

Minutes of the Inaugural Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Environment Bay of Plenty, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on Monday, 3 May 2010 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: K Merito (Te Rununga o Ngāti Awa)

Members: R Edwards (Chairman, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board), N Rua (Waimana Kaaku), Councillor M Whitaker (Environment Bay of Plenty)

In Attendance: Councillor T Bonne (Whakatāne District Council), Councillor D Leeder (Ōpōtiki District Council), M Manuel (Upokorehe)

S Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)), B Hughes (Manager, Environment Ngāti Awa), P Chapman (Manager Community Facilities, Whakatāne District Council), R Schlotjes (Environment and Planning Manager, Ōpōtiki District Council), F Hennesey (Supervisor Whakatāne/Ōpōtiki, Department of Conservation), M Lee (Planner), A Grenfell (Communications Advisor), T Himona (Māori Policy Advisor), D Whitcliffe (Waimana Kaaku), L Butt (Committee Secretary)

Apologies: Councillor C Chambers (Whakatane District Council), T Ransfield (Member, Upokorehe), Councillor S Fisher (Opotiki District Council)

1 Mihi

Kei Merito (Chairman, Te Rununga o Ngāti Awa)
Robert Edwards (Chairman, Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board)

Reply

Trevor Himona (Māori Policy Advisor, Environment Bay of Plenty)

2 Attendance

The following attendances were advised:

- Councillor Tony Bonne (Whakatāne District Council) attended the meeting as a substitute for the member from Whakatane District Council, Councillor Christine Chambers;
- Councillor D Leeder (Ōpōtiki District Council) attended the meeting as a substitute for the member from Opotiki District Council, Councillor Selby Fisher;

- Maui Manuel (Upokorehe) attended the meeting as a substitute for the member from Upokorehe, Trevor Ransfield.

It was noted that those present at the meeting as substitutes for their respective members did not have voting rights. It was clarified that the meeting was duly constituted, as a quorum was present.

3 Reports

3.1 Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Inaugural Meeting Matters

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum.

It was noted that the Chairperson position would only apply for this meeting because the Forum met six monthly, and would be disbanded at the end of the local authority triennium in October 2010. Members were advised that at the beginning of the new triennium Environment Bay of Plenty would revisit its governance structure with a view to re-establishing the forum, its membership and structure.

Kei Merito was nominated by Robert Edwards and seconded by Councillor Malcolm Whitaker. Mr Merito stated that he accepted the nomination on the basis that the responsibility for the Chairmanship of the Forum would be for this meeting only.

There were no further nominations.

Mr Stokes declared Kei Merito duly elected as Chairperson of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum. Mr Merito assumed the Chair.

Members noted that the forum terms of reference had been adopted by the local authorities, but not by the other partner organisations. Concern was expressed that the terms of reference did not fairly reflect the fact that the Forum had no delegated authority. It was agreed that the terms of reference be reviewed.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, '*Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Inaugural Meeting Matters*'.**

**Merito/Edwards
CARRIED**

- 2 Elects Kei Merito (Chairman, Te Rununga O Ngāti Awa) as the Chairperson for the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum.**

- 3 Notes that the elected chairperson will hold the role for this meeting only.**

- 4 Endorses and reviews the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Terms of Reference.**

**Edwards/Rua
CARRIED**

- 5 Notes that the '*Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum*' will be administered by Environment Bay of Plenty, with the involvement and support of staff and representatives from all seven partners.**

- 6 **Notes that representation of tangata whenua for Ohiwa Harbour and its catchments has been amended from the original decision making and terms of reference to include a representative from Whakatohea, Ngati Awa, Upokorehe and Ngai Tuhoe.**

**Merito/Whitaker
CARRIED**

3.2 **Update on Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Actions Progress**

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) presented the report that gave an overview of the progress and achievements in implementing the Strategy's actions. Members sought and received clarification on a number of matters outlined in the report, and agreed it would be beneficial for the Forum to schedule one or two field trips per year to view strategy action progress.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Update on Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Actions Progress*'.**
- 2 **Requests Environment Bay of Plenty staff schedule a date for the Forum to embark on a field trip in and around the Ohiwa Harbour to examine the progress and achievements of some of the Strategy actions. It was agreed that the field trip take place prior to the local authority election in October 2010.**

**Merito/Edwards
CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.40 am and reconvened at 11 am.

3.3 **Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Communications Plan Report**

Alexandra Grenfell (Communications Advisor) presented the report that gave an overview of the communications plan, including the various tasks and actions to be achieved. Members were advised that all seven partners had been thoroughly involved in the development of the plan. It was also noted that the plan recommended a communications coordinator be appointed to implement the actions in the plan.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, '*Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Communications Plan Report*'.**

**Whitaker/Edwards
CARRIED**

Attendance:

Tony Bonne left the meeting at 11.32 am

3.4 **Feedback on Ramsar Status for Ohiwa Harbour**

Michelle Lee (Planner) presented the report that asked for the Forum's feedback and its recommendations about nominating Ohiwa Harbour to be a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site/status). The Forum debated the value and benefit of nominating Ohiwa Harbour for Ramsar status, and agreed it needed more time to make its recommendations.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report '*Feedback on Ramsar Status for Ohiwa Harbour*'.**
- 2 Lets the Ramsar status options lie on the table until the next Forum meeting to enable further consultation with the respective communities of the partner organisations.**

**Whitaker/Rua
CARRIED**

3.5 **Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Sediment and Mangrove Management Plan**

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) updated the Forum on the Strategy actions related to the management of sediment in the catchment drainage area to Ohiwa Harbour, and the management of mangroves in the Ohiwa Harbour.

A member expressed concern that the rate of replanting of cut over forest was poor, and suggested some parts of the catchment be retired back to "natural vegetation". The Forum was advised that Upokorehe is preparing its application for resource consent to remove mangroves from some areas within the harbour, noting the application was supported by the partner organisations. Staff advised that an application would be made to the relevant estuary care group asking for its assistance to fund the mangrove removal project.

It was the consensus of the Forum that emphasis is given to the resource consent application, so that the removal project is accelerated. An offer from Ngati Awa to provide support through the consent process was accepted.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, '*Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Sediment and Mangrove Management Plan*'.**
- 2 Requests the local authorities and Te Rununga o Ngati Awa support the acceleration of the resource consent process.**

**Edwards/Rua
CARRIED**

3.6 **Update on Review of Resource Management Planning Actions in the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy**

John Whale (Consultant) updated the Forum on the review of resource management planning actions within the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy.

The Forum was advised that the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group commissioned this work to assess and report on four of actions: Review of Bylaws relating to higher impact activities; Review of resource management protocols; Evaluation of plans to protect character and estuarine health of Ohiwa; and review monitoring and enforcement regimes.

Members noted that the review would be completed at the end of May 2010.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1** **Receives the report, *'Update on Review of Resource Management Planning Actions in the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy'*.**

**Whitaker/Edwards
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.54 pm