

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, 8 September 2017 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Sir T Curtis (Chairman, Te Arawa Lakes Trust)

Appointees: Deputy Mayor D Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

In Attendance: **Te Arawa Lakes Trust:** N Douglas (Manager - Environment), K Vercoe (Chief Executive), R Meha (Trustee)
Rotorua Lakes Council: G Williams (Chief Executive), S Michael (Director Transport and Waste Solutions), J Riini (Partnership Advisor)
Toi Moana-Bay of Plenty Regional Council: M Macleod (Chief Executive), T White (Incentives Programme Director), A Bruere (Lakes Operations Manager), L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager), N Poutasi (Water Policy Manager) M Stensness (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: Mayor S Chadwick, Mr W Emery, Mr S Lewis, Mr C Ingle, Deputy Mayor M Donaldson (early departure).

1 **Karakia**

Opening karakia by Ms Raina Meha.

2 **Apologies**

Resolved

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

- 1 **Accepts the apology tendered by Mayor S Chadwick, Mr W Emery, Mr S Lewis, Mr C Ingle and the early departure of Deputy Mayor D Donaldson.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

The Chair requested that Mr D Atkinson Chairman of the Lakes Water Quality Society provide an update to the members on the Bi-Annual Water Symposium – “Trouble Makers”

4 **Public Forum**

No Public Forum.

5 Declaration of conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6 Previous Minutes

Matter Arising

Members were advised that the MOU for the Nitrogen Accounting Approach for the Rotorua Waste Water Treatment plant had been signed.

Resolved

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

- 1 Confirms the minutes of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group meeting held 27 June 2017.**

**Curtis/Hunt
CARRIED**

7 Reports

7.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme

L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager) introduced two new areas of information to be included in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme ('RTALP') were:

1. Trophic Level Index ('TLI'); and
2. End of year financials results.

The TLI update highlighted five lakes, Rotorua, Ōkaro, Rerewhakaaitu, Tikitapu and Rotomā had reached the TLI target with this year's annual average results. It was considered a great improvement from the previous year's results. Members were also advised that four lakes, Rotoehu, Ōkātina, Tarawera and Rotoiti were below the TLI while noting the TLI units were based on a three yearly average.

Members queried what the TLI trend was in previous years and whether science indicated trends were impacted by climate change or other issues. Members were advised that the trend fluctuated every year. Particular issues encountered were:

- algae bloom thriving in summer weather;
- high rainfall and overflow of storm water;
- forest harvesting; and
- management and pre-empting suitable alum dosing for each lake.

In response to queries regarding forest harvesting and high rainfall it was noted that staff were not aware of any specific forest harvesting reports but confirmed measurements in place included;

- 1) the use of bunds;
- 2) monitored management of catchments;

It was explained that the high rainfall experienced lately required opening the Ohau Weir to release pressure, noting the key positive was that aerated water took longer to flow.

In response to queries whether Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti were swimmable it was confirmed that both lakes were swimmable and that Toi Te Ora officially monitored the lakes. Members were informed of two health warnings issued this year for Lake Rotorua caused by the high rainfall and overflow of the WWMP.

The end of year financial report was introduced which included a financial summary for each Deed funded lake and also identified the funding provided by each Council and the Ministry for the Environment ('MFE'). Audit signoff of the financial report would be completed in September 2017.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report - Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme**

**Winters/Donaldson
CARRIED**

8 Presentations

8.1 **Mātauranga Maori approach to the land contact beds for the Waste Water Treatment Plant ('WWTP')**

Objective Reference A269997

Partnership Advisor Ms J Riini and Director of Transport and Waste Solutions Mr S Michael provided key points of the presentation as follows:

- Three years ago residents of Whakarewarewa forest were told by CNI that they may need to move as the whenua-land was saturated in waste water;
- A steering group was established with 15 key parties involved, supported by a technical advisory group;
- Two-three year collaborative approach undertaken, working with Iwi, hapu, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and councils to achieve the common objective - to protect the quality of lake waters and future management of waste water;
- A WWMP that acknowledged and encapsulated mātauranga Maori was drafted;
- Mātauranga Maori wānanga had been held with 23 respected attendees offering expert knowledge that assisted with the design of the WWTP;
- Four Mātapono were adopted - Mauri of the Wai-water was restored, Wai is of our Atua-God, kaitiakitanga-protectors/guardians over the Wai and the WWMP was to align with Te Arawa cultural values and Ngā Wai o Te Arawa document;

- The WWMP treated all types of water, sewerage, rain, storm - approximately 20 million litres was pumped up to the forest;
- Once upgraded the WWTP would be built to handle severe water events, track the progress and increase the capacity to cope with 70 million litres;
- Focussed on the discharge option – run water of contact bed into holding ponds with rocks then release water down the lake into Puarenga Awa;
- Community, hapū and iwi engagement undertaken, with a few more hui-meetings to be held with various hapū.

Staff commented that matters of significance to Te Arawa such as whakapapa-genealogy had not been addressed and that Te Mana o te wai needed to be reconciled with a connect between western science and māori science. It was noted that Te Arawa leaders came together to reconcile this space and supported an alternative solution from a Māori perspective. The practice of including indigenous input was considered a world first and was an example of Te Mana o te Wai in action.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the presentation - Mātauranga Maori approach to the land contact beds for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.**
- 2 Requests the presentation be sent to the Ministry for the Environment.**

**Winters/Donaldson
CARRIED**

8.2 **Presentation - Embedding Te Tūāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural Values) and Te Arawatanga – Supporting Te Arawa Kaitiaki around our lakes, Kaitiaki forum establishment and project development led by hapū and iwi.**

Objective reference A269997

Te Arawa Lakes Trust ('TALT') Manager - Environment Ms N Douglas presented members with an overview of the presentation. This included key objectives that focussed on forming partnerships with key stakeholders and councils to build a frame work that allowed TALT to reignite the values of Te mana o te wai by embedding Te Tuāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural values) into the programme. These values included:

- Te Whakapapa o te wai;
- the guiding principles; and
- activities and investment.

Members were provided with a brief historical account of Te Arawatanga and the significant cultural relationship between Te Arawa and the lakes. The TALT were committed in establishing a collaborative working relationship with councils and key stakeholders that:

- encouraged Te Arawa to lead investment opportunities – deliver and manage projects embedding Te Tuāpapa, building capability and capacity in Te Arawa;

- allowed for a co-designed framework on a working relationship with councils on how to embed Te Tuāpapa into projects that encouraged hapū and iwi participation and input;
- Te Arawa could proactively participate in the programmes, as they had engaged iwi technicians with capabilities to manage their input in resource consent process; and
- TALT were open and willing to work with the lake stakeholders and dedicated to take the lead role on working with their hapū and iwi.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the combined presentation - Embedding Te Tuāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural Values) and Te Arawatanga – Supporting Te Arawa Kaitiaki around our lakes, Kaitiaki forum establishment and project development led by hapū and iwi.**

**Hunt/Leeder
CARRIED**

9 Reports Continued

9.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme – Status Report

Rotorua Catchments Manager Ms L Goldsmith provided members with a simple visual summary of progress on key projects and verbally updated them as followed:

Plan Change 10 - recommendations had resulted in the reallocation of nitrogen discharge noting the main impact related to properties less than 40 hectares, Land listed under Te Ture Whenua Maori Act in forestry plantation or bush/scrub had the ability to undertake land use change and gain a higher nitrogen discharge allocation allowing the landowners to turn their land into pasture.

A cross-team workgroup had been meeting on a weekly basis to develop the necessary documents and processes for the implementation of proposed Plan Change 10. The Nutrient Management Plan ('NMP') was being revised. Staff confirmed that resource consents in relation to plan change 10 would remain free of charge to farming enterprises over 40 hectares until the end of September 2017.

Lake Rotorua Advice and Support -126 farming enterprises were engaged in advice and support, 20 of these had requested resource consent. The advice and support service had been on hold due to Plan Change 10 and the revision of the NDAs and NMPs. Advice and support service would progress resource consent applications as soon as the NMP template was finalised and the applicants had a revised NMP from their Land Use Advisor.

Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund - Five projects (dNITRO, best practice videos, Whenua ora, the land resource guide and the Hazelnut) had progressed well. dNITRO tool was proving invaluable and the best practice videos produced by Land connect were launched. The Whenua Ora was ongoing and was affected by the requirements for the landowners to be provided with updated NDAs. The Land Resource Guide was undergoing its final editing

stage before release to the public. The hazelnut project was progressing with trees been planted and the research project set up as agreed.

Lakes TLI results - five of the lakes reached or exceeded their target. It was noted that looking at a year in isolation did not give the full picture as weather patterns could have an influence. The three yearly average TLI measure helped smooth out annual fluctuations and showed two of the lakes had reached their target TLI with Lake Rotomahana close to its TLI being 0.1 above target.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report - Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme – Status Report**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

9.2 Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme – Update Report

Incentives Programme Director Mr T White reported that the Lake Rotorua Incentives Board secured five incentive agreements totalling 8.5 tonnes in-lake nitrogen with a further eight landowners registered with the scheme willing to negotiate. Negotiations with landowners had been stalled due to a 'bug' in the system Overseer which was now reconciled and nitrogen plans had been refreshed to include another 8 tonnes equalling 16.5 tonnes against the target of 20 tonnes. The dNITRO project has concluded and proved to be a useful tool for Maori land owners Over 30 Maori landowner groups attended presentations on the use of the tool and to date 10 groups expressed a desire to progress discussions.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report – Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme – Update Report**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

9.3 Update report from Rotorua Lakes Council

Members discussed the functions, purpose and the position of the strategy group that adopted the integrated framework for the lake restoration project. M Macleod informed members that Plan Change 10 was in the appeals process so further discussion on that matter would be addressed at the appropriate time.

Members queried the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme funding and noted it was capped at three years from 2019-2022 and was subject to a grant of \$2million from Toi Moana-BOPRC. Director of Transport and Waste Solutions Mr S Michael confirmed the Freshwater Improvement Funding came through the Tarawera Steering Group that MFE had approved a grant of \$6million and that MFE not the applicate had set a minimum local and regional contribution of \$2million was required.

Members were assured by Rotorua Lakes Council ('RLC') that the application did not premise Toi Moana-BOPRC as funding the project but the application forced on the ability

to achieve a number of key objectives of significant interest locally, regionally and nationally.

Chief Executive M Macleod congratulated RLC on the successful application for funding and advised members that she would discuss the terms of the application during a meeting with RLC Chief Executive however, the meeting would largely focus on the applications process as set out by MFE. Toi Moana-BOPRC had multiple applications to balance and had still to consider the application.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report – Update report from Rotorua Lakes Council**

**Hunt/Leeder
CARRIED**

9.4 Lake Rotoehu Sewage Reticulation

Toi Moana-BOPRC staff requested support in principle for the reticulation of the Lake Rotoehu sewage scheme. Members voiced concern that the Rotoehu community had the opportunity to join the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti reticulation scheme back in 2012 but declined the offer. Staff informed members that those in the Rotoehu community who supported the need for a sewage reticulation scheme had strengthened in numbers.

The benefits of a reticulation system in that area would contribute significantly to the health of the lake. The government had indicated significant interest in the environmental outcomes of the key objectives of the application which had been the key drivers of the application's success.

It was requested the minutes reflect that it was not the position of Toi Moana-BOPRC to subsidise Waste Water applications without full consideration of the application, open consultation with stakeholders and consideration of competing applications. Toi Moana-BOPRC also stated that supporting in principle reticulation for Lake Rotoehu did not mean any support in principle or otherwise for funding of the scheme. This was acknowledged by the other members.

Concern was expressed that there was an inference on a regional basis that Toi Moana-BOPRC would be expected to fund the scheme. Staff recommendation 2 was discussed and motioned subject to appropriate funding being available.

MOTION

Moved: Chairman Leeder

Seconded: Cr Winters

Supports in principle the reticulation of sewage from the Lake Rotoehu community to the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti sewage scheme.

Members were advised that there was no inference in the wording of recommendation 2 that Toi Moana-BOPRC were expected to fund the scheme which satisfied members.

The motion was **WITHDRAWN** with agreement of the majority.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report – Lake Rotoehu Sewage Reticulation;**
- 2 Supports in principle the reticulation of sewage from the Lake Rotoehu community to the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti sewage scheme subject to appropriate funding.**
- 3 Confirms that the decision has a medium level of significance as determined by the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy. Council has identified and assessed different options and considered community views as part of making the decision, in proportion to the level of significance.**

**Leeder/Hunt
CARRIED**

9.5 Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Verbal update Report

TALT Manager - Environment Ms N Douglas advised members that TALT had been transparent in their position regarding Plan Change 10 and had full frank discussion with key stakeholders on this matter noting TALT agreed with the RPS framework. It was confirmed the TALT were not proceeding with an appeal to Plan Change 10 but wanted it noted that their position not to appeal did not reflect full support of Plan Change 10. TALT was looking forward to working with Toi Moana-BOPRC during the implementation.

Members were provided with a brief report on TALT involvement to date:

- Working with key stakeholders to eradicate Catfish;
- Discussion with Toi Moana-BOPRC around alum dosing of Lakes continued;
- Proposed further engagement with Toi Moana-BOPRC in the implementation Plan Change 10 programme;
- Were engaged to provide a cultural impact assessment statement for the Tarawera Lake reticulation scheme, a draft was expected to be finalised at the end of September
- Te mana whakahono a rohe agreement with TALT preparing to engage in the RMA process;
- Committed to introducing and delivering Te mana whakahono and Kaitiakitanga to their hapū/iwi
- Tūhourangi, Ngāti Rangītihi¹ and Okaraka pipeline progressing – various works had happened and TALT recognised the need for further extensive consultation.

Mr Atkinson of the Lakes Water Quality Society was congratulated on a superb Water Symposium and their dedication and commitment to the lakes.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report – Te Arawa Lakes Trust verbal report.**

¹ Correction at item 9.5 - addition of Ngāti Rangītihi from meeting held 8 December 2017.

Hunt/Winters
CARRIED

10 Consideration of General Business

Mr Atkinson reported that accolades were received for the Bi-annual Water symposium which indicated that it was well received. Mr Atkinson thanked Toi Moana-BOPRC and RLC for the financial contributions. He highlighted key topics of discussion at the symposium included:

- Inclusive nature of symposium was clearly community orientated;
- It takes a village to raise a child – it takes a community to save the lakes
- Catfish were widespread, Toi Moana-BOPRC monitoring allowed for better scientific knowledge of the critter. Challenges were ahead but believed in time Catfish would effectively be eliminated.
- The lake weed issue was a focus as was the MPA which was under review - long term goal. No focus on weeds at this stage.
- 90% of the aquatic species focussed on Tarawera lakes at this stage - if nothing was done it would get worse, major costs was approximately \$12million - the investment the Society had made to eradicate the weed;
- Focus on the Tarawera lakes pertaining to the sewage
- Farmer engagement had been undertaken, were committed to clear objectives of what was needed but were hindered as no funding was available at this stage
- Expressed the need to record oxygen levels with a tool that recorded in a consistent manner.

The Lake Water Society were thanked for their tireless work and commitment to the lakes over the last 50yrs. It was noted the society was largely made up of volunteers.

Resolved

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

- 1 That Toi Moana-BOPRC send a letter of gratitude and thanks to the Water Society for their efforts and commitments to the lakes and congratulate them on the success of the Bi-annual Water Symposium.**

Hunt/Winters
CARRIED

11 Closing Karakia

Chair Sir Toby Curtis closed the meeting with a Karakia.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.