

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 December 2017 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

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

Deputy Chairman: Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)

Appointees: W Emery (Alternate , Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Deputy Mayor D Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor T Marr (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), R Meha (Te Arawa Lakes Trust)

In Attendance: Te Arawa Lakes Trust: N Douglas (Manager - Environment), K Vercoe (Chief Executive)
Rotorua Lakes Council: JP Gaston (Group Manager Strategy)
Toi Moana-Bay of Plenty Regional Council: M Macleod (Chief Executive), C Ingle (General Manager, Integrated Catchments), T White (Incentives Programme Director), A Bruere (Lakes Operations Manager), L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager), A Grayling (Integrated Catchments Principal Advisor) M Stensness (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), G Williams (Chief Executive Rotorua Lakes Council)

1 Karakia

Opening karakia by Councillor Tipene Marr

2 Apologies

Resolved

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

- 1 Accepts the apologies tendered by Chairman D Leeder and G Williams.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

3 General Business

Invite to be sent to Government Ministers to meet with Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group.

4 Declaration of conflicts of interest

No Declarations of conflicts of interest.

5 Previous Minutes

Members were advised that the Mātauranga Maori approach to the land contact beds for wastewater treatment plant presentation was received at the meeting held 8 October 2017 and that the resource consent was still to be lodged. It was noted that Te Arawa Lakes Trust ('TALT') received notification of lake closures via Toi EDA.

Correction

Minute item 9.5 of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes 8 September 2017 inadvertently omitted 'Ngati Rangitihī' and spelling of 'Puiringa' and 'Ohia' to be amended to "Puarenga and Ohau"....

5.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group minutes - 08 September 2017

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Subject to the corrections above, confirms the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group minutes - 08 September 2017

Hunt/Winters
CARRIED

6 Reports

6.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - Status Report

Ms L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager) provided members with a programme status that summarised the progress of key projects, planned activities and highlighted current risks in the programme. The following were key points of discussion:

- The Zeolite Plant Project at Tikitere continued to progress noting one low nitrogen contract was due to be finalised;
- The new progress indicators had been implemented – red, and at risk areas triggered an automated flag (i.e. weed harvesting noted work required);
- Plan Change 10 - key issues raised in the appeals related to the nutrient allocation methodology, treatment of underutilised Māori land and the approach taken with the wastewater treatment plant. Mediation was expected to commence in early 2018.
- 63 land owners had applied for free resource consents and their revised Nutrient Discharge Allowances had been calculated. Priority was to support the landowners through the resource consent process with a view to processing them within a timely manner.
- Gorse Scheme was underway and detailed mapping was in progress for over 50 hectares of gorse.
- Two of the six Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund projects were completed. A meeting had been scheduled to gage progress on the Tipu Whenua One Health

project. Progress on the hazelnut project continued with the drafting of a leaflet to assist growers in understanding fertiliser and pruning requirements. The Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands free range egg and dairy sheep project had produced a report on the industry analysis which had been reviewed with the Land Use Advisor and the General Manager.

- Catfish netting had commenced with initial catches containing a high proportion of large fish. The vast majority of fish caught to date had been within Tē Weta Bay. It was noted that Toi Moana-BOPRC staff would present a report to members at the next meeting regarding the current status and forward planning for the reduction of catfish.
- Due to high temperatures it was predicted that lake weed would become an issue early this season. It was noted that the harvester was ready to deploy as necessary and that Mr Ingle and Mr Bruere would follow up on an activation and communication plan for the summer period.

Ms Goldsmith informed members that progress on re-consenting for the Ūtuhina and Pūarenga phosphorous locking plants continued with current consents expiring in 2018 and 2019. Consultation with Iwi and community groups had commenced with the process of the application noting a 20-25 year term with review phases through that time every 7 years.

Ms Goldsmith also confirmed that Toi Moana-BOPRC did not advocate alum dosing as a long term solution. It was noted that significant monitoring was undertaken to limit control and use of alum dosing. Consultation with Iwi was planned to focus on the phosphorus. It was noted that the word 'key Iwi' be removed from the report.

Members were presented with a copy of the newly published Rotorua Land Use Directory Book - Tahuri Whenua. Ms A Grayling acknowledged support from the technical advisory group for their guidance and Toi Moana-BOPRC and MfE who provided funding for the project.

Resolved

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

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

**Hunt/Winters
CARRIED**

6.2 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Trust Strategy Group – Review of the Terms of Reference

Members agreed that six months was appropriate to enable comprehensive discussions and consideration of correct crown procedure and process to allow for amendments to the Terms of Reference.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

2 Agreed to review the Terms of Reference for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group over the next six months.

**Winters/Chadwick
CARRIED**

6.3 Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Update

Te Arawa Lakes Trust Manager (Environment) (TALT) Ms N Douglas provided a brief update on TALT progress as follows:

- A Cultural Impact Assessment for Tarawera Sewerage scheme had been completed;
- TALT noted new by-laws enabled a more formal management approach with regard to the quality of water and replenishment of tāonga species (i.e. koura, kōaro, morihana). Public consultation was expected to begin February 2018;
- TALT continued to engage with Toi Moana-BOPRC in regard to the incursion of catfish and survival and revitalisation of habitat species in the lakes;
- The cultural mapping project reports for Rotoehu and Rotomā were completed with Rotorua to be completed by 20 December 2017.
- Re-launch of the TALT structures policy has progressed. It was noted that new structures since 2006 were required to apply for a lease from TALT and Land Information New Zealand.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

1 Receives the report, Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Update

**Winters/Marr
CARRIED**

6.4 Rotorua Lakes Council – Update

Group Manager Strategy Mr JP Gaston advised members of the following:

- Rotoma/Rotoiti wastewater treatment plan and land disposal system had been approved without any objections – the design and implementation were progressing;
- Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant resource consent was being finalised;
- Tarawera Sewerage Scheme – work was underway with the development of the project plan however funding support was still required. The Rotorua Lakes Community Board sought formalisation from Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) of their steering group;
- Draft Spatial Plan – RLC received good feedback from iwi regarding land development, with alternatives being discussed around growth areas. Further

discussion was required regarding the Ūtuhina and Ngōngōtaha streams. The final Spatial Plan was expected to be released in February 2018.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Lakes Council - Update**

**Marr/Meha
CARRIED**

6.5 Update on Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme Activities

Incentives Programme Director Mr T White reported that the Lake Rotorua Incentives Board were negotiating to secure nine contracts, five of which were expected to be finalised by 21 December 2017. The target of achieving 20 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen by the end of 2017 proved challenging but remained in place. It was noted that some landowners were reluctant to participate due to the Plan Change 10 appeals process.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Update on Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme Activities;**

**Marr/Hunt
CARRIED**

6.6 General Business

Members discussed the change in government to be more involved with projects around the country. Members agreed to invite Ministers Shane Jones and Nanaia Mahuta to meet with the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 2 Send a meeting invite to Minister's Shane Jones and Nanaia Mahuta to meet with Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group;**

**Marr/Hunt
CARRIED**

7 Karakia

Closing karakia by Councillor Tipene Marr

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

