

Minutes of the Maori Committee Meeting held in Kourakino Wharenuī, Papakāinga Marae, 225 Ruātoki Valley Road, Ruātoki, Whakatane on Wednesday, 8 September 2010 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: R Ford

Deputy Chairman: T Marr

Councillors: M Whitaker

In Attendance: G Maloney (Acting Group Manager, Strategic Development), K Belshaw (Maori Policy Manager), S Stokes (Manager Land Resources, Eastern), J Waldon, T Himona and M McDonald (Maori Policy Advisors) and P Maxwell (Committee Secretary).

The external attendance of the following was also recorded:

N Pikau (Kuia), K Henry (Koroua), O Phillis (Kaumatua o te hapu o Warahoe), J McLean (Ngati Makino), M Araroa (Rangitaiki Hapu), T Waiti (Maori Land Court), R Tari, H Uatuku, R Teepa, P Hohua, D Hohua, M Graham, F Vercoe, and R Timoti (Tangata Whenua o te hou kāinga) including D Gosling and P Nikora (Tuhoe Putaiao Trust), P McGarvey and I Temara (Tuhoe Establishment Trust).

Apologies: Chairman J Cronin, Councillors R Bennett and T Eru

The external apologies of N Crapp and members of the Hauraki Maori Trust Board were also recorded.

1 Adjournment

The meeting opened and adjourned at 9.30am until such time as the pōwhiri had finished.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee:

- 1 Adjourns the Maori Committee meeting.**

**Ford/Marr
CARRIED**

2 **Karakia**

The meeting reconvened at 10.25am with a Karakia by Paki Nikora.

3 **Committee Chairman's Announcement**

The Maori Committee Chairman R Ford welcomed everyone to the Maori Committee meeting and thanked Tangata Whenua for allowing the meeting to take place on their marae. He explained that it was a privilege to visit the various marae across the rohe. He then invited the Committee including those staff present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

The Maori Committee Chairman asked the meeting to take a moment to firstly acknowledge the late Councillor Hawea Vercoe, who was the constituent Councillor for the Okurei rohe and also a member of the Maori Committee, and secondly the families affected by the earthquake tragedy in Christchurch.

The Maori Committee Chairman explained the procedure for today's meeting, acknowledging Councillor T Marr, the Constituent Councillor for the Kohi rohe. The Maori Committee Chairman R Ford vacated the Chair for this meeting and appointed Councillor T Marr to assume the Chair and Councillor Ford participated and voted at the meeting as a member of the Committee.

4 **Reports**

4.1 **Nga Marae a Rohe - Marae Locations Map for the Bay of Plenty Region**

The Chair introduced the report and acknowledged Onehou Phyllis, who was contracted to research and update the map. Jane Waldon (Maori Policy Advisor) advised the Committee that the Marae Locations Map had been updated. She highlighted one of the major features of the map and how it differentiated between the name of the Marae and the name of the papakāinga or whenua on which the Marae was built.

Members including Tangata Whenua received a copy of the Marae Location Map and were advised that additional copies would be made available to be distributed by Mr Paki Nikora.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Nga Marae a Rohe - Marae Locations Map for the Bay of Plenty Region.**

**Ford/Marr
CARRIED**

4.2 National Maori Flag

Kataraina Belshaw (Maori Policy Manager) presented the report that sought the Committee's advice on whether or not Council should fly the national Maori flag on Waitangi day.

Members discussed the matter further and after hearing views raised from Tangata Whenua the Committee agreed that the national Maori flag should be flown along with the NZ flag as it symbolised unity and partnership within the region.

There was also discussion about whether the national Maori flag should be flown along with the NZ flag on all other days. Ms Belshaw explained the national guidelines for flying flags and advised the Committee that it would need to make an additional recommendation for Council to consider that.

MOTION:

Moved: Councillor M Whitaker
Seconded: Councillor R Ford

That the Maori Committee includes an additional recommendation to read:

Recommends that Council considers flying the national Maori flag along with the NZ flag on all other days.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report National Maori Flag.**
- 2 Recommends that Council fly the national Maori flag along with the New Zealand flag on Waitangi Day.**
- 3 Recommends that Council considers flying the national Maori flag along with the NZ flag on all other days.**
- 4 Confirms that the significance of the decisions have been assessed as LOW, and under Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) confirms that in 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/Ford
CARRIED

4.3 Draft Maori Engagement Guidelines for Staff

Matemoana McDonald (Māori Policy Advisor) presented the report that provided the Committee with an update on the development of the Māori Engagement Guideline. She noted that Māori engagement across the organisation was generally good however a more formalised approach would improve its current practices.

Mrs McDonald provided a brief overview of the guideline and explained that the document was currently under peer review to ensure some alignment with Council's community relations strategy.

Staff were commended for their approach to improve the Māori engagement process.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

5 Receives the report, Draft Maori Engagement Guidelines for Staff.

**Ford/Marr
CARRIED**

4.4 Regional Land Transport Strategy Engagement and Communications with Maori in the Region

Matemoana McDonald (Māori Policy Advisor) presented the report that updated the Committee on the consultation and Māori engagement process of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS). She reminded members that an earlier report on the RLTS had been presented at a previous Māori Committee meeting by Bron Healey (Transport Planner) and that this was a follow-up of that report.

Mrs McDonald emphasised the importance of informing Iwi early and then explained how the Maori Policy Unit had identified the key groups to engage with. She then highlighted the key issues that were raised from the engagement meetings.

Members discussed those issues further and heard concerns from Tangata Whenua that included route security issues around the Pekatahi Bridge and Taneatua Bridge, road safety within the Taneatua/Ruatoki district and transport services for Ruatāhuna.

Garry Maloney (Acting Group Manager Strategic Development) advised the Committee that the New Zealand Transport Agency was developing a route security study for the eastern Bay of Plenty. It was also noted that staff would report back to a subsequent meeting with responses to the issues raised.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

1 Receives the report, Regional Land Transport Strategy Engagement and Communications with Maori in the Region.

**Marr/Ford
CARRIED**

4.5 Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources, Eastern) presented the report that provided the Committee with a comprehensive update on implementing actions contained within the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy. Mr Stokes gave a brief description of the role and responsibilities of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum (OHIF) and the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG). He then guided members through the Strategy action update and explained the work undertaken by the Land Management Section and Care Groups within the Ohiwa area.

The Chairman noted the following concerns raised by Tangata Whenua:

- Tuhoē Putaiao Trust had not received an update from its representative on the OHIF. Mr Stokes advised that he would raise the matter at the next OHIF meeting.

- The effects that the removal of mangroves would have on the Harbour. It was explained that the removal of mangroves would also enable the removal of mud and silt through normal coastal processes and the return of sand, hopefully followed by the return of fish.
- The removal of mangroves was only a short-term solution and it was asked how forestry companies could help solve the siltation problem. Solutions included:
 - 1 training the Bulldozer drivers; and
 - 2 implementing stricter management on forestry companies through Council's Regional Water and Land Plan.

It was also noted that the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum had declined the application to nominate Ohiwa Harbour to the Ramsar convention.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

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

**Ford/Whitaker
CARRIED**

4.6 Strategic Development - Group Managers' Report

Kataraina Belshaw (Maori Policy Manager) presented the report that informed the Committee on work undertaken by the Strategic Development group.

Ms Belshaw highlighted the following key work:

- Regional Council had received 13 Treaty settlements for the Bay of Plenty region
- Ngai Tuhoe through Tuhoe Putaiao Trust was nearing completion of its scoping report for their Iwi Management Plan
- The Regional Council had purchased the 6.5 hectare Tuck property located on the eastern headland of the Ohiwa Harbour mouth. Members, including Tangata Whenua, were invited to the opening on Saturday 11th September 2010 and to RSVP Ms Belshaw to confirm attendance.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Strategic Development - Group Managers' Report.**

**Ford/Marr
CARRIED**

4.7 Tracking the Progress of the Maori Committee

Kataraina Belshaw (Maori Policy Manager) presented the report that provided a brief to the Committee on the origins of the Maori Committee and tracked its progress to date.

Ms Belshaw advised the meeting that this would be the last Maori Committee meeting for the Triennium and noted that all Council's Committees would be disbanded on 9th October until the first Council meeting.

The Chairman of the Maori Committee, Councillor R Ford highlighted the uniqueness of the Maori Committee and how its meetings went out to its Community around the Bay of Plenty region. He also noted that each Constituent Councillor had been given the opportunity to Chair the meeting when it was held in their rohe. He commended the Maori Policy Unit on its efforts with the Maori Committee and explained that prior to their assistance there was little participation from the public. He concluded by thanking everyone that had participated and believed that the Maori Committee had a very successful term.

Tangata Whenua endorsed the comments made by the Chairman of the Maori Committee and supported the continuation of the Maori Committee meetings to be held on Marae throughout the Bay of Plenty region.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Tracking the Progress of the Maori Committee.**

**Marr/Ford
CARRIED**

4.8 Making Good Decisions Sponsorship – Successful Candidates

Kataraina Belshaw (Maori Policy Manager) presented the report that informed the Committee on the successful candidates that will participate in the Resource Management Making Good Decisions Training.

Ms Belshaw advised the Committee that the Regional Council received eight applications in total. She then explained the selection process and noted the successful candidates for each Maori constituency. It was noted that should Te Kei Merito, successful candidate for Kohi be unable to participate in the training due to personal circumstances, the next successful candidate would be Pouroto Ngaropo.

The Maori Committee Chairman, R Ford explained the sponsorship process and that it was upon successful completion of the Making Good Decisions Training that each candidate would be reimbursed; therefore if the candidate was not successful, the candidate would not be reimbursed.

Resolved

That the Maori Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Strategic Development - Group Managers' Report.**

**Ford/Marr
CARRIED**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned for a quick break at 12.15pm and re-convened at 12.30pm

5 External Presentations

5.1 Individual Presentation

The Chairman noted a concern raised by Kuia Nancy Pikau regarding 14 residents on Ohaua Road that did not receive a rubbish collection service and the impacts it caused the residents. He explained that it was a District Council issue and requested staff to ensure that the issue was referred to the appropriate staff at the Whakatane District Council.

5.2 Tūhoe Putaiao

Refer PowerPoint 1.

Paki Nikora (Operations Manager) and Derek Gosling (Environment Manager) of Tuhoe Putaiao Trust made a PowerPoint presentation to the Maori Committee that provided a brief description of the roles and responsibilities of the Trust.

Mr Nikora informed members on works undertaken in the Ruatoki Valley including works that were being developed in collaboration with Regional Council. He identified the following issues that contributed to the detriment of the land and river in the Ruatoki Valley:

- recent flooding events that have changed the river and land boundaries that now caused issues for landowners on either side of the river bed;
- unmanaged horses were causing further problems to the river erosion;
- the environmental impacts of forestry operations on the land and river; and
- dumping of rubbish along the river bed.

Mr Gosling noted that the Trust was in the process of preparing submissions to local, regional, and national government planning documents; writing a scoping report for its Iwi Resource Management Plan and looking at bio-prospecting issues.

Mr Nikora concluded by highlighting the following success stories for the Trust:

- strong working relationships with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Whakatane District Council and the Department of Conservation (DoC);
- received two Environmental Awards for environmental management within the local district;
- secured more than 37 jobs for Tuhoe people within its exotic forests;
- assisted/mentored 8 people into the logging industry within its exotic forests; and
- currently in negotiations with DoC to establish job opportunities within its indigenous forests.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nikora and Mr Gosling for the presentation and acknowledged the work that the Trust had accomplished in its rohe.

5.3 Tuhoe Establishment Trust

Refer PowerPoint 2 and Tabled Document 1.

Patrick McGarvey (Project Leader, Tuhoe Establishment Trust) made a powerpoint presentation to the Maori Committee that provided a brief overview of the Tuhoe Establishment Trust (TET) outlining its purpose and its roles and responsibilities.

Mr McGarvey identified the Tuhoe rohe on a map and noted that there were 37 marae within the Tuhoe rohe. He then explained the governing body; Kōtahi a Tuhoe and its three Iwi entities, of which TET was one of the three. He further explained the purpose of TET and also its association with Central North Island (CNI) Holdings Ltd and Tukia Group Holdings.

The Committee were informed that the Trust was only an interim Trust and would be disestablished next year.

The Chairman thanked Mr McGarvey for the presentation.

6 Reports Continued

6.1 Nga Marae a Rohe – Marae Locations Map for the Bay of Plenty Region

The Chairman invited Onehou Phyllis who spoke to Item 3.1 of the Agenda. She explained how the map was useful to different people and reiterated that it was a taonga to be treasured by the region.

7 Committee Chairman's closing announcement

The Committee Chairman R Ford thanked the Maori Committee and staff for their contribution to making the Maori Committee a successful Committee and thanked Tangata Whenua for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.25 p.m. with a Karakia by Paki Nikora.