannot wait until the next meeting of the Forum.

3.2 **Ngāti Awa Farm alternative land use activity**

Reason

To update the Forum on current alternative land use activities for the Ngati Awa Farm.

Give Reasons

That it cannot wait until the next meeting of the Forum.

**Fisher/Chambers
CARRIED**

4 **Previous Minutes**

4.1 **Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting - 21 March 2011**

Matters Arising

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) advised members that actions arising from the previous minutes had been undertaken, and in particular the following matters:

1. The request to Ministry of Fisheries was outlined in the Strategy Actions Update report contained within Agenda Item 5.1 (Appendix 2).
2. Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Action Report recommendations 9 and 10 would be covered in Agenda Item 5.2.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the previous minutes of 21 March 2011 as a true and correct record.**

**Chambers/Fisher
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillor M Whitaker arrived at 9.40 a.m.

5 Reports

5.1 Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress

Refer PowerPoint Presentation A967311.

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) presented the report and provided a presentation overview to update the Forum on the status of actions contained within the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy. In his overview, Mr Stokes highlighted the following works:

- Ōhiwa Harbour margins were now fully fenced from stock access. A substantial proportion of the works had been completed with the support of Upokorehe.
- Ecology survey and communication plan actions were on track and in the coming year there would be more focus on community connections.
- The Sediment and Mangrove Management Plan was critical to nutrient management and would be re-emphasized this financial year.

Members were provided with clarification on matters including erosion and sediment issues around stream margins and the proposed role of the Ōhiwa Harbour coordinator, which would be responsible for coordinating actions at the operational level. Options on how the position would be funded would need to be worked through with the agencies.

A member advised that their organisation did not have an active representative for the Harbour and a disconnection with the Strategy and operations on the ground. Discussion followed with a suggestion from the Manager Land Resources (Eastern) that the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordinating Group (OHSCG) meet individually with Iwi partners to update them on progress and linkages within the Strategy.

MOTION

Moved: Edwards

Second: Manuel

Notes the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordinating Group (OHSCG) will meet individually with Iwi partners to update them on progress and linkages with the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Adjournment

Members adjourned at 10:44 a.m. before continuing with discussions on the Ministry of Fisheries response that had been received. The meeting reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

5.1.1 Letter of response from Ministry of Fisheries

Members discussed the letter received from the Ministry of Fisheries (Appendix 2) and raised concern regarding the quota management of cockle and pipi in Ōhiwa Harbour and the lack of participation from the Ministry of Fisheries. Members considered the commercial allowances to be unsustainable and in need of review, and furthermore that the quota management area, which extended from Hauraki Gulf to Cape Runaway, applied only to Ōhiwa Harbour.

Further discussion followed on how best to progress the matter to a higher level. A suggestion was made regarding the establishment of a mahinga mataitai as an alternative management regime for the harbour.

Members agreed to take this matter back to their organisations for consideration and to bring back to the next Forum meeting their organisation's position on the quota management system, for the intention of having the quota removed and presenting a way forward. It was noted that each partner would report back to OHSCG who would then report back to the next Forum meeting with the partners' decisions and options on the next steps, depending on the outcome of the partners' decisions.

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) advised members that he would repackage and provide them with Ministry of Fisheries' documentation for consideration to assist with their decision on a position. It was also noted that a paper on mahinga mataitai would be provided to the next meeting by Beverley Hughes.

MOTION

Moved: Chambers

Second: Edwards

Notes that the Forum partners will confirm, and report back to OHSCG, their respective organisation's position on whether they; support or, do not support cockle and pipi harvesting in the Ōhiwa Harbour. OHSCG will then provide a report to the next Forum meeting of the partners' decisions and options on next steps.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress.**
- 2 Notes the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordinating Group (OHSCG) will meet individually with Iwi partners to update them on progress and linkages with the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy.**
- 3 Notes that the Forum partners will confirm, and report back to OHSCG, their respective organisation's position on whether they; support or, do not support cockle and pipi harvesting in the Ōhiwa Harbour. OHSCG will then provide a report to the next Forum meeting of the partners' decisions and options on next steps.**

**Whitaker/Manuel
CARRIED**

5.2 Whakatāne and Opotiki District Council Planning Update with regards to Ōhiwa Harbour zoning

Robert Schlotjes and Paula Chapman presented the report that updated the Forum on the development of Whakatāne District Councils' draft planning provisions for Ōhiwa Harbour. It was noted that the draft provisions linked back to the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy and that district plan boundaries were in general alignment with consistent outcomes, particularly in plantation forestry. Consultation on the Draft plan closed in September 2011 with more targeted consultation to take place next year. It was noted that the Opotiki District Plan was due for review in six years.

Forum members discussed housing development provisions and the necessary consultation with tangata whenua required during the resource consent process.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Whakatāne and Opotiki District Council Planning Update with regards to Ōhiwa Harbour zoning.**

**Whitaker/Chambers
CARRIED**

5.3 Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy – A Co-operative and Integrative Approach to Kaitiakitanga

Beverley Hughes presented the report and provided an overview of key activities undertaken by the four Iwi partners since the last Forum meeting, noting that positive relationships had added value to statutory and council processes. In her report, Ms Hughes brought to the Forum's attention the outstanding issue, outlined in Section 6 of the report, of a formalised protocol to endorse, in principle, the exercise of kaitiakitanga to be utilised in Ōhiwa Harbour.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy – A Co-operative and Integrative Approach to Kaitiakitanga.**
- 2 Endorse, in principle, the ethic and exercise of kaitiakitanga being utilised in the Ōhiwa Harbour.**

**Manuel/Whitaker
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for a short interval at 12.30 p.m. and reconvened at 12.35 p.m.

6 Presentation

6.1 Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Ecology Update

Refer 2010 Ōhiwa Harbour Marshbird Survey (Environmental Publication 2011/11) and PowerPoint Presentation A965679.

Annabel Beattie (Environmental Scientist) provided an update on the monitoring review and survey results undertaken around the harbour for threatened plant species, Marshbird and freshwater fish. Plant findings found seedlings from Whangapikopiko while surveys showed good fish passage in upper catchments. Overall results of the Marshbird survey identified numbers had generally increased due to better predator control and identified that a variety of different vegetation and habitat was important to support birdlife.

Ms Beattie advised that further monitoring would be undertaken to identify any knowledge gaps.

7 **Rena Oil Response Update - Verbal Report**

John Douglas (Senior Land Management Officer) provided a verbal update on the Rena oil response situation and ground operations that had been established in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The most significant impact to the Eastern sub-region had been at Raukokore river mouth and Cape Runaway. The Forward Operating Base that had been established in Whakatāne, under the direction of Maritime New Zealand, was setup on 14 October and was currently still live but on stand-by and had been well supported by Māori liaison staff, operational staff and local scientists.

In the event of further oil migrating east, operational staff and trained volunteers were prepared. Snare and land and sea booms were also ready for deployment at Ōhiwa, Waiotahi and Waioeka if required.

Following Mr Douglas' update, Upokorehe and Waimana Kaaku representatives provided a presentation overview of their involvement at the Incident Command Centre and their assessment of the cultural impacts and risks to the community and tangata whenua as a result of the Rena disaster.

Attendance

Councillor Whitaker left the meeting at 1.37 a.m.

8 **Mangrove Management – Verbal Report**

Tim Senior provided a brief update on the mangrove management programme in place for 2011/12 summer. Two working bees and a training session are scheduled for 10 December and 13 January with Upokorehe having key involvement as key trainers for those interested in the community. A communications plan was in place to promote involvement to those in the community, who would be interested in participating,

9 **Ngati Awa alternative land use activity update**

Beverley Hughes advised that Ngati Awa would be progressing development of their farm plan, which included alternative land use activities, such as the development of wetland, a riparian management plan and addressing storm water issues to enhance land adjacent to streams and Ōhiwa Harbour. Ms Hughes advised that funding was an issue and that Ngati Awa would be seeking advice from the district and regional council on how to address their stormwater issues.

10 **Closing karakia**

T Te Rupe.

The meeting closed at 1.50 p.m.

It was noted that the scheduled field trip to the Nukuhou River catchment did not take place.