

Minutes of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held at Kutarere Marae, State Highway 2, Kutarere on Monday, 13 March 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Appointees: Councillor A Iles (Whakatāne District Council), Councillor T Marr (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor L Riesterer (Ōpōtiki District Council), G Tuari-Kohunui (Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board), R Kora (Te Waimana Kaaku (Ngai Tuhoe), T Ransfield (Te Upokorehe), C Bluett (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)

In Attendance: M Manuel (Alternate, Te Upokorehe), Councillor N Tánčzos (Alternate, Whakatāne District Council), Councillor W Clark (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), T O'Brien (Deputy Chairman, Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa), Chairman Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), T Senior (Land Management Officer), M Houghton (Ōpōtiki District Council), M Jones (Department of Conservation), M Naude, A Kranenburg (Whakatāne District Council), J Rae, K Simpson (Safe Roads), B Pukepuke (Kutarere Marae), R Wikotu (Rongopapai), S Kameta (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: Nil

1 **Mihi Whakatau**

A mihi whakatau (welcome) took place at 9:30 am before the meeting.

2 **Opening Karakia**

An opening karakia was provided by kaumātua Bruce Pukepuke.

3 **Commencement of meeting**

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes declared the meeting opened at 10:15 am and welcomed members and attendees to the first Forum meeting of the Triennium. A round of introductions by members and staff present followed.

4 **First Meeting Matters**

4.1 **Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes informed the Forum of first meeting matters and called for the Forum to adopt a voting system for the election of a new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, First Meeting Matters.**
- 2 **Selects System B as the voting system to elect the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.**
- 3 **Agrees that in the event of a tie between the highest polling candidates, the names of the candidates receiving an equal number of votes be put into a container and the candidate drawn out, by an independent person (such as the Committee Advisor), is deemed to be elected.**

Iles/Kora
CARRIED

4.1.1 **Nominations for Chairperson**

Mr Stokes called for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

- 1) Trevor Ransfield nominated Councillor Tiipene Marr and Rachel Kora seconded the nomination.

As no further nominations were received, Mr Stokes announced nominations were closed. Councillor Marr made a brief speech in support of his nomination.

Mr Stokes asked for a show of hands from voting members for Councillor Marr's nomination, which received unanimous support.

Mr Stokes declared Councillor Tiipene Marr duly elected as the Forum's Chairman.

Councillor Marr assumed the Chair.

4.1.2 **Nominations for Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Marr called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

- 1) Councillor Lyn Riesterer nominated Trevor Ransfield and Councillor Andrew Iles seconded the nomination.
- 2) Trevor Ransfield nominated Councillor Lyn Riesterer and Gaylene Tuari-Kohunui seconded the nomination.

As no further nominations were received, Councillor Marr announced nominations were closed.

Mr Ransfield advised he wished to withdraw his nomination and spoke in support of Councillor Lyn Riesterer's nomination and the experience she would bring to the position. Members acknowledged Mr Ransfield's request and respectfully accepted his withdrawal.

Councillor Marr asked for a show of hands from voting members for Councillor Riesterer's nomination, which received unanimous support.

Councillor Marr declared Councillor Riesterer duly elected as the Deputy Chairperson.

4.1.3 Matters remaining

Mr Stokes provided a summary of remaining matters reported. Members were informed that the appointment of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa Deputy Chairman Mr Tuwhakairiora O'Brien, as an alternate member would be sought at a future meeting of the Board.

Members were encouraged to attend the Combined Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) workshop and field trip that were scheduled on 23 May and 23 November. The importance of getting together with OHSCG and understanding work being done at the operational level was raised.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 4 Elects Councillor Tiipene Marr as the Chairperson for the 2016-2019 Triennium.

Ransfield/Kora
CARRIED

- 5 Elects Councillor Lyn Riesterer as the Deputy Chairperson for the 2016-2019 Triennium.

Ransfield/Kohunui
CARRIED

- 6 Notes The Forum's Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

- 7 Notes the Standing Orders to be used for the conduct of its meetings, attached as Appendix 2, as adopted by the administering authority (Bay of Plenty Regional Council) on 15 November 2016.

- 8 Confirms its membership:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Councillor Tiipene Marr and Councillor Bill Clark (alternate)
- Ōpōtiki District Council; Councillor Lyn Riesterer and Councillor Ken Young (alternate)
- Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa; Charlie Bluett
- Te Upokorehe; Trevor Ransfield and Maui Manuel (alternate)
- Te Waimana Kaaku; Rachel Kora and Kero Te Pou (alternate)
- Whakatāne District Council; Councillor Andrew Iles and Councillor Nándor Tánczos (alternate)
- Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board; Gaylene Tuari-Kohunui

- 9 Confirms the following 2017 meeting and workshop dates:

- 23 May 2017 – Combined Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) Workshop

- **12 September 2017 – Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum hui**
- **23 November 2017 – Combined OHSCG Field Trip**

Iles/Riesterer
CARRIED

5 **General Business and Tabled Items**

The following item was raised for discussion under general business:

- 1) Toi Te Ora Public Health Warnings and Status of Water Quality at Waiōtahe

6 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

7 **Previous minutes**

7.1 **Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum minutes - 12 September 2016**

Matters Arising

Minute Item 4.4, Findings of Green Lipped Mussel sub-tidal sampling surveys in Ōhiwa Harbour 2016 (page 14 of the agenda) – An update on potential Regional Council funding of actions was requested. Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised that funding had been found within existing programme budgets and that future opportunities of funding would be investigated through the 2017/18 financial year. A further area of funding was reported later in the agenda, as part of item 8.3 'Restoration of Shellfish Populations and Seastar Management in Ōhiwa Harbour'.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the minutes of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum meeting held 12 September 2016.**

Iles/Marr
CARRIED

8 **Reports**

8.1 **Road safety improvements, Ohope to Opotiki**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2570779.

Safe Roads Project Team members Justin Rae and Kirsten Simpson were in attendance to present an update on road safety issues and potential safety upgrades associated with Wainui Road and State Highway 2 between Ōhope and Ōpōtiki.

Ms Simpson advised of key safety issues, community engagement and feedback being undertaken, investigation into a range of options to make the road safer and possible timelines for ongoing community engagement, design development and build.

Clarification was provided on cost and feasibility of options. Members asked the Safe Roads Team to consider seeking feedback from tourists via tourist operators, installing speed cameras and more double lines on corners, appropriate landscape options within the design build and for the Safe Roads team to work with the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group on wider aspects.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the presentation by the New Zealand Transport Agency Safe Roads Team.**

**Iles/Ransfield
CARRIED**

8.2 Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2570780.

The report was provided by Land Management Officer Tim Senior and updated the Forum on the progress of the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme 2016-2017 and sought endorsement of the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme 2017-2018.

Mr Senior highlighted key points from the report, including improved numbers in bitterns and fernbird surveyed, continuation of extensive pest control at a number of sites, notable reduction in vehicles on pipi beds following the installation of vehicle signage and redevelopment of Ōhope Wharf, scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Regarding mangrove removal, he advised that community involvement had been erratic and that alternative options were being explored. Investigations were also progressing to utilise Council's hovercraft.

Comment was raised on the challenges of prosecution under the vehicle bylaw. It was noted that the Regional Council and Whakatāne District Council had a combined pest control strategy in the Ōhope Reserves with the Department of Conservation, which was generously supported by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme.**
- 2 Endorse the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme 2017-2018.**

**Riesterer/Kora
CARRIED**

8.3 **Restoration of Shellfish Populations and Seastar Management in Ōhiwa Harbour**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2564461

The report provided an overview of phase two of the mussel management action plan (MMAP) and sought endorsement on a set of proposed actions for shellfish restoration and development of best practice seastar management in Ōhiwa Harbour.

In Dr Kura Paul-Burke's absence, Land Management Officer Tim Senior provided background on the 2016 findings, recommendations and consultation undertaken that had informed the proposed actions.

Comment was raised on the need for further science, which would take time and funding. An opportunity for a science marine research post-graduate study was raised for consideration. It was noted that Dr Paul-Burke was investigating establishing a science project with Auckland University and that the proposal submitted to the Ministry of Business of Innovation and Employment would provide an opportunity to collaborate on science monitoring. Members were informed that overseas and existing research had been compiled and documented and could be provided to members on request.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Restoration of Shellfish Populations and Seastar Management in Ōhiwa Harbour.**
- 2 Endorses the proposed actions, outlined in section 4 of the report.**

**Bluett/Marr
CARRIED**

8.4 **Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park Update**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2564307

Land Management Officer Tim Senior provided the report that updated the Forum on activity within Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park. Mr Senior highlighted the recent expansion to the park, improvements made to visitor facilities, ongoing re-vegetation work and future work planned within the park.

Comment was raised regarding a potential tenancy opportunity of one of the residential dwellings within the park, which was noted accordingly by staff.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park Update.**

**Riesterer/Kohunui
CARRIED**

8.5 Nga Haerenga Cycle Trails - Great Ride Extensions

Ōpōtiki District Council Community Facilities Manager Mike Houghton and Whakatāne District Council Manager Open Spaces Mike Naude presented the report that sought in-principle support for the proposal to extend the Mōtū Trails Cycle Trail from Ōpōtiki to the Whakatāne Airport, with part of the proposed route to pass through the Ōhiwa Harbour environment. Background was provided on the proposal, which had received preliminary support from the Ministry for Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) for funding as part of their New Zealand Cycle Trail's (NZCT) Extension and Enhancement project.

Members were informed that a second revised proposal was lodged with NZCT the previous week. It was explained that the proposed route would involve a 17 km (off road) trail west of Ōpōtiki to the Ōhiwa Loop Road boat ramp; crossing Ōhope Harbour by ferry to Port Ōhope Wharf; to link with the (yet to be constructed) Ōhope Harbourside Trail. Mr Houghton and Mr Naude acknowledged the proposal was ambitious, would have some challenges and require a number of resource consents. If the proposal was accepted to proceed to the next stage, a feasibility study would be carried out to assess its viability and funding from MBIE.

It was clarified that maintenance of the trail would rest with the relevant district council. A Governance group comprised of the district councils, Iwi and Mōtū Trails Charitable Trust would be responsible for marketing.

While disappointment was expressed that the maps describing the proposal were not available, in-principle support was shown for the proposal.

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Iles

Second: Councillor Riesterer

Supports in principle, the proposal to extend the Mōtū Trail journey to the Whakatāne Airport where it passes through the Ōhiwa Harbour environment.

A **SHOW OF HANDS** was requested and recorded as follows:

For the Motion	5
Against the Motion	2

The MOTION was **CARRIED**.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Nga Haerenga Cycle Trails - Great Ride Extensions.**
- 2 Supports in principle, the proposal to extend the Mōtū Trail journey to the Whakatāne Airport where it passes through the Ōhiwa Harbour environment.**

**Iles/Riesterer
CARRIED**

8.6 Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw 2017

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2564194

The report was presented by Senior Planner Shawn Baker and provided an update on the adoption of the Navigation Safety Bylaw.

Attendance

Councillor Iles exited the meeting at 12:42 pm.

Members were informed of the Bylaw's review process and its adoption by the Regional Council on 14 February to enable maritime regulations to be passed by Parliament and made operative on 1 July 2017. Mr Baker highlighted the key changes made to the Bylaw that affected Ōhiwa Harbour, as outlined in the report. It was noted that Maritime New Zealand were considering making potential changes for compulsory wearing of life jackets for water crafts under six metres, including jet skis. It was clarified that the Personal Water Craft designated area on the presentation map was for the jet ski zone located at Maraetōtara in Ōhope.

Attendance

Councillor Iles entered the meeting at 12:52 pm.

The visibility of maritime patrols within the harbour was raised. Mr Baker confirmed that a funding increase had been sought in the Regional Council's Annual Plan process for additional harbour patrols. He advised Ōhiwa Harbour was currently unpatrolled, although there were voluntary wardens that operated on Ōhiwa Harbour. It was noted that recommendations outside the scope of the Bylaw would be considered for future changes to the Bylaw rules, such as having reserved areas to accommodate new practices on the water.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw 2017.**

**Ransfield/Kora
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillor Iles exited the meeting at 1:01 pm.

9 General Business

9.1 **Toi Te Ora Public Health Warnings and status of water quality at Waiōtahe**

An update was requested on the status of water quality issues and Toi Te Ora Public Health warnings for paralytic shellfish poisoning at Waiōtahe pipi beds.

At the time of the meeting, two health warnings were in place for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) that originated from oceanic algal blooms and bacterial contamination, originating from the river. Monitoring of PSP was performed by the Ministry for Primary

Industries and bacterial contamination monitoring was undertaken by the Regional Council. Potential factors contributing to the water quality issues could be due to paddock run-off, wildlife and feral animals. DNA sampling and monitoring at different sites were raised as ways of identifying hot spots and source contaminants. It was noted that ongoing work was occurring with farmers on nutrient management, riparian fencing and planting of river margins and drains.

Comment was made that this was the first time Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa had not issued permits for taking of shellfish as a duty of care as kaitiaki, to make Iwi and hapū members aware of the health risks. An observation of discolouration at Waiōtahe Stream over a long term period was noted from the floor by local kaumatua.

9.2 **Local Government New Zealand Environmental Award presentation**

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised that at the last Forum meeting on 12 September 2016, members requested that the Local Government New Zealand's Air New Zealand Excellence Award for Environmental Impact (highly commended) Certificate of Award for recognition of environmental improvement in the Ōhiwa catchment, be shared with Forum partners.

Mr Stokes informed that copies of the Certificate of Award had been provided to all partners, except for Te Waimana Kaaku, which he now wished to present to member Rachel Kora. Members and Ms Kora acknowledged and thanked Mr Stokes for the presentation of the award.

10 **Closing karakia**

Provided by Bruce Pukepuke.

The meeting closed at 1:17 pm.