

# Minutes of the Komiti Māori Meeting held at Tapuaekura Rākeiao Marae, 110 Curtis Road, Tikitere, Rotoiti on Tuesday, 9 April 2019 commencing at 9.30 am.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** Arapeta Tahana

**Deputy Chairman:** Tīpene Marr

**Councillors:** Lyall Thurston, Bill Clark

**In Attendance:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Namouta Poutasi – General Manager Strategy & Science, Kataraina O’Brien – Strategic Engagement Manager, Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive, Helen Creagh – Rotorua Catchments Manager, Rawiri Bhana – Kaupapa Māori Advisor, Clark Koopu – Senior Advisor Treaty, Lisa Tauroa – Internal Services Officer, Winiata Tahau-Anderson – Kaitiuitui (Strategic Engagement Coordinator), Shari Kameta – Committee Advisor

Externals: Wairangi Whata – Ngāti Rongomai, Frances Teinakore-Curtis, Raewyn Bennett – Ngāti Rongomai/Ngāti Pīkiao, Maru Tapsell, Anaru Williams – Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Maramena Vercoe – Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa, Te Rongo Curtis - Ngāti Rongomai, Katie Paul – Tautara Matawhaura Trustee, Aneta Morgan – Rotorua Lakes Council/Rangiwewehi/ Tūhourangi/Wahiao

**Apologies:** David Love (leave of absence), Matemoana McDonald, Chairman Doug Leeder

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## 1 **Opening Karakia**

Provided by Kaumatua Tom Herbert.

## 2 **Apologies**

### **Resolved**

That the Komiti Māori:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from Councillors David Love, Matemoana McDonald and Chairman Doug Leeder tendered at the meeting.**

Thurston/Marr  
**CARRIED**

## 3 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

## 4 General Business

An update on Local Authority Elections would be discussed after the Open Forum.

## 5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

## 6 Previous Minutes

### 6.1 Komiti Māori Minutes - 12 February 2019

#### Resolved

That the Komiti Māori:

#### 1 Confirms the Komiti Māori Minutes - 12 February 2019 with the following amendment:

- Komiti Māori Minutes - 04 December, Minute Item 7.1, agenda page 10 – amend the resolution to include a correction to page 1 of the minutes to amend the meeting chair from Councillor Arapeta Tahana to Councillor Tipene Marr.

Tahana/Marr  
CARRIED

## 7 Presentation

### 7.1 Rotoiti Rotomā Wastewater Treatment Project

Refer Presentation and Videos: Objective ID [A3181407](#) and [A3207055](#).

Frances Teinakore-Curtis and Wairangi Whata gave a presentation on the East Rotoiti-Rotomā Wastewater Sewerage Scheme Project.

#### Key points included:

- Background on the 2011-2013 Environment Court appeal against the initial Lake Rotomā reticulation plant resource consent.
- Iwi representation on the Rotoiti-Rotoma Sewerage Steering Committee.
- Location of the scheme's construction site on the Haumingi 9B3B Block behind the Emery General Store at Lake Rotoiti.
- Noted the project was the first time Māori landowners had shared land for a reticulation scheme for two communities.
- Sewerage network pipeline was approximately 24km-46km beginning at Matahi lagoon at Lake Rotoma through to the Haumingi 9B3B Block at Rotoiti.
- Timeframes for system installation for Rotoma was imminent and expected to be April 2020 for East-Rotoiti.
- A comprehensive Cultural Impact Assessment and Cultural Management Plan (CMP) Agreements provided recommendations and solutions over the scheme's lifetime.
- CMP Agreement framework included: cultural values, key issues and recommendations, cultural statements and reporting requirements.

- Recommendations included: appointment of iwi representatives embedded into the project team, establishment of an Iwi Wastewater Liaison Group and development of iwi protocols for all aspects of the scheme comprising:
  - Participation in the network design to ensure resilience and minimisation of impacts to the environment and cultural sites.
  - Cultural site monitors working alongside construction contractors.
  - Cultural health and safety inductions for all contractors and interested participants, noting positive feedback and experience received.
  - Weekly on-site karakia.
  - Engagement of Māori land researchers.
- An outline of cultural findings and accidental discovery protocols.
- Ms Teinakore-Curtis's PhD thesis was iwi-driven and based on culturally appropriate solutions for demands on wastewater systems.
- Investigations into STEP pre-treatment and vermicast systems.
- The vermicast system trial provided positive results to mitigate against cultural offence and was being explored as an option for the scheme.

#### **In Response to Questions:**

- The wastewater reticulation plant was designed to accommodate an additional 900 households and future growth in papakāinga.
- Treated water would be disposed to land with options being explored for reuse.
- A STEP system would be used for Rotomā, while a vermi-filtration system was the preferred option for Rotoiti, with the option of clusters to assist with costs.

#### **Key points from Members:**

- Queried mitigation plans and the use of treated overflow at the reticulation plant.
- Commended the presentation and Iwi representatives that were involved, noting the project was a model example to be shared with other Iwi and councils.
- Affordability was an issue for the community and funding options were being explored.
- Frances thanked Council and Komiti Māori for their support with her PHD Thesis having been a recipient of the He Toka Tumoana Scholarship in 2018, which had assisted with her studies, in particular carrying out interviews to inform her work.

## **Change to Order of Business**

The Chair advised that Agenda item 7.2, Te Arawa Taiohi Toa Presentation had been withdrawn from the agenda, due to the presenter Harina Rupapera being unable to attend and present at the meeting.

## **8 Reports**

### **8.1 Matters of Interest - General Manager Update**

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation: Objective ID [A3180436](#).*

The report provided an update on current matters of interest and sought support of recommendations following the Council Workshop held on 19 March 2019.

#### **8.1.1 Volunteer Catfish Response Presentation**

In relation to the update on catfish incursion, a presentation was provided by Te Arawa Lakes Trust's Te Hunga Hika Ahi Hapori Community Coordinator Anaru Williams on the Volunteer Catfish Response.

**Key points included:**

- Mr Williams' role and the response effort had begun in September/October 2018.
- The first open season event received positive feedback, with suggestions made for improved communication and agency coordination.
- Volunteer response was building public interest within schools, the community and from other volunteer fisher networks from across the country.
- 3,000 catfish had been caught to date.
- Nets had been set in Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma, Okareka and Tarawera.
- Mr Williams' mahi had expanded to: giving presentations and attending meetings, marae and community AGMs, organising competitions and media releases, pest education, wananga and promotion of biosecurity job opportunities.
- Future events scheduled included: Festival, spearfishing and marae competitions and Te Arawa Games 2020.
- Due to growing community interest, a grant application had been submitted to seek funding for a new community engagement position that would support more community involvement.

**In Response to Questions:**

- Volunteers used green lipped mussel and soya oil sardines for bait however Mr Williams noted they had recently caught more catfish without bait.
- Noted there may be a potential market for catfish products.
- The programme's objective was for progressive containment as eradication would be a significant challenge.
- Secondary monitoring of other fish species was undertaken by volunteers as part of the programme.
- The most affected lakes were Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua, with substantial numbers located in Lake Rotoiti at Te Weta Bay.

**Key points from Members:**

- Commended Te Arawa Lakes Trust for delivery of the community coordinator role which was supported by Regional Council funding.
- Considered the programme was a great example of iwi and council working together.

**8.1.2 General Manager's Update**

General Manager Strategy and Science Namouta Poutasi and Strategic Engagement Manager Kataraina O'Brien highlighted key points from the report.

**Key points:**

- Plan Change 10 Hearing had adjourned and was awaiting outcome of Stage 1.
- Applications made to the He Toka Tumoana Environmental Scholarship would be notified at the end of April.
- The Te Hapai Ora Regional Community Fund had approved 23 applications.
- Environmental Enhancement Fund was currently funding 10 programmes ranging from predator free traps, energy conservation and pest control.

- The Council Workshop on 19 March 2019 explored and provided background information on the changing cultural landscape and models to support hapū and iwi participation in resource management processes.
- Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd had presented at the Council workshop and to Iwi representatives on 20 March 2019 and had been well received.
- The development of a Regional Council Māori Engagement and Relationship Strategy (Strategy) was underway and an informal working group was recommended to oversee this work. It was recommended that the working group comprise councillors and for the chairs of treaty co-governance forums administered by the Regional Council to be invited onto the working group.

#### **In response to Questions:**

- Regarding a question raised from the floor, rationale for the composition of the informal working group and limiting invitation to co-governance chairs was to inform the process of the regional wānanga and Māori Relationship and Engagement Strategy, noting that wider views of hapū and iwi would be sought at the regional wānanga.

#### **Key points from Members:**

- Considered the unique model used in Canterbury was worth exploring, however recognised the Bay of Plenty region's cultural landscape was substantially different to the Canterbury region.
- Noted the overarching issue for Iwi was the challenge of engaging with councils on multiple kaupapa, which the regional wānanga and development of the Strategy would explore.

### **Resolved**

#### **That Komiti Māori:**

- 1 Receives the report, Matters of Interest Update – General Manager Update;**
- 2 Confirms their support for the direction sought at the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Council Workshop on The Changing Landscape for Māori and Council – Opportunities and Challenges:**
  - a) Recognise the changing cultural landscape and changing operating environment.**
  - b) Endorses the work programme and timeline (outlined under section 3 of the report) proposed to strengthen alignment and improve efficiencies.**
  - c) Notes that staff provide continued support to Iwi who wish to explore a shared resource management service similar to the Canterbury model.**
- 3 Establishes an informal working group to oversee the development of the Māori Engagement and Relationship Strategy.**
  - **The participants to be made up of the three constituent Māori Councillors and other interested general Councillors.**
  - **Invitations to participate in the informal Working Group to be extended to the Chairs of the three Co-Governance Forums (Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group, Rangitaiki River Forum and Te Maru o Kaituna – Kaituna River Authority).**

**Thurston/Clark  
CARRIED**

## 9 **Change to Order of Business**

The Chair advised that the Open Forum would be taken next before General Business.

## 10 **Open Forum**

### 10.1 **Hinemoa Curtis**

- Raised concern of her observations of declining fish populations at Lake Rotoiti, which may be attributed to jigging and catfish incursion.
- Requested assistance from Council to investigate or provide further information.

#### **Staff Follow-up Action:**

- Staff were requested to investigate declining fish populations at Lake Rotoiti and make enquiries with Fish and Game.

### 10.2 **Maru Tapsell**

- Expressed disappointment with the Waitaha vacancy on Te Maru o Kaituna.
- He stressed the importance of taking into account the Waitaha Treaty Legislation and Deed of Settlement in planning and resource consent processes.
- He advised that Waitaha would not be endorsing Te Maru o Kaituna's planning documents and would be taking the matter further.

#### **Points raised by Members:**

- The Chair responded noting this particular kaupapa was out of the hands of the Regional Council, as the Treaty Legislation dictated the membership composition on Te Maru o Kaituna.

### 10.3 **Katie Paul**

- Considered that councils should be proactively supporting marae communities, particularly rural marae communities to ensure basic infrastructure services, such as sewerage, drinking water supply and connectivity was provided.
- She suggested this matter be raised and discussed at the regional wānanga.

### 10.4 **Margaret Herbert**

- Expressed concern and sought Council advice and assistance regarding erosion issues at Te Pani urupa, located behind Rakeiao Marae.

#### **Staff Follow-up Action:**

- Staff to liaise with land management and engineering teams to investigate and provide advice on erosion issues at Te Pani urupa.

## 11 Consideration of General Business

### 11.1 Update on Local Authority Elections

Councillor Tahana wished to remind tangata whenua and whānau of the forthcoming Local Authority Elections for district, city and regional councils, which would be held in October 2019. The timelines for the process was outlined on page 31 of the agenda.

Councillor Tahana took the opportunity (on his marae) to announce he would not be standing for re-election as a Māori Constituent councillor for Toi Moana as he wished to focus more time on supporting iwi issues and capacity outside of Council. He encouraged tangata whenua representatives to stand in the forthcoming elections, noting that the role provided an important mangai voice for iwi and hapu.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to his whānau, iwi and hapū and council colleagues and staff for their support during his involvement on Council.

## 12 Closing Karakia

Provided by kaumatua Tom Herbert.

**The meeting closed at 12:44 pm.**

**CONFIRMED: DATE**

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A Tahana  
Chairperson, Komiti Māori