

Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Council Meeting Room One, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne on Thursday, 15 June 2017 commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:

Chairman: M Vercoe (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa)

Deputy Chairman: E Rewi (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare)

Appointees: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Councillors T Marr, K Winters, W Clark, D Love (Alternate), Reverend G Te Rire (Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa: M Araroa T O'Brien (Alternate), Councillor G Johnston (Whakatāne District Council), E Rewi (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare), I Kahukiwa Smith (Ngāti Hineuru), W Rangiwai (Alternate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare)

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Chairman D Leeder, S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), N Willems (Acting Eastern Catchments Manager), I Morton (Science & Strategy Manager), M Lee (Planner - Water Policy), K O'Brien (Kotahitanga – Strategic Engagement Manager), S Hohepa (Māori Policy Advisor), Y Tatton (Interim Governance Manager), A Vercoe (Senior Treaty Advisor), S Kameta (Committee Advisor), B Hughes (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa), B Kerrison (Kokopu Trust), A Davies (Trustpower), J Te Karapa (Tuhoe Alternate Observer)

Apologies: Councillors T Kingi, R Harvey (Alternate) (Taupo District Council)

1 **Opening Karakia**

Provided by Reverend Te Rire.

2 **Apologies**

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies of Councillor Tangonui Kingi and Councillor Rosie Harvey tendered at the meeting.**

**Vercoe/Marr
CARRIED**

3 **Withdrawal of Item**

The Chair advised that senior staff had recommended withdrawing Public Excluded item 8.1, "Rangitāiki River Scheme Review Verbal Update and Discussion" from the

agenda. Due to the independent nature and sensitivities around the review, it was recommended that the discussion take place after the meeting.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Agrees to withdraw Agenda item 8.1, “Rangitāiki River Scheme Review Verbal Update and Discussion” from the agenda.**

**Vercoe/Winters
CARRIED**

3.1 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 Previous Minutes

4.1 Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes - 21 March 2017

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa member Miro Araroa noted his apologies to Ngāti Whare for his absence at the last meeting.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting Minutes of 21 March 2017.**

**Winters/Rewi
CARRIED**

5 Reports

5.1 Chairperson's Report

The report updated the Forum on the Chairperson's activities and potential items of interest to the Forum. The Chair noted she would be speaking to the Forum's submission to Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Regional Policy Statement on Monday 19 June and invited members to attend.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Chairperson's Report.**

**Rewi/Johnston
CARRIED**

5.2 **Change in Membership and Appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson**

The report informed of recent membership changes for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare and Taupo District Council, and the need for the Forum to appoint a new Deputy Chairperson.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Change in Membership and Appointment of a new Deputy Chairperson;**
- 2 Notes Councillor Rosie Harvey has been appointed as the alternate member for Taupo District Council.**
- 3 Notes a change in membership for Te Runanga o Ngāti Whare and the appointment of Earl Rewi as the appointed member and Te Waiti Rangiwai as the alternate member, which took effect on 31 March 2017.**
- 4 Accepts the resignation of Daryl Christie as Deputy Chairman and member of the Rangitāiki River Forum and acknowledges with thanks his valuable contribution to the Forum.**
- 5 Selects System B as the voting system to appoint a new Deputy Chairperson.**

**Winters/Clark
CARRIED**

Appointment of a Deputy Chairperson

Councillor Clark nominated Earl Rewi to the Deputy Chairperson position. Councillor Marr seconded the nomination.

As no further nominations were made the Chair announced nominations closed and called for members to vote for or against the nomination.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 6 Appoints Earl Rewi as the Deputy Chairperson for the Rangitāiki River Forum.**

**Clark/Marr
CARRIED**

Mr Rewi thanked members for their confidence and looked forward to learning and working with Forum members.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 7 Receives the letter from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare (Appendix 1).**

**Clark/Marr
CARRIED**

5.3 **Reimbursement for Alternate Members**

The report sought the Forum's endorsement to reimburse those appointed as alternate members to the Rangitāiki River Forum.

The Chair noted the policy change was timely and would enable alternate members to attend meetings and be apprised of matters, while supporting succession planning. It was clarified that the funds for reimbursing appointed and alternate members was borne by the Regional Council.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Reimbursement for Alternate Members;**
- 2 Endorses the Chair's recommendation to reimburse members appointed as alternate members to the Rangitāiki River Forum on the same basis as appointed members, as per the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Elected Members' Allowances and Recovery of Expenses Policy.**
- 3 Endorses the Chair's recommendation that reimbursement for alternate members have immediate effect.**

**Araroa/Marr
CARRIED**

5.4 **Rangitāiki River Catchment Programme 2016 2017 Update**

Acting Eastern Catchments Manager Nancy Willems highlighted points from the report regarding activities in the catchment and key work for the Rangitāiki Catchment Programme Annual Work Programme for 2017/2018. Ms Willems advised programmed works had been significantly impacted by the April flood events and noted concerns about the spread of alligator weed, of which the overall impact was currently unknown.

In response to queries and concerns raised:

- Presence of giant black aphid in willow trees along the Rangitāiki River was evident after the April flood events. As the pest was a national issue, with little information available on how to control it, the issue had become a focus for national scientists who were undertaking investigations at various sites along the river to find long-term solutions.
- Staff undertook to investigate green algae issues observed at Thornton Lagoon culverts however, noted a radio announcement that morning had advised of the opening of the culverts.
- Staff acknowledged weed control issues at Lake Aniwaniwa, affecting recreational use, was an outstanding issue for residents. Staff undertook to explore alternative options for pest control, while proceeding with work that had been initiated with stakeholders and the community on a management plan for the lake. It was noted that biosecurity issues at the lake was not Regional Council's responsibility and that funding a solution needed to be worked through. Staff would provide an update on the matter at the next Forum meeting in August.

Members were advised the Rangitāiki River Catchment Programme Annual Work Plan 2017/18 would be brought to the next Forum meeting in August for endorsement. It was noted that Regional Council's Annual Plan to be adopted on 29 June would set funding for the annual work plan 2017/18, which the prior work of the Forum had fed into. Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised that prior to the next meeting, the Forum would need to workshop and feed into the 2018/19 Annual Plan process.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River Catchment Programme 2016 2017 Update.**

**Rewi/Araroa
CARRIED**

5.5 Freshwater Update

Science & Strategy Manager Ian Morton and Planner (Water Policy) Michelle Lee provided an update on regional and national activity regarding freshwater management developments since the last update to the Forum in March.

Additional information on matters reported was provided as follows:

1. The appointment of a hearing committee for the Region-wide Water Quantity Plan Change would be made by Regional Council's Regional Direction & Delivery Committee on 22 June 2017.
2. The Territory Freshwater Collaboration Advisory Group would be preparing a joint risk assessment for the Bay of Plenty, following the Stage 1 Findings of the Havelock North Water Inquiry, which would be reported to the Forum in due course.
3. The Government's Clean Water 2017 package proposed changes to the NPS for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) on swimmability and exclusion of stock. Minister Smith had requested information from Regional Council on the region's swimmability assessments by October. A report would be brought back to the Forum in due course for information. The Government had received a significant number of submissions (approx. 6,000 to date) on its proposal, with response and outcomes expected at the end of the year.
4. Members were encouraged to share the *Freshwater Flash* e-newsletter that was being circulated to the Forum. Copies of the *Freshwater Booklet May 2017* that gave an overview of how Regional Council manages and monitors the region's water quality and quantity, was made available for information.
5. NPSFM implementation for the Rangitāiki Water Management Area (Plan Change 12) had been extended by 12 months.
6. In terms of freshwater modelling and accounting for the NPSFM, Council had currently only focussed on low flows but were working to incorporate high flows to provide an overall picture.

Regarding the Rangitāiki Freshwater Futures Community Group, member Earl Rewi confirmed he would be replacing Daryl Christie on the group.

The Chair requested that staff arrange Tina Porou (Iwi Leaders Adviser) to brief the Forum at its next meeting in August on freshwater work occurring at the regional level. Chairman Leeder commented on Ms Porou exemplary work and her efforts in assisting LAWF to articulate the tikanga of Te Mana o Te Wai to feed into the NPSFM.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, “Freshwater Update”.**

**Johnston/Rewi
CARRIED**

5.6 Tikanga Maori : Rangitāiki River Forum

Kotahitanga - Strategic Engagement Manager Kataraina O’Brien presented the report with Māori Policy Advisor Sandy Hohepa and explained the importance of Tikanga Maori and how it works.

A member thanked staff for reminding them of the values of Tikanga Māori. Ms O’Brien advised that the practice of Tikanga Māori was used at Forum meetings. Staff were also open to arranging Forum meetings to be held on marae however, this was dependent on the availability of marae to host meetings.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Tikanga Maori : Rangitāiki River Forum;**
- 2 Promotes the appropriate use of Tikanga Maori when conducting business for or on behalf of the Rangitāiki River Forum.**

**Te Rire/Clark
CARRIED**

5.7 Weather Report for ex-Cyclone Debbie and Cyclone Cook

Lisa Bevan and Simon Stokes presented the report on the hydro-meteorological aspects of ex-Cyclone Debbie flood event and the following passing of Cyclone Cook across the Bay of Plenty in April 2017.

Comment was raised regarding devastation caused in the upper catchment. It was noted that considerations in relation to dam operations and flood management during the weather events would be covered as part of the Independent Rangitāiki River Scheme Review. The Chair questioned what influence the Forum could have regarding flood management on the river.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Weather Report for ex-Cyclone Debbie and Cyclone Cook.**

**Winters/Johnston
CARRIED**

5.8 Whakatāne District Recovery Project Update

Refer Supporting Document: Draft Whakatāne District Recovery Action Plan (June 2017) and PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2631167.

The report provided background on the Whakatāne District Recovery Project and an update on current activity, after widespread damage to the district from ex-Cyclone Debbie and ex-Cyclone Cook. Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes, who was seconded to the Recovery Project Office, gave a presentation on the primary goal of the recovery project to restore and enhance community wellbeing. Advice was provided on the current housing situation of flood affected areas, status of waste, services, roading, natural and rural environment. Mr Stokes noted a range of communications was taking place, which would continue for as long as needed.

Mr Stokes informed that the *Draft Whakatāne District Recovery Project Plan* was a living document with the purpose of providing direction for recovery and restoration and a starting point to work from. He noted the intent to incorporate the recovery plan into the Rangitāiki River catchment work programme.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report and presentation, Whakatāne District Recovery Project Update.**

**Winters/Rewi
CARRIED**

5.9 Marae and Iwi-Maori Support: Recent Flood Events

Kotahitanga – Strategic Engagement Manager Kataraina O'Brien and Māori Policy Advisor Sandy Hohepa presented the report that highlighted the importance and contribution of local Marae during ex-Cyclone Debbie and ex-Cyclone Cook rain events in April 2017.

Ms O'Brien advised of the crucial role Iwi-Māori had played in the emergency response and noted the concerns voiced by Iwi regarding the legislative barriers of Māori having no official role under the CDEM Act. Ms O'Brien noted a similar report would be provided to Regional Council's Komiti Māori meeting on 20 June, with presentations given by some of the Iwi agencies who had assisted in the response.

Members applauded staff, Rautahi Marae and other local marae who had provided welfare support to affected residents and highlighted an additional resource that could be used to strengthen the community's base and support. Support was noted for having a Māori coordinator within CDEM. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) Deputy Chair Councillor David Love acknowledged that CDEM would look at the lessons learnt, once the recovery process had finished.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Marae and Iwi-Maori Support: Recent Flood Events.**

**Marr/Rewi
CARRIED**

6 **Closing Karakia**

Provided by Reverend Te Rire.

The meeting closed at 12:08 pm.