

# **Minutes of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in the Boardroom, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa, Louvain Street, Whakatane on Wednesday, 1 September 2010 commencing at 11.00 a.m.**

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## **Present:**

**Chairman:** M Whitaker (Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**Members:** C Chambers (Councillor, Whakatane District Council), S Fisher (Councillor, Opotiki District Council), M Manuel (Member, Upokorehe), N Rua (Member, Waimana Kaaku)

**In Attendance:** Councillors T Marr and R Ford (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), J Hata (Whakatohea Maori Trust Board) and B Hughes (Te Runanga o Ngati Awa).

S Stokes (Manager, Land Resources (Eastern)), R Skelton (Manager, Land Resources (Western)), B Rowson (Estuary Care Officer), M Lee (Planner) and P Maxwell of Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Mike and Meg Collins (Ohiwa Reserves Group), P Chapman (Whakatane District Council), F Hennessey (Department of Conservation), O Orupe and D Wickliffe (Waimana Kaaku).

**Apologies:** R Edwards (Chairman, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board) and K Merito (Te Runanga o Ngati Awa).

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## **1 Mihi**

Simon Stokes (Manager, Land Resources (Eastern)).

### **Reply**

John Hata (Substitute member, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board)

## **2 Karakia**

John Hata

## **3 Nomination of Chairperson**

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum. Councillor Malcolm Whitaker was nominated by Councillor Christine Chambers and seconded by John Hata. It was noted that the Chairperson position would be for this meeting only

There being no further nominations, Mr Stokes declared Councillor Malcolm Whitaker duly elected as Chairperson of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum. Councillor Whitaker assumed the Chair.

#### 4 **Attendance**

The following attendances were advised by the Chair:

- John Hata (Whakatohea Maori Trust Board) attended the meeting as a substitute for the member from Whakatohea Maori Trust Board, Chairman Robert Edwards;
- Beverley Hughes (Te Runanga o Ngati Awa) was in attendance at the meeting as a substitute for the member from Te Runanga o Ngati Awa, Te Kei Merito.

#### 5 **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.

##### 5.1 **Minutes of the Inaugural Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting – 3 May 2010**

###### **Reason**

The Minutes had not been included in the Agenda and needed to be received by the Forum.

###### **Give Reasons**

The matter could not wait until the next meeting.

**Whitaker/Manuel  
CARRIED**

#### 6 **Chairman's Announcement**

The Chair announced that he would take the Tabled Minutes first.

#### 7 **General Business and Tabled Items**

##### 7.1 **Minutes of the Inaugural Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting – 3 May 2010**

Refer Tabled Document 1.

Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) informed the Forum that the Minutes had already been circulated to members by email, confirmed by Council at its June meeting and explained that it was best practice to have the Minutes received at the Forum.

Mr Stokes updated the Forum on the following progress since the Inaugural meeting:

- 3.1 The Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) had reviewed the Forum's Terms of Reference and concluded that the current Terms of reference were suitable. It was clarified that the OHIF could provide recommendations as decisions.
- 3.2 A field trip had been organised to take place at the end of the meeting; and
- 3.4 The Ramsar report would be presented at the meeting.

## **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the minutes of the Inaugural Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum meeting held on 3 May 2010.**

**Whitaker/Manuel  
CARRIED**

## **8 Reports**

### **8.1 Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress**

Simon Stokes (Manager, Land Resources (Eastern)) presented the report that updated the Forum on actions contained within the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy. He highlighted the ongoing work with Care Groups based around the harbour and provided a brief summary of the current activities.

Mr Stokes sought the Forum's approval to allow the OHSCGOHSCG to look at branding that would represent the Forum. Some members were concerned and the matter was discussed further. There was agreement that there needed to be a quick guide for the public to refer to and the option of a fridge magnet and/or pamphlet was put forward.

Mr Stokes thanked the Forum for its input and advised he would take the information back to OHSCG.

Mr Stokes concluded his report by updating the Forum on ecological actions required in the Strategy and that the two main recommendations were to develop a monitoring programme regarding indigenous fish, white bait and inanga; and to confirm threatened vegetation and animal existence.

Members were advised that the book "Discover the Birds of Ohiwa Harbour" would be finalised and launched on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The Whakatane District Council's District Plan had become operative and the Plan now takes in a small portion of land from Opotiki District Council around Ohiwa Harbour.

## **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:**

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

**Chambers/Fisher  
CARRIED**

## 8.2 Ohiwa Harbour Fisheries Report

Simon Stokes (Manager, Land Resources (Eastern)) presented the report on behalf of Alan Moore (Senior Fisheries Analyst (Ministry of Fisheries)) that provided a summary of the fishing management system and rules that apply to Ohiwa Harbour. The report also provided an account of fishing activity within the harbour.

Mr Stokes highlighted to the Forum the following points within the report:

- There was still a rahui in place for the green lipped mussel;
- The last monitoring undertaken in the Harbour was in 2004/2005.
- There were two commercial fisheries within the Harbour that harvested pipi and cockle and Mr Stokes sought the Forum's approval for OHSCG to raise the matter with MoF including the Shellfish Monitoring.

### **MOTION:**

**Moved: Fisher**

**Seconded: Chambers**

**That the Forum adds a further two recommendations to read:**

**Thanks the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) for its report and invites MoF to participate on OHIF and OHSCG.**

**Agrees that the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) investigates and identifies the licence holder(s) harvesting pipi and cockle within the Ohiwa Harbour, identifies the amount of shellfish remaining within the Ohiwa Harbour and justifies the levels of the current commercial licences.**

### **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Fisheries Report.**
- 2 Thanks the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) for its report and invites MoF to participate on OHIF and OHSCG.**
- 3 Agrees that the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) investigates and identifies the licence holder(s) harvesting pipi and cockle within the Ohiwa Harbour, identifies the amount of shellfish remaining within the Ohiwa Harbour and justifies the levels of the current commercial licences.**

**Fisher/Chambers  
CARRIED**

## 8.3 Ngati Awa Kaitiakitanga Activities: Ohiwa Harbour 2009/2010

Beverley Hughes (Manager, Environment Ngati Awa) presented her report that provided the Forum with an update on Ngati Awa management and kaitiakitanga activities in 2009/2010.

Ms Hughes highlighted to the Forum the following points within the report:

- The rahui on the taking of mussels from Ohiwa Harbour had been in place since 2004 and was due to be lifted on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010.
- TRONA had undertaken a survey at Ohiwa that identified a starfish predation which was believed to be the cause of the depletion of mussel in the Ohiwa Harbour. TRONA welcomed the Forums' support in its application to the MoF for assistance in resolving the issue.
- The public had observed the voluntary rahui on taking of shellfish and fish from the Ohiwa Harbour.
- The Ngati Awa Customary Fisheries Authority was progressing in its pursuit for the Ohiwa Harbour to be an area for customary and recreational fishing only.
- Te Runanga o Ngati Awa was looking at better use of its land.

Members agreed with the concerns that Ms Hughes had raised within the report; and discussed options on how to deal with the matters raised.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved: Chambers**

**Seconded: Rua**

**That the Forum adds a further recommendation to read:**

**Delegates to Manager Land Resources (Eastern) to invite a representative from the Ministry of Fisheries to discuss a number of issues that the Forum has in relation to Ohiwa Harbour.**

#### **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ngati Awa Kaitiakitanga Activities: Ohiwa Harbour 2009/2010.**
- 2 Delegates to Manager Land Resources (Eastern) to invite a representative from Ministry of Fisheries to discuss a number of issues that the Forum has in relation to Ohiwa Harbour.**

**Chambers/Rua  
CARRIED**

## **8.4 Ramsar Status for Ohiwa Harbour**

The Chair invited Megan and Mike Collins to make a presentation to the Forum on the Ramsar Convention.

Mr Collins explained the benefits of becoming a Ramsar site and Mrs Collins guided members through the process of establishing Ramsar status. Mrs Collins used PowerPoint slides to support her presentation which also included slides of different birds that visited/nested at the Ohiwa Harbour.

The Chair explained to the Forum that the item was left to lie on the table at its inaugural meeting. He noted the report by Tonkin and Taylor that was distributed to members and advised that the Forum needed to make a decision today.

Members discussed the matter further and concerns were raised about the lack of awareness and that there needed to be a greater understanding of the Ramsar concept before making a step towards that.

It was noted that Upokorehe, Waimana Kaaku and Whakatohea was not in support of the Ramsar convention. It was also noted that Opotiki District Council's representative, Councillor S Fisher was directed by his Council to take the lead given to him by the Iwi groups.

## **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ramsar Status for Ohiwa Harbour.**

**Whitaker/Fisher  
CARRIED**

- 2 Retains the status quo for Ohiwa Harbour and not endorse an application to nominate Ohiwa Harbour to the Ramsar convention at this time.**

**Chambers/Rua  
CARRIED**

**It was noted that the representative from Te Runanga o Ngati Awa abstained from Voting.**

**The meeting closed at 1.00 p.m.**

**At the end of the meeting, members undertook a field trip that visited the following sites:**

- Ohope wastewater plant and Ngati Awa Farm management;
- Stanley road/Kererutahi property;
- Kutarere/mangroves;
- Ohiwa Walkway; and
- Ohiwa Reserve Care Group.