

Minutes of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in Council Chambers, Opotiki District Council, 108 St John Street, Opotiki on Monday, 21 March 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor S Fisher (Opotiki District Council)

Appointees: K Merito (Chairman, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), T Manuel (Upokorehe), N Rua (Waimana Kaaku, Ngai Tuhoe), Councillor C Chambers (Whakatane District Council), M Edwards (Whakatohea Maori Trust Board)

In Attendance: S Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)), R Schlotjes (Environment & Planning Manager, Opotiki District Council), J Whale (Consultant), R Edwards (Chairman, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board), P Chapman (Manager Community Facilities, Whakatane District Council), F Hennessey (Department of Conservation), T Senior (Biosecurity Officer, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), C Butt (Governance Team Leader), S Kameta (Committee Administration Officer)

Apologies: Councillor M Whitaker (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), B Hughes (Manager, Environment Ngati Awa - lateness)

1 Welcome and Karakia

The meeting was opened by Simon Stokes (Manager Land Resources (Eastern)) at 9.30 am and was followed with a karakia by Kei Merito.

The meeting then adjourned for morning tea and reconvened at 9.45 a.m.

2 Mihi

Robert Edwards (Chairman, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board).

Reply

Te Kei Merito (Chairman, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa).

3 First Meeting Matters

Mr Stokes presented the report that asked members to consider recommendations to rotate the chairperson on the basis of venue, and to elect a Chairperson for this meeting. Mr Stokes also asked members to consider the proposed dates and venues set out in the Appendix.

Discussion and clarification was sought and provided on chairmanship for the new triennium. A question was raised as to how meetings would be driven on a rotational basis. The majority of members supported chair rotation as it would encourage Iwi perspective and the ability for members to chair within their own rohe.

MOTION

Move: Chambers

Second: Edwards

Nominate Selby Fisher to be the chairperson for this meeting.

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

Councillor Fisher assumed the Chair.

It was agreed to amend the October meeting date from Friday 28th to Monday 31st October. It was noted that although two members were required for a quorum, it was important that all members attend Forum meetings. Members asked that future dates allow for flexibility in liaison with member organisations.

It is noted for the record that Standing Order 2.4.3 states that “a Quorum for a Joint Committee is a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.” As such the quorum for the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum is **four**, contrary to that stated at the meeting.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum First Meeting Matters.**
- 2 Approves that the chairperson will rotate on the basis of meeting venue, within the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy partners, over the current triennium.**

**Merito/Chambers
CARRIED**

- 3 Elects Councillor Fisher as chairperson for this meeting of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum.**

**Chambers/Edwards
CARRIED**

- 4 Confirms the venue and chairperson for the next Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum meeting be held by Ngai Tuhoe amending the date for the meeting to 31 October 2011.**

**Chambers/Merito
CARRIED**

- 5 Confirms the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Terms of Reference and notes that the ‘Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum’ will be administered by Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with the involvement and support of staff and representatives from all seven partners.**

**Rua/Chambers
CARRIED**

4 **Previous Minutes of the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum - 1 September 2010**

Matters Arising

Members asked for an update on the following matters and actions:

1. **Ohiwa Harbour Fisheries report** (page 20) - Mr Stokes advised OHSCG met via video-conference with Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) in December, who were unable to attend in person. Findings from the shellfish monitoring report showed that numbers weren't declining, but that they were smaller and younger. It was presumed that this was a result of a higher recreational intake.

Mr Stokes also advised that there was one licence currently for pipi and cockle under the quota management system and that this was held in perpetuity. Committee members raised concern that no consultation with Iwi/hapu was undertaken in respect of this licence, and sought advice as to whether there were mechanisms available to have the licence reviewed. It was agreed that staff obtain background information on the licence application to ascertain what consultation had occurred. It was noted that this information would also be useful to progress the Mahinga mataitai currently being undertaken by TRONA, which may be able to address this issue.

MOTION

Moved: Edwards

Seconded: Manuel

That the Ministry of Fisheries provide the Forum with all documentation regarding the application and issuing of the licence to harvest pipi and cockle in Ohiwa Harbour, and that a Ministry of Fisheries representative present this information to a future Forum meeting.

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

2. **Voluntary rahui** (3rd bullet, page 21) – Ms Hughes confirmed to members that the rahui placed on the harbour had been lifted by all Iwi/hapu at the same time.
3. **Starfish predation** (2nd bullet, page 21) – Ms Hughes advised another starfish predation survey was needed to understand the impact on the mussel population in Ohiwa Harbour, and noted this additional study will be included in TRONA's next Annual Plan. Ms Hughes also noted that she had received anecdotal evidence that the starfish were moving to Otarawairere Bay.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

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

**Fisher/Chambers
CARRIED**

- 2 **Requests the Ministry of Fisheries provide the Forum with all documentation regarding the application and issuing of the licence to harvest pipi and cockle**

in Ohiwa Harbour, and that a Ministry of Fisheries representative present this information to a future Forum meeting.

**Edwards/Manuel
CARRIED**

5 Reports

5.1 Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress

Mr Stokes presented the report that updated members on the status of actions within the Strategy.

Corrections

- (a) Page 26, item 3 'Strategy Actions Update', second bullet point of the report amend the text to read: regarding extending the walkway.
- (b) Appendix 1, action table, point 12.3.6: Amend the comment to state that at its meeting held on 1 September 2010 the Forum had resolved not to endorse a Ramsar application at this time.

Points of clarification were sought and provided on several matters outlined in the status table of the report including; review of bylaws, Ramsar and opportunities for cadetship. Mr Stokes advised he would raise the possibility of cadetship opportunities at the Harbour Wardens hui for harbour wardens, fisheries officers and kaitiaki to be held in April/May.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, '*Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Implementation Progress*', with the foregoing corrections.**

**Merito/Manuel
CARRIED**

5.2 Ohiwa – A Co-operative Approach to Kaitiakitanga

Refer to Tabled Document No.1.

Ms Hughes gave a presentation on behalf of the four Iwi partners regarding their participation in the Strategy and progress being made on a co-operative approach to kaitiakitanga for the Ohiwa Harbour. Ms Hughes highlighted Iwi contributions made to date and the progress being made to integrate operations and Iwi planning documents. She noted concern at the lack of communication and engagement on fisheries issues with the statutory partner Ministry of Fisheries.

Members endorsed Ms Hughes concerns and suggested a collective hui be convened, with an invitation to MoF to attend to discuss Harbour fisheries issues.

Ms Edwards noted with regards to TRONA's work on the Mahinga taitai, that Whakatohea was currently in the raupatu (Treaty) settlement stage, and that it would

be good to work closer together and maintain relationships with the Customary Fisheries forum.

Members thanked Ms Hughes for her presentation and the collaborative work that was being done.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 2 Receives the report, Ohiwa – A Co-operative Approach to Kaitiakitanga.**

**Merito/Manuel
CARRIED**

5.3 Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Action Report

Mr J Whale provided an overview of the four main actions and recommendations outlined in the Action Report. Members discussed matters within the report including improved awareness with one local authority regarding the importance of the health of the harbour. Issue was also raised on impacts and ensuring iwi/hapu participation in cross-boundary issues.

Clarification was sought and provided on the recommendations within the report and concern was expressed as to the potential impacts on staff resources to implement the recommendations. Staff advised that the recommendations only sought the Forum's endorsement on the proposed actions. The next step would be for the relevant organisations to consider each recommendation through due process.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Action Report.**

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum recommend to each of its partner organisations to:

- 1 Endorse the actions on bylaws and promote them to their respective councils and committees.**
- 2 Endorse the actions on Resource Management Protocols and promote them to their respective councils and committees.**
- 3 Endorse the recommendations on Protecting the Character and Estuarine Health of Ōhiwa and promote them to their respective councils and committees.**
- 4 Endorse Whakatane District Council as the lead agency to establish a forum to develop a Ohiwa Harbour Planning Zone with an integrated plan policy structure sensitive to the requirements of the whole harbour.**
- 5 Endorse recommendations 2, 3 and 4 on the Monitoring and Enforcement Regimes of Ōhiwa and promote them to their respective councils and committees to:**
 - (a) Continue with current levels of monitoring and enforcement but improve information distribution.**

- (b) **Provide an annual monitoring and enforcement report covering the Ohiwa Harbour to assist with its overview and coordination role.**
- (c) **Invite appropriate council enforcement officers to one of its meetings to present on their work and discuss how the community can best help and how best to distribute relevant information.**
- (d) **Investigate the business case for the appointment of a dedicated person (Ohiwa Harbour Strategy Officer) charged with overseeing Ohiwa Harbour Strategy action requirements by the councils.**

**Edwards/Merito
CARRIED**

5.4 Update on operational activity at the Onekawa Te Mawhai properties

Mr Stokes presented the report that outlined the ongoing operational management of the properties purchased by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Points of clarification were sought and provided. It was noted that long term plans for the property were still to be addressed in consideration with stakeholders. Members endorsed Council's purchase of the property, protecting it from sub-division and the disturbance of wāhi tapu.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Update on operational activity at the Onekawa Te Mawhai properties.**

**Manuel/Chambers
CARRIED**

5.5 Update on Ohiwa Harbour Mangrove Management

Tim Senior (Biodiversity Officer) presented the report that updated the Forum on the progress of mangrove management in the Ohiwa Harbour. He was pleased to note that Upokorehe had been granted resource consent to manage and remove mangroves. Members asked and were provided clarification on demarcation and maintaining a level of habitat for banded rail.

It was noted that a number of Opotiki residents and care groups were interested in helping with removal work. Mr Senior advised he would coordinate their involvement in cooperation with Upokorehe. Councillor Fisher asked to be informed of any working bee dates. Ms Edwards reiterated this could be an opportunity for cadetships and upcoming kaitiaki.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 2 Receives the report, Update on Ohiwa Harbour Mangrove Management.**

**Manuel/Rua
CARRIED**

5.6 Ohiwa Harbour Communications Plan update

Refer Tabled Document No.2.

Mr Senior presented the report that updated the Forum on the progress of actions contained within the Communication Plan, which forms the basis for addressing communication actions and processes required within the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy. Mr Senior advised implementation of the actions was proceeding well. The main action now is to identify key sites for promotion and signage.

Mr Senior tabled a pamphlet that highlighted the Ohiwa Harbour, the Strategy, Forum members, and their organisations contact details and responsibilities (refer Tabled Document No.2).

Ms Edwards thanked Mr Senior for his work and the pamphlet. Mr Stokes noted that the pamphlet was still 'draft' with some minor details needing to be reworked.

Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Communications Plan update.**

**Merito/Chambers
CARRIED**

6 Closing karakia

Robert Edwards (Chairman, Whakatohea Maori Trust Board).

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting members undertook a field trip to the following sites:

- Onekawa Te Mawhai**
- Nukuhou River erosion control works**