

Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Council Chamber, Taupo District Council, 107 Heuheu Street, Taupo on Friday, 7 December 2018 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Maramena Vercoe (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa)

Appointees: Crs: Tiipene Marr, Kevin Winters, Bill Clark, Matemoana McDonald (Alternate) - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Tuwhakairiora O'Brien (Alternate) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa; Ivy Kahukiwa Smith, Janice Wall (Alternate) - Hineuru; Cr Tangonui Kingi - Taupō District Council; Jose Miki - (Designated Alternate) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Simon Stokes – Eastern Catchments Manager, Chris Ingle – General Manager Integrated Catchments, Kataraina O'Brien – Strategic Engagement Manager, Nancy Willems – Team Leader, Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments, Michelle Lee – Planner (Water Policy), Herewini Simpson – Senior Advisor (Treaty), Winiata Tahau-Anderson – Summer Student, Shari Kameta – Committee Advisor; Taupo District Council: Dylan Tahau - Head of Community, Culture and Heritage, Sue Mavor - Senior Policy Advisor, Dominic Bowden - Strategic Relationships Manager; Whakatane District Council: Nicholas Woodley - Senior Project Planner; Elizabeth Hughes (Consultant), Huia Nuku-Tohiariki (Contractor); Visitors: Michelle Philllips, Evelyn Forrest (Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa Rūnanga Trust

Apologies: Te Waiti Rangiwai, Bronco Carson (Alternate) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare; Cr Rosie Harvey (Alternate) - Taupo District Council; Cr David Love - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Reverend Graeme Te Rire, Elaine August (Alternate) - Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust; Miro Araroa - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa; Cr George Johnston - Whakatane District Council; Ngapera Rangiaho - Tūhoe

1 **Mihi Whakatau and Karakia**

The meeting opened with a mihi whakatau provided by Dylan Tahau.

Mihi Reply: Cr Marr

Cr Tangonui Kingi performed the opening karakia.

2 **Opening Announcement**

Chair Maramena Vercoe thanked Taupo District Council and Tuwharetoa for their acknowledgements of welcome and for hosting the meeting.

The Chair welcomed Jose Miki who had been designated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare to attend in the absence of their appointed members.

3 **Apologies**

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from: Te Waiti Rangiwai, Bronco Carson, Cr Rosie Harvey, Cr David Love, Reverend Graeme Te Rire, Elaine August, Miro Araroa, Ngapera Rangiaho and Cr George Johnston tendered at the meeting.**

Winters/Marr
CARRIED

4 **Public Forum**

Nil

5 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

6 **Withdrawal of Item**

The Chair advised members Agenda item 9.1 'He Putaiao He Tangata Presentation' had been withdrawn from the agenda due to presenter Ngarangi Walker being unable to attend the meeting.

7 **General Business**

- 1) Joint Hui with Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority - 26 November 2018
- 2) Acknowledgement to member of staff Simon Stokes

8 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

9 **Previous Minutes**

9.1 **Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes - 14 September 2018**

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Confirms the Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes - 14 September 2018, as true and correct record.**

Clark/Winters
CARRIED

10 Reports

10.1 Change in Membership and Appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson

The report advised of a change in membership for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and sought the Forum's consideration to appoint a new Deputy Chairperson.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Change in Membership and Appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson;
- 2 Acknowledges the resignation of Earl Rewi as Deputy Chairman and a member of the Rangitāiki River Forum and recognises his contribution to the Forum.
- 3 Acknowledges the appointment of Te Waiti Rangiwai as the appointed member and Bronco Carson as the alternate member for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare.
- 4 Selects System B as the voting system to appoint a new Deputy Chairperson.

Winters/Kahukiwa Smith
CARRIED

Call for Nominations

The Chair called for nominations for the appointment of a Deputy Chairperson.

- **Ivy Kahukiwa Smith** was nominated by Councillor Clark and seconded by Councillor Marr.
- **Te Waiti Rangiwai** was nominated by Tuwhakairiora O'Brien and seconded by Jose Miki.

Ivy Kahukiwa Smith thanked councillors for the nomination however, asked for her name to be withdrawn from the nominations.

Mr O'Brien explained his reason for nominating Ms Rangiwai was to uphold the mana of Ngāti Manawa and Ngāti Whare whose Treaty Settlements had invited other Iwi onto the Forum.

In her absence, the Chair advised that Te Waiti Rangiwai had indicated she would be happy to accept being nominated as Deputy Chairperson.

As no further nominations were received, the Chair announced nominations closed and called for members to vote for or against the nomination.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

5 Appoints Te Waiti Rangiwai as the Deputy Chairperson for the Rangitāiki River Forum.

O'Brien/Kahukiwa Smith
CARRIED

Staff Follow-up:

It was requested that a letter of acknowledgement be sent to Earl Rewi for his contribution on the Forum.

10.2 Rangitāiki River Catchment - Operations and General Update

Refer Drone footage [YouTube link](#)

Team Leader, Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments Nancy Willems and Whakatane District Council Senior Project Planner Nicholas Woodley summarised points from the report.

Key Points:

- Highlighted progress made on the biodiversity and riparian programmes and at various wetlands, noting a further 6.5km of fencing at Lochniver Station as an important step to securing waterway improvements in the upper catchment; and showed drone footage of the Maramara-a-Tawa wetland restoration;
- The capacity building day with Ngāti Manawa, Te Manawa o Tūhoe and Waiohau locals involved in the restoration project was noted.
- Fonterra's 50 Catchments project had incorporated 22 farm environment plans within the catchment to improve water quality in hot spot areas and workshops were held and facilitated by DairyNZ and the Regional Council for dairy farmers focusing on water use, metering and Plan Change 9.
- Aquatic weed spraying at Lake Aniwaniwa was undertaken on 3 December, which results were anticipated in due course; and Whakatāne District Council had completed minor improvements at Aniwhenua Reserve, with installation of a bucket swing, bollards and a kitchen sink/bench;
- Noted increased funding and resources to support wallaby control at the regional level and application for funding at the national level, impending submission for national budget for wilding conifer control across New Zealand; commencement of alligator weed control; and forthcoming update on the Regional Pest Management Plan submissions anticipated at the Forum's meeting in March 2019;
- Regarding river catchment management:
 - Floodway and Drainage Bylaw review that was due to commence shortly would involve community consultation;
 - Preliminary results regarding the River Scheme Sustainability Project were expected in the first quarter of 2019;
 - The 2017 independent review on Kopuriki Road and Lake Aniwaniwa river catchment issues provided under Appendix 1 highlighted complex and challenging issues, which all parties involved were working together on finding a solution, which would require patience and time.
- Regarding Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna goals and objectives:
 - Follow-up was required to regroup with the Steering Group;

- The Harvest Strategy was still in progress being led by Alan Riwaka and Charlie Bluett;
- The literature review on fish passage options was now complete, with Southern Generation and Trustpower progressing some additional work on fish passage structures;
- A fish passage project led by the Regional Council was underway to repair small culverts and other structures impeding passage above Matahina Dam;
- Discussions with landowners in regard to the Rangitāiki Wetlands project were still underway and progressing.
- The Programme Dashboard was provided under Appendix 4 and showed overall status as on track with some slippage in timeframes and budget around some work plans;

Members' Comments:

- Advised that Galatea farmers were looking to engage with the Regional Council, Whakatāne District Council and Southern Generation on the lack of progress being made on flood mitigation impacts for impacted farms above Aniwaniwa;
- Raised concern regarding the slow progress made on required results for fish passage by Southern Generation and Trustpower;
- Considered the Steering Group Terms of Reference (TOR) under Appendix 1 were outside the scope of the initial intent of Objective 1 and sought further work being done by the Steering Group on the TOR;
- Raised concern regarding aspects of the Tuna Group and Harvest Strategy and the continuation of commercial fishing quotas, while Iwi/hapū considered placing rahui on parts of the river;
- Wanted the Steering Group to be involved in the development of the Harvest Strategy, incorporating harvesting, options for rahui and mataiai and consideration of different dynamics of all Iwi along the river;
- Struggled to see where Iwi and hapū were in the reporting of tuna progress and questioned whether it was an appropriate time to start looking at the river through an Iwi/hapū lens to acknowledge tangata whenua who lived along the river, and the differences in tikanga, kawa and perspectives along stretches of the river;
- Raised issue with aquatic weed spraying in the river and requested further information of the potential effects on the river and people. A further query was raised on considerations being given to Mātauranga Māori in regard to aquatic weed controls.

In response to questions:

- It was clarified that the structure of the Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Project sat with the Steering Group; viewed the collaborative work with the wider Tuna Forum group as a benefit to the Forum and aligning with some of the original actions, but did not necessitate the Forum or Steering Group to take a lesser role or to be bound by the wider group, having full ownership of its own project and objectives;
- It was noted that if the direction of the wider group became an issue, it would be a matter for the Forum and Steering Group to provide direction and guidance;
- Suggested a presentation on the Harvest Strategy could be provided to the Forum, keeping in mind that the Forum would need to consider how it wished the project to progress;

- It was clarified that Diquat use at Lake Aniwhaniwa was a permitted activity under the resource consent.

Staff Follow-Up:

- Request a report update from Trustpower and Southern Generation on fish passage options;
- Request a presentation to the Forum on the Harvest Strategy.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River catchment - Operations and General Update.**

**Winters/Marr
CARRIED**

- 2 Requests Regional Council provide a report to the Forum on why weeds are growing in the Rangitāiki River, incorporating the various contributing sources and the reasons why Diquat and Endothall are being used for aquatic weed control.**

**Marr/McDonald
CARRIED**

10.3 Freshwater Futures Update

Planner (Water Policy) Michelle Lee highlighted points from the report.

Key Points:

- Summarised Central Government's release of its blueprint for freshwater and [Shared Interests in Freshwater](#) discussion document, the Ministry for the Environment's focus on at-risk catchments and *Land, Air, Water Aotearoa's* (LAWA) 10-year river quality trends information;
- Plan Change 9 (PC9) appeal period had closed with 14 appeals lodged with the Environment Court, which included appeals lodged by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, CNI Iwi Land Management Limited and Trustpower Limited in relation to renewable energy and water use. The period for joining appeals as a section 274 party was due to close on 12 December 2018.
- Rangitāiki Freshwater Community Group workshop notes were provided under the report and discussed models presented on nutrient and E.coli, which had been chosen due to their measurability. All information relating to the Freshwater community group was available online at www.boprc.govt.nz.

In response to questions:

- Regional Council's Water Policy team would schedule a series of freshwater workshops for the Forum, commencing with the first workshop in February/March 2019;
- Advised that the Rangitāiki Freshwater Community Group (FWCG) was part of Council's project to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater

Management, noting it did not have authority to make decisions, but gave guidance to Council on potential ways to deliver the project and to move forward on PC9;

- Engagement with tangata whenua in the Rangitāiki catchment had been advised through each of the Rūnanga;
- FWCG advice on Mātauranga Māori was being provided by Iwi representatives Beverley Hughes, Ngapera Rangiaho and Alamoti Te Pou;
- Outlined the Plan Change 12 process and timeline:
 - Staff were engaging with Iwi and preparing a discussion document, which would incorporate issues raised on allocation, to be released in March 2019;
 - The draft Plan Change would be released for comment in October 2019;
 - The notification date Proposed Plan Change 12 for formal submissions had been amended to February 2020, with hearings anticipated later in 2020;
- Tina Porou's presentation on Te Mana o Te Wai and possible solutions would be incorporated into the Forum's freshwater workshop in 2019 for discussion;
- The Māori Policy and Water Policy teams were collaborating on how Council could provide support in the freshwater space and hoped to meet with the Chair to discuss options for implementation prior to meeting with the Forum.

Members' Comments:

- Considered advice on Mātauranga Māori should come from representatives of those Iwi/hapū that lived along river;
- Raised issue with over-allocation of water takes, queried how issues from Iwi could be addressed, including providing information and understanding for hapū;
- Hoped the Forum's freshwater workshops would inform members on the process;

Staff Follow-Up:

- Requested freshwater management engagement with the Rangitāiki Hapū Coalition.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, "*Freshwater Futures Update*".**
- 2 Notes a Forum Freshwater workshop is planned for February/March 2019.**

**Marr/O'Brien
CARRIED**

10.4 **Rangitāiki River Forum Communication Strategy**

Consultant Elizabeth Hughes presented the draft Communication Strategy for the Forum's feedback and approval. Ms Hughes thanked Forum members who had provided feedback however, advised that had not all had been able to contribute and wished to hear from those members at the meeting.

Key Points:

- Feedback received from members had provided the foundation of the Communication Strategy's goals and objectives and reflected Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki, supported by the Regional Policy Statement;
- Outlined key questions, challenges and outcomes described by interviews held with Forum members;
- The overarching goal was to ensure the Rangitāiki River story was told, with the proposal to be driven by two objectives: the mana of the Rangitāiki River to be more widely understood and valued; and for the Forum to be viewed widely as a successful co-governance model;
- Discussed a possible measurement of objectives for the Forum to consider, including tactics and actions for targeting audiences;
- Ownership of the Communication Strategy and its direction and implementation sat with the Forum to decide;

In response to questions:

- It was clarified that the report was a think piece, with further comments on the goals and objectives as a starting point invited to be brought back from Iwi/hapū/whanau;

Members' Comments:

- Shared potential ideas for telling the story of the river, such as: showcasing of the wetlands project; illustrating through mapping how Iwi shared the river; revitalising the Rangitāiki River Festival and deciding on what and how stories would be told;
- Acknowledged the presentation and feedback received from Forum members;
- Commended the Communication Strategy and wished to see it implemented;
- Supported all Iwi being incorporated in the telling of their stories of the awa, providing communication to Iwi, hapū and the community of why the Forum existed, getting the life force back into the Awa, while keeping it simple;
- Funding implementation of the Strategy would be the next step for discussion;
- Noted that the joint hui held with Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority had brought forward synergies, lessons and looking at the wider story from across the region;
- Implored Councillors to support and allow Iwi/hapū to establish and highlight their relationship story with the river, noting that they were still on a journey;
- Suggested a river expo for members to talk to and seek feedback from Iwi, hapū, whānau and the community on what the river meant to them, what it looked like now and what they wanted it to look like in the future; and allow the Forum to have an overarching role to nurture and engage activities along the river;

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River Forum Communication Strategy.**

**O'Brien/Marr
CARRIED**

12:48pm – the meeting **adjourned** and **reconvened** at 1:21pm.

10.5 Recognising and Providing for Kaitiakitanga

Refer PowerPoint Presentation [A3092781](#)

Contractor Mrs Huia Tohiariki gave a mihi and thanked members for participating in the research study before presenting her research findings on recognising and providing for Kaitiakitanga.

Key Points:

- Provided context of the Māori world view regarding the connection with the river, as expressed by Dame Tariana Turia, Iwi Chairs Forum May 2018;
- Recognised those living on the river were passionate about its wellbeing and acknowledged Councillors' passion and the value they placed on the river and its catchment;
- Wāhi tapu inventory incorporated: Te Mana Whakahono, Iwi Development Plans, engaging with the community and working with councils;
- Kaitiakitanga and tikanga were: hapū-based and driven and about holding onto the Māori world view and Mātauranga Māori traditions and lore; required ongoing action; working together with the Tuna Forum, councils and others; included monitoring changes; and Iwi/hapu being able to exercise mana over the use of their resources, such as utilising rāhui as a mechanism to protect and revitalise the awa;
- Iwi feedback and perceptions of the industry sector considered there was no obligation to notify Iwi, that the Forum should be granted permission by Council to grant resource consents, how people behave; gaps in Iwi awareness of what was occurring within the industry sectors needed to be addressed;
- Feedback on each Iwi's activities and views regarding other Te Ara Whānau o Rangitāiki objectives were outlined in the report;
- The Communication Strategy was important in conveying each other's relationship and activity with the river;
- Issues were raised on how to address kaitiakitanga and the importance of wāhi tapu and ensuring their protection;
- Councillors' views had not been incorporated into the research findings, noting they would be covered under Objective 37 and 38 in relation to kaitiakitanga;
- Simon Stokes advised of the next steps for recognising Te Ara Whānui under Objective 37 was about Council recognising and providing for Kaitiakitanga under Plan Change 12. Considered the next action was to correlate Huia's work against the objectives to evaluate whether Kaitiakitanga was being met.

Members' Comments

- Supported the opportunities reported on page 138 of the agenda and considered Iwi members could provide training support to build capability of the Forum and Iwi;
- Noted Hapū perceptions of the Forum as an advisory group that should have equal decision making powers; and endorsed the challenge and comments made on holding Māori knowledge in the same regard as western knowledge and values.

- Commended the findings and feedback provided by the Iwi partners to incorporate and progress the work and objectives of the Forum;
- Iwi capacity constraints to respond to resource consent process was a common issue across the region, particularly where a lot of consent activity was taking place and was well known by Council;

In response to questions:

- Concerns were expressed by Iwi regarding a lack of resourcing and related to Iwi and Hapū's constraints in being able to address and pursue kaitiakitanga, administration and consultation required particularly with resource consent applications. Iwi did not have sufficient resourcing and the same level of notification as Council and as a consequence, some of the feedback had suggested as a way forward for funding to be provided to Iwi to input and respond appropriately via the consenting process.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Recognising and Providing for Kaitiakitanga.**
- 2 **Receives the Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki Objective 6 Report.**

Vercoe/Marr
CARRIED

1:57 pm - The meeting **adjourned** for the Chair's informal session with Forum members.

2:24pm - The meeting **reconvened**.

11 General Business

11.1 Joint Hui with Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority – 26 November 2018

The Chair thanked staff for arranging the joint hui held with Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority on 26 November and commented on its success, positive feedback received and opportunity for the co-governance forums to connect and share stories and issues.

A member queried potential opportunity to apply for funding in the third year of the Provincial Growth Fund to assist with tuna passage, which was noted by staff for consideration.

11.2 Acknowledgement to Simon Stokes

Members were informed it was Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes's last day with the Regional Council. On behalf of the Forum, Tuwhakairiora O'Brien, Councillor Marr and Chair Maramena Vercoe paid tribute to Mr Stokes for his substantial contribution to the Forum. A gift was extended to Mr Stokes on the Forum's behalf.

On behalf of Council, General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle thanked and commended Mr Stokes for his considerable contribution to the Forum and Council.

Mr Stokes responded and conveyed his appreciation, honour and time in supporting the Forum and wished them and staff well in carrying the mahi forward.

12 **Closing Karakia**

The meeting closed with a mihi and karakia provided by Cr Kingi.

The meeting closed at 2:44pm.

CONFIRMED: DATE

Chairperson