

# Minutes of the Operations, Monitoring and Regulation Committee Meeting held in The Boeing Room, Classic Flyers NZ, 8 Jean Batten Drive, Tauranga Airport on Thursday, 24 November 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** M Whitaker

**Deputy Chairman:** P Sherry

**Councillors:** R Bennett, T Eru, J Mansell, T Marr, J Nees, I Noble, N Oppatt, D Owens, P Thompson

**Ex Officio:** Chairman J Cronin

**In Attendance:** B Buckley (Dairy NZ), M Bloxham, J Bourke and Ian Pirani (Ballance Farm Environment Awards), W McCook and E Wells (Animal Health Board), members of the public, G Corbett (Manager Land Resources (Rotorua)), H Creagh (Consents Manager), R Donald (Water Science & Support Manager), C Dowthwaite (Communications Advisor), D Guinto (Environmental Scientist), E Grogan (Group Manager Water Management), S Iremonger (Environmental Scientist), W Murray (Group Manager Land Management), R Skelton (Manager Land Resources (Western)), S Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)), K Tarboton (Group Manager Environmental Hazards), N Zaman (Pollution Prevention Manager), and S Cubbon (Committee Administrator)

**Apologies:** Councillors N Oppatt and L Thurston, Councillor R Bennett (for lateness)

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## 1 Reports

### 1.1 Ballance Farm Environment Awards Annual Update

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A972046*

Simon Stokes, Manager Land Resources (Eastern), introduced the report summarising the Ballance Farm Environment Award programme. Members of the Ballance Farm Environment Award Management Committee, John Bourke and Ian Pirani, provided a Power Point presentation that detailed the history of the programme and, in particular, the achievements of the national awards.

Members were advised that Bay of Plenty achievements had been nationally recognised, and they were invited to attend the next awards ceremony and field day to be held on 27 March, 2012. Regional Council's sponsorship and support was

acknowledged, and Councillors took note that nine of the sixteen entrants this year were dairy farmers.

## **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report, Ballance Farm Environment Awards Annual Update.**
- 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/Noble  
CARRIED**

## **1.2 Nutrient management and the dairy industry**

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A1001688*

Brigid Buckley, Developer – Sustainability from DairyNZ was in attendance to make a presentation of proposals for nutrient management within the dairying industry for dairy farmers under the Primary Growth Programme initiative.

### **Attendance**

Councillor Bennett attended the meeting at 10.05 a.m.

Ms Buckley explained the development of an industry run nutrient management system to measure and monitor nitrogen use efficiency and losses that could be internally and externally audited, incorporating nutrient advisory training and accreditation.

In thanking Ms Buckley for an excellent presentation, members applauded what they regarded as a good example of an industry taking ownership of a problem.

## **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report, Nutrient management and the dairy industry.**
- 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/Cronin  
CARRIED**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.30 a.m. and reconvened at 10.50 a.m.

### 1.3 **Bovine Tuberculosis - A presentation from the Animal Health Board**

William McCook, Chief Executive of the Animal Health Board Incorporated, was in attendance to make a presentation to the committee on the history of the bovine TB problem in New Zealand, the Animal Health Board's revised TB National Pest Management Strategy, and the strategic choices made for vector control in the Bay of Plenty region.

#### **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report, Bovine Tuberculosis - A presentation from the Animal Health Board.**

**Cronin/Sherry  
CARRIED**

### 1.4 **Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress**

The Committee agreed to accept the report as read, noting Simon Stokes' comment that the partnership between Regional Council, Whakatane and Opotiki District Councils and Ngati Awa, Upokorehe, Whakatohea and Ngai Tuhoe was working very well.

#### **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress.**
- 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**

### 1.5 **Trace Elements in Bay of Plenty Soils**

*Refer Environmental Publication 2011/16*

The report provided an update on the soil quality monitoring project being run under the Natural Environment Regional Monitoring Network (NERMN) programme. Environmental Scientist, Dani Guinto summarised the changes in topsoil trace element concentrations of sites under dairy pasture, maize, drystock (sheep/beef and deer pastures) and kiwifruit orchards monitored since 1999/2000. Overall there had been little significant change although members took note that there appeared to be an increase in cadmium which was considered due to the continued use of phosphate fertilisers.

## Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Trace Elements in Bay of Plenty Soils.**
- 2 Confirms that the significance of the decisions has been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 confirms that in the light of the level of significance of the decisions it does not require: (a) Further identification and assessment of different options under section 77 LGA; (b) Further investigation or consideration of community views under section 78 LGA; (c) Any further written record of the manner in which section 77 and section 78 matters have been addressed.**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

## Attendance

Councillor Thompson left the meeting at 11.55 a.m.

### 1.6 **Eastern Bay of Plenty Feral Goat Control Programme - Annual progress report 2010/11**

Manager Land Resources (Rotorua), Greg Corbett informed the committee of progress towards control of goats in the eastern Bay of Plenty which he advised had been very good, with goat-free populations achieved in some areas. Collaboration with the Department of Conservation, Nga Whenua Rahui and Gisborne District Council had seen significant gains in halting the spread of goats and Mr Corbett noted the programme was cutting-edge, getting goats out of areas not previously thought possible. Members acknowledged the need for continued political support to ensure gains were not lost, and they were advised that total eradication may not be as expensive as thought.

## Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Eastern Bay of Plenty Feral Goat Control Programme - Annual progress report 2010/11.**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

## Attendance

Councillor Thompson rejoined the meeting at 12.10 p.m.

### 1.7 **Western Weed Warden Trial Interim Report**

Robyn Skelton, Manager Land Resources (Western) updated Committee members on the recently completed Weed Wardens community engagement trial project that began at the beginning of September 2010. Aimed at raising awareness of pest plants and enlisting a network of community volunteers to increase the level of reporting and control of Regional Pest Management Strategy pest plants, Ms Skelton reported the

trial had achieved limited success. As it remained a good concept, and valued people wishing to do something good in their area, staff recommended the trial be renamed and continue for a further 12 month period with a focus on building a biosecurity network of partners working in at-risk environments who had a professional or private hobby interest in the identification of plants and/or animals.

## **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report, Weed Warden Trial.**
- 2 Notes that the initial Weed Wardens trial has been of limited success.**
- 3 Agrees to extend the trial for a further 12 month period, the network to be known as Weed Finders Bay of Plenty, to comprise a network of partners as noted in section 7 of this report.**
- 4 Notes that the trial will be funded from the Biosecurity operational budget as approved within Council's Annual and Ten Year Plans.**
- 5 Notes that the decisions recommended above have been assessed in accordance with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Policy on Significance as having a low degree of significance.**

**Nees/Owens  
CARRIED**

## **1.8 Whakatane and Ohope Stormwater Catchment Management Planning Project Update**

This project update and status report for the Catchment Management Planning of Whakatane and Ohope Streams was presented by Simon Stokes. Collaboration with Whakatāne District Council and Environment Ngāti Awa continued to ensure future planning and infrastructure works would be carried out in a comprehensive manner. This was seen as essential given the narrow valley floors and steep gullies which meant the catchment could not cope with extreme weather events being experienced.

## **Resolved**

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

- 1 Receives the report "Whakatane and Ohope Stormwater Catchment Management Planning project update".**

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

## **Attendance**

Chairman Cronin left the meeting at 12.25 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for luncheon at 12.25 p.m. and reconvened at 1.00 p.m.

## 1.9 Restoration of Whitebait Habitats

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A1006631*

Matthew Bloxham, Freshwater Scientist gave a PowerPoint presentation setting out information arising from a study of whitebait spawning habitats. The impacts on aquatic ecosystems of Regional Council work to moderate drainage works had been explored and the the amount of rip-rap installed to shore stopbanks meant whitebait spawning habitats were rated as 'in decline' and the fishery could be jeopardised if all the rip-rap was not mitigated.

### Attendance

Councillor Bennett left the meeting at 1.30 p.m.

Mr Bloxham wished to see alternatives to rip-rap investigated and provided some suggestions that would create offline rearing and spawning habitats. Members requested further information as to what environmental parameters Council put into engineering projects.

## 1.10 NERMN Beach Profile Monitoring 2011

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A1002494*

A summary of the data collected to date from the physical coastal monitoring module of the NERMN programme was presented by Shane Iremonger, Environmental Scientist. Results indicated trends of erosion occurring over the past twenty years at Ōhope and Pukehina beaches, the southern area of Waihi Beach and central section of Hikuwai Beach. Mr Iremonger noted increasing developmental and recreational pressures in the coastal environment, and future sea level rise added to the need for continued collection and analysis of information.

### Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, NERMN Beach Profile Monitoring 2011.**

**Owens/Noble  
CARRIED**

## 1.11 Puarenga Stream Investigation Update

Pollution Prevention Manager, Nick Zaman spoke to the report dealing with the quality of the water in the Puarenga Stream, classified as 'poor' and generally not suitable for swimming. Issues had earlier been raised about the effect of contaminants on the health of penny divers at the Whakarewarewa bridge.

Members were advised the quality of the stream was influenced by a timber mill, dairy farms, the Rotorua District Council landfill and forest wastewater irrigation and also a geothermal field. Mr Zaman pointed out that when there were no rainfall events the stream was in compliance, but Regional Council staff were working with all contributors to bring about improvement.

**Attendance**

Councillor Thompson left the meeting at 2.15 p.m.

Members noted the importance of making the community aware of the risk of swimming and gathering shellfish following rainfall events.

**Resolved**

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

- 1 **Receives the report, Puarenga Stream Investigation Update.**

**Noble/Sherry  
CARRIED**

**1.12 Quarterly Consents Update Report**

Consents Manager Helen Creagh was in attendance to present the report for the period 26 September to 4 November 2011.

Ms Creagh explained that although consent application numbers had decreased after the peak in 2010, decision numbers had exceeded applications, a reflection of the Consents Section efforts to resolve long-standing applications.

**Resolved**

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

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

**Whitaker/Sherry  
CARRIED**

**1.13 Group Managers Report**

Members received the Group Managers' report. There was no clarification required of the subjects reported and it was agreed it be considered 'as read'.

**Resolved**

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

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

**Sherry/Whitaker  
CARRIED**

**The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.**