

Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Board Room, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, 1188 Old State Highway 38, Murupara on Tuesday, 21 March 2017 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: M Vercoe (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa)

Deputy Chairman: D Christie (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare)

Appointees: Reverend G Te Rire (Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust), Councillor G Johnston (Whakatāne District Council), E Rewi (Alternate, Ngāti Whare), I Kahukiwa Smith (Ngāti Hineuru), Councillor T Kingi (Taupo District Council), Councillors K Winters, T Marr, W Clark, D Love (Alternate) (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), B Hughes (Senior Planner (Water Policy)), M Lee (Planner (Water Policy)), N Willems (Team Leader Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments), K O'Brien (Strategic Engagement Manager), N Steed (Programme Leader (Statutory Policy)), R Feist (Senior Planner), C Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), L Mason (Integrated Catchments Programme Manager); S McGhie (Principal Planner, Whakatāne District Council), D Bowden, S Mavor (Taupo District Council), A Te Pou (General Manager, CNI Iwi Land Management Limited), C Rowe (Nova Energy); C Fern, A Davies (TrustPower); N Rangiaho (Observer); S Kameta (Committee Advisor)

Absent: M Araroa (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)

Apologies: D Christie (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare) for lateness; T O'Brien (Alternate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa), Mayor A Bonne (Alternate, Whakatane District Council), D Jones (Alternate, Ngāti Hineuru)

1 **Mihi Whakatau**

A mihi whakatau (welcome) was provided by Reverend Te Rire to welcome new member Taupo District Councillor Tangonui Kingi. Councillor Kingi thanked members and staff for the warm welcome and looked forward to participating on the Forum.

An opening karakia was provided by Reverend Te Rire.

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked Ngāti Whare for hosting the meeting.

2 **Apologies**

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Accepts the apology for lateness from Daryl Christie and apologies from Mayor Bonne, Tuwhakairiora O'Brien and David Jones tendered at the meeting.**

**Clark/Winters
CARRIED**

3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

The following items were raised for discussion under General Business.

- 1) Freshwater Implementation Fund Project
- 2) Update from Ngāti Whare

4 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 **Previous minutes**

5.1 **Rangitāiki River Forum minutes - 22 November 2016**

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held 22 November 2016, as a true and correct record.**

**Te Rire/Winters
CARRIED**

6 **Reports**

6.1 **Update from the Chair of the Rangitāiki River Forum**

The report informed the Forum of discussions held by the Forum Chair, Deputy Chair and staff on ways in which the Forum and its members could be better supported. The Chair advised of the intention to hold a wananga (informal session) before the Forum's next meeting to discuss strategic matters and encouraged all members to attend.

Future discussion on the understanding and integration of Tikanga Māori, Matauranga Māori and Te Reo Māori was supported and it was noted that a report would be presented on these matters.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Update from the Chair of the Rangitāiki River Forum.**

**Vercoe/Marr
CARRIED**

6.2 **Central North Island Iwi Land Management Limited presentation**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2575362

Central North Island Iwi Land Management Limited (CNIILML) General Manager Alamoti Te Pou provided a presentation on the company's objectives and management of the CNI Forest Lands. Mr Alamoti provided background on the historical claim of CNI Iwi and highlighted challenges and aspirations to finalise allocation agreements; maximise wealth while respecting tikanga and the environment; and managing the land and opportunities for current and future generations.

Mr Te Pou noted aspirations to build relationships, work with stakeholder agencies and the community on strategies and to explore alternative opportunities for land utilisation. He noted that CNI Forest Lands did not have any water takes due to existing allocation limits in the catchment, but would be looking at potential opportunities.

Attendance

Daryl Christie entered the meeting at 10:45 am.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Central North Island Iwi Land Management Limited presentation.**

**Marr/Rewi
CARRIED**

6.3 **Update on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement**

Programme Leader (Statutory Policy) Nassah Steed updated the Forum on the progress of Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement. Mr Steed noted the dates for the hearing of submissions scheduled on 2-4 May 2017, the appointment of hearing commissioners and a further recommendation, which would be considered by Regional Council's Regional Direction and Delivery Committee on 29 March, to appoint Councillor Andrew von Dadelszen as a further commissioner to the hearing panel.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Update on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.**

**Winters/Marr
CARRIED**

6.4 Freshwater Futures Update

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2567051

Strategy Science Manager Ian Morton, Water Policy Planner Michelle Lee and Senior Planner Beverley Hughes updated the Forum on national and regional activity to implement the NPS for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM). A presentation outlined the status of Plan Changes 9 and 12, national context and Council's role for freshwater management and implications from the Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) release of its *Clean Water* consultation document.

Members were advised the item for discussion under general business would provide further advice on the \$100 million Freshwater Improvement Fund. An independent review of Havelock North's water supply contamination incident was anticipated to be released at the end of March, which staff would be taking into account within their work. A timeline and proposed engagement approach was outlined for the freshwater objective setting in the Rangitāiki Water Management Area. Members were advised that invitations would be extended to Iwi, hapū and tangata whenua to seek feedback on Māori values in the limit-setting process, with feedback being sought now from Iwi Authorities. Mr Morton advised that riparian planting would deliver ninety percent of MfE's proposed swimmability target, but expected further work would be needed to do more.

Concern was raised that run-off from stock would be an ongoing effect on groundwater aquifers. The need for collaborative community discussion on farm intensification and goal setting was raised. Staff confirmed that collective talks within the community would be held and suggested a farm visit to look at issues on the ground could be useful.

A member queried what cognisance was being taken of the Iwi Leaders' Freshwater work and whether Iwi needed to specifically request that this work be considered in the Freshwater debate at the regional and local level. Members were advised that the Iwi Leaders' work influenced National policy direction that fed down to the regional level however, it was important for Iwi to feed into and influence Plan Changes 9 and 12 outcomes at the regional and local level.

It is noted that further discussion was held under General Business, which led to the Forum's decision to support by way of resolution, an application proposal being submitted by the Regional Council to the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund, for a wetland restoration project in the Rangitāiki catchment.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Freshwater Futures Update.**
- 2 Supports the funding application proposal being submitted by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund for a wetland restoration project in the Rangitāiki catchment.**

**Clark/Rewi
CARRIED**

6.5 Freshwater Futures and the Consent Process

The report provided information that was requested at the Forum's last meeting on how the Freshwater Futures Programme and consent processes interacted. Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised that existing consent processes would continue to be implemented until such time as Plan Change 9 (Region-wide Water Quantity) and Plan Change 12 (Rangitāiki Water Quality and Quantity) to the Regional Water and Land Plan became operative.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Freshwater Futures and the Consent Process.

Johnston/Marr
CARRIED

6.6 Whakatāne District Council - Three Waters Programme in the Rangitāiki River Catchment Report - 21 March 2017

Whakatāne District Council Principal Planner Shane McGhie provided the report that summarised the Council's Three Waters Programme, which contributed to Objective 3 and Action 3.2 of Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki – pathway of the Rangitāiki.

Mr McGhie noted the Council's requirement to review its sewage discharge consents over the next 12 years, action undertaken to ensure effective community consultation and provisions which had been included in the Proposed Whakatāne District Plan for the protection of water quality into the future.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Whakatāne District Council - Three Waters Programme in the Rangitāiki River Catchment Report - 21 March 2017.

Johnston/Te Rire
CARRIED

6.7 Regional Growth Study Update

Strategy & Science Manager provided the report on the Regional Growth Study (RGS) and key economic growth opportunities existing in the Rangitāiki Catchment. Mr Morton advised the value of the RGS was its ability to connect people and access Central Government funding to support economic development opportunities in the community through the Bay of Connections' (BoC) model and industry support groups. Mr Morton noted key achievements of BoC (refer report Appendix 1) and specific actions and opportunities being investigated in the Rangitāiki Catchment.

Mr Morton encouraged Forum members to provide feedback on any other potential areas of interest that could be explored. Further information to understand groundwater aquifer resources in relation to water bottling opportunities was requested for the next Forum meeting. It was noted that strategic discussion on economic growth opportunities would be carried through to the Forum's wananga session.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Growth Study Update.

Winters/Johnston
CARRIED

6.8 Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki and Eastern Bay - Beyond Today

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2560921

Senior Planner Ruth Feist provided the report that informed of the relationship between Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki and Eastern Bay - Beyond Today and identified key strategic issues for the Forum to consider in the future. Ms Feist gave a presentation that outlined the similarities, overlaps and differences between the documents. It was noted that Eastern Bay - Beyond Today was not a driver document, but aimed to draw things together to inform and gain an understanding of over time. An overview of key inter-relationships on strategic issues, influences, limits and drivers for change was provided, with emphasis placed on the complex nature of an evolving future.

Regarding implications for Māori, the need for support, capability and resource was raised.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki and Eastern Bay - Beyond Today.

Clark/Johnston
CARRIED

6.9 Rangitāiki River Catchment General Update

Refer Map and Movie Clip Objective IDs A2570072, A2541179

Team Leader Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments Nancy Willems summarised operations and general matters of interest within the Rangitāiki Catchment. Community engagement and feedback was being sought on a draft discussion document to inform the development of the next Regional Pest Management Plan. Wallaby surveillance and eradication was planned. A feasibility report into an irrigation scheme was expected in April 2017, with floodway widening progressing.

A map and footage highlighted the successful inlet opening and water exchange at Okorero (Thornton lagoon). Further work was programmed to enhance the lagoon area. Installation of a cycleway past the lagoon was also being considered. Other activity noted was the development of Kani Rangī Park, lakeweed control and engagement of Sarah van der Boom, as a contractor to coordinate the development of a management plan for Lake Aniwanīwa.

Herbicide effects of diquat on water life at Lake Aniwanīwa, along with lowering lake levels during winter as an alternate to lakeweed control were queried, which was noted for follow up. The impact of on-farm nutrients on weed growth was raised, which would be considered as part of lake management planning.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River Catchment General Update.

Te Rire/Marr
CARRIED

6.10 Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna - status report

The Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna status report was provided by Team Leader Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments Nancy Willems. An overview was provided on the status of actions, quota management system, options for rāhui and temporary closure of the fisheries under the Fisheries Act and the opportunity for tangata whenua to participate into the Proposed 2017 Catch Limit Review for North and Chatham Island Tuna. A full response from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) would be available on request.

TrustPower representative Annabel Davies gave an update on TrustPower's artificial eel trials. Ms Davies noted that the trap and transfer of eels was still taking place and being facilitated by Southern Energy. Although the current contractor had pulled out, a replacement was being sought. Ms Davies advised that TrustPower was liaising with Hydro Electric Producers (HEPs) in the Waikato region to investigate options for eel management. An invitation was extended to Forum members to attend a field trip to Waikato sometime in April.

Members were informed that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare had made a moral decision to shelve their tuna allocation to enable Objective 1 of Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki to come to fruition, noting that commercial fishers still had access. It was noted that Ngāti Manawa and Ngāti Whare would be participating in the catch limit review.

A presentation from MPI was requested for the Forum's next meeting in June. Frustration was raised regarding the consent conditions for provision of tuna through the Matahina Dam. A report from the steering committee, Nova Energy and TrustPower was requested to clarify the interpretation and legality of the Matahina Dam consent conditions, including the trap and transfer process and preferred method over the physical structure.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna - status report.

Christie/Winters
CARRIED

7 General Business

7.1 Freshwater Implementation Fund Project

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2575366

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised the Forum that the Ministry for the Environment had opened its first funding round of a \$100 million Freshwater Improvement Fund aimed at projects that would improve quality and availability of

water bodies in vulnerable catchments. Mr Stokes noted the short timeframe to submit applications, which closed on 13 April. He informed that the Regional Council would be submitting a funding application for \$4 million to undertake a 7-wetland restoration project in the Rangitāiki Catchment. An overview was given of the proposed coverage, comprising restoration of 209 hectares of wetland over a five year period.

Attendance

Councillor Marr left the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Forum members were advised eligibility criteria would be rigorous and challenging and that other funding sources would be explored and utilised. Benefits of the proposal supported the objectives of Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki, including kaitiakitanga, Mātauranga Māori and raising rangatahi capacity.

Consensus was gained from the Forum in support of the proposal, which led to the Forum's decision to support the funding application by way of resolution under Minute Item 6.4, Freshwater Futures Update (refer page 4).

7.2 Update from Ngāti Whare

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare Chairman Daryl Christie informed that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare had undergone a review of its operations and advised there would be a change to their Forum membership. Effective as of 31 March, Earl Rewi would become the appointed member and Te Waiti Rangiwai would be appointed as the alternate.

On behalf of Ngāti Whare, Mr Rewi thanked and acknowledged Mr Christie for his direction and tenure on the Forum. The Forum Chair extended her thanks to Mr Christie also for his contribution and support on the Forum.

8 Closing remarks

Reverend Te Rire acknowledged the Chair and members and the hospitality of Ngāti Whare in hosting the meeting.

9 Closing karakia

The meeting closed with a karakia provided by Reverend Te Rire.

The meeting closed at 1:15 pm.