

Minutes of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Administration Building, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua on Friday, 5 April 2019 commencing at 9.30a.m.

Present:

Deputy Chairman: Mayor Steve Chadwick - Rotorua Lakes Council

Appointees: Councillor Karen Hunt - Rotorua Lakes Council; Councillor Kevin Winters - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Raina Meha - Te Arawa Lakes Trust; Nuki Nicholson - Alternate, Te Arawa Lakes Trust

In Attendance: Ministry for the Environment: Martin Workman - Director of Water

Rotorua Lakes Council: Geoff Williams - Chief Executive

Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana: Councillors Jane Nees and Lyall Thurston; Chris Ingle - General Manager, Integrated Catchments; Helen Creagh - Rotorua Catchments Manager; Yvonne Tatton - Governance Manager; Anna Grayling - Principal Advisor Rotorua Catchments; Ruth Keber - Marketing and Communications Advisor; Karla Kereopa - Rotorua Catchments Coordinator; Arash Alaeinia - Rotorua Catchments Advisor (Landowners); Merinda Pansegrouw - Committee Advisor

Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Karen Vercoe - Chief Executive; Nicki Douglas - Manager Environment; Geoff Rolleston – Te Arawa Lakes Trust Board

Others:

Chris Sutton - Rotorua Lakes Rural Board / Chairperson Project Rerewhakaaitu; Simon Park - Policy Advice, Rural Engagement, Research: Landconnect Ltd, Tauranga; Don Atkinson - Chair, Lakes Water Quality Society

Apologies: Sir Toby Curtis - Chairman, Te Arawa Lakes Trust; Chairman Doug Leeder - Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana

Deputy Chairperson, Mayor Steve Chadwick chaired the meeting.

1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Sir Toby Curtis and Chairman Doug Leeder tendered at the meeting.

Hunt/Winters
CARRIED

2 Report

2.1 Amendments to Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Agreement and Terms of Reference

Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana Governance Manager Yvonne Tatton presented the report.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Amendments to Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Agreement and Terms of Reference;
- 2 Endorses the following amendments to the Rotorua Te Arawa Strategy Group Agreement:

Membership:

The membership of the Group shall comprise of six members:

- 2.1 Two members of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Entity appointed by that entity who are governance members; and
 - 2.2 Two members of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council appointed by that Council one of whom is the Chairperson of that Council; and
 - 2.3 Two members of the Rotorua Lakes Council appointed by that Council one of whom is the Mayor of that Council.
 - 2.4 Plus one non-voting Pou Takiwaiora (Chairperson), appointed by the Strategy Group members for a three year term in alignment with the Local Government triennium.
- 3 Endorses that the additional amendments are reflected in the Rotorua Te Arawa Strategy Group's Terms of Reference.
 - 4 Approves the Guidelines for the Pou Takiwaiora position.
 - 5 Appoints Sir Toby Curtis as Pou Takiwaiora of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.

- 6 Notes the appointment of Roana Bennett as the Te Arawa Lakes Trust member, with Nuki Nicholson appointed as the alternate member to replace Willie Emery.
- 7 Notes the change in the Ministry for the Environment's representative to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.

Winters/Meha
CARRIED

3 General Business

The following matter was raised for information:

- 1 Bay of Plenty Regional Council Annual Plan Consultation Process for 2019/20

Refer tabled item Objective ID A3183072.

4 Confidential Business to be Transferred into the Open

Nil

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

6 Order of Business

With the agreement of members, the following items were scheduled for consideration as the last two items on the agenda:

- Item 4 - Public Forum – Don Atkinson - Chairperson, Lakes Water Quality Society
- Item 10.1 - Recommendations on Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund 2018 (Public Excluded)

7 Previous Minutes

7.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 2 November 2018

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Confirms the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 2 November 2018 as a true and correct record with the inclusion of the following amendments:
 - Page 43 (Page 7 of the minutes) – Under “Members’ Comments” – third bullet – change the typo from “Customs” to “Customers”
 - Page 43 (Page 7 of the minutes) – Under Resolutions – the third Resolution change the typo from “Customs” to “Customers”

Winters/Hunt
CARRIED

8 Reports - Continued

8.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - Status Update and 6 Month Report (2018 - 2019)

Refer PowerPoint Presentations (Objective ID A3180580 and A3180901) and tabled item Objective ID A3183074

Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Toi Moana Rotorua Catchments Manager Helen Creagh provided a PowerPoint Presentation update on progress made with the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme since the November 2018 meeting.

Chris Sutton, Chairperson Project Rerewhakaaitu and Simon Park, Landconnect Ltd, provided a PowerPoint Presentation updating members on Project Rerewhakaaitu:

Key Points – Project Rerewhakaaitu Update:

- Tarawera Lakes Restoration Plan, developed by Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BORPC) with community input, had included as part of the agreed actions, the development of Farm Environmental Plans (FEPs) for the inner and outer Tarawera lakes catchments
- Development of the new FEPs were based on industry templates and Overseer
- Provided an example of a FEP (Refer tabled item)
- Highlighted that since Lake Tarawera itself was not meeting its Natural Resources Regional Plan water quality targets, aggregated nutrient loss data from the FEP project would help inform catchment modelling
- Data from FEPs would also inform the local community on the complex linkages within the Tarawera lakes system and the need for any land use rules.

Members' Comments:

- Enquired about the possibility of offering an education component on the Water Quality of the Lakes as a module at schools in order to create further public awareness: possibly commencing with Te Rangihakahaka Centre for Science and Technology as a point of departure
- Emphasised the need to include issues relating to water quality in the school curriculum – mostly in a new and innovative way. Practical exposure such as boat trips to educate and create awareness would be ideal.

Item for Staff Follow-up:

- A follow-up Lake Rotorua Boat Trip to be convened for members of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group who was unable to accompany the trip scheduled for 3 April 2019, preferably after winter.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - Status Update and 6 Month Report (2018 - 2019);**
- 2 Approves the 2018-2019 Six Month Report for the Programme, for submission to the Minister for the Environment; and**

- 3 Approves Change Request 64 to move funds from the Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme to the Gorse Conversion Project for the current financial year, noting that the total spend of either project over their life will not be affected.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

8.2 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Funding Proposal and Update Report

Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) Environment Manager Nicki Douglas presented the report and responded to questions:

Key Points:

- Funding Proposal
 - Following the November 2018 meeting, TALT had met with Minister Parker and Ministry for the Environment Chief Executive Officer Vicki Robertson to progress the discussion regarding an allocation of funding to the Te Arawa Lakes Trust
 - The Minister was supportive of the approach and the matter was currently ongoing in liaison with MfE
 - The Steering Group was scheduled to meet in May 2019 and a report would be submitted to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group in June 2019
- The second phase of the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) for the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme was ongoing
- TALT had completed three Cultural Mapping reports for the existing lakes structures and were currently undertaking Cultural Mapping for Lakes: Tarawera, Okareka, Rerewhakaitu and Rotoiti
- Catfish Volunteer Programme:
 - 140 volunteers had signed
 - 50 - 60 were actively netting
 - From April 2019 the first school would be set up for netting in Lake Rotorua.

Members' Comments:

- Supported the displaying of fyke nets used to cull pest catfish in the Customer Service Centre of Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council Offices.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report**

**Hunt/Winters
CARRIED**

8.3 RLC Update Report to Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

Rotorua Lakes Council Chief Executive Geoff Williams presented the report which provided an update on Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) activity that related to lake water quality:

Key Points:

- Rotomā / Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme

- Completion of the wastewater treatment plant and land disposal system was expected in June 2019
- Construction of Rotomā reticulation was progressing well with the sewer trunk main that would link Rotomā to the wastewater treatment plant almost complete
- Tenders for the Rotoiti onsite systems were currently being prepared
- Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant- resource consent renewal application had been publicly notified and submissions received. Consultation with significant objectors was being organised. The intention was to address key objection points prior to the Environment Court hearing
- Tarawera Sewerage Scheme - development of a cultural impact assessment currently facilitated by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- Rotorua Urban Area Comprehensive Stormwater Resource Consent
 - Resource consent application had been lodged with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council
 - Cultural Impact Assessment would be submitted as part of the S92 process
- Policy Planning: Plan Change 10: Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management – Following the Environment Court hearings on 4 - 8 March 2019, the Court's decision was being awaited.

Members' Comments:

- Noted that since tenders for the Rotoiti onsite systems were currently being prepared, RLC was unable to provide financial details relevant to the cost implications/options for ratepayers. All possibilities would be investigated before making a final decision
- RLC representatives confirmed that BOPRC would be updated on progress made with the tender process and would also be advised of all details once information on options/costs had been concluded
- A report on the outcome of the tender process would be provided to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 **Receives the report, RLC Update Report to Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

8.4 Ministry for the Environment Update Report

Members expressed appreciation for the dedicated and valuable contribution provided by Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships Shaun Lewis.

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Director Water Martin Workman was welcomed as the new MfE observer to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. He provided a verbal update as follows:

Key Points:

- Update on the central freshwater package developed by the government:
 - Public consultation to commence July 2019
 - Envisaged to include changes to the Freshwater Policy Statement as well as a new environmental standard

- The goal was to stop further decline in the health of waterways by means of stronger national regulations and direction – “doing more faster”
- Planned to replicate the excellent work undertaken on Lake Tarawera
- Would require Farm Environmental Plans as a necessity
- Planned to manage further intensification
- Envisaged controls on high risk activities such as winter grazing
- Increased investment in Overseer
- Reduction in nutrient allocation and the implementation of a related system.

Item for Staff follow-up:

- A letter of appreciation to be sent to Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships Shaun Lewis, for the dedicated and valuable support provided to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the verbal update provided by the Ministry for the Environment.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

9 Public Forum

Don Atkinson, Chairperson Lakes Water Quality Society

Key Points:

- Rotorua Lakes Water Quality Society planned to host a symposium late October 2019; the date and programme still to be confirmed
- The Society had made a submission on the proposed Regional Pest Management Plan to BOPRC and had requested a change to a rule related to the transfer of boats between lakes: boat operators needed to certify that the rules stipulated by the Regional Pest Management Plan had been complied with, thus ensuring that boats had been properly cleaned
- Highlighted the value/importance of distinctly defining the input/contributions provided by the farming communities towards improving the health of waterways.

10 Public Excluded Section

Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of Matter to	Reason for passing this	Grounds under Section
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be Considered	resolution in relation to this matter	48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution
10.1 Recommendations on Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund 2018	To protect the commercial position of an individual	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a)

Winters/Hunt
CARRIED

11 Confidential Business to be Transferred into the Open

Nil

The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.

CONFIRMED [DATE]:

Sir Toby Curtis
Poū Tākiwaiora
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group