

Minutes of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in Council Chambers, Whakatāne District Council, Civic Centre, Commerce Street, Whakatāne on Tuesday, 12 September 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Cr T Marr (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

Deputy Chairman: Cr L Riesterer (Ōpōtiki District Council)

Appointees: T Ransfield (Te Upokorehe), C Bluett (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa), G Tuari-Kohunui (Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board), Cr N Tánczos (Alternate, Whakatāne District Council)

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Chairman D Leeder (in part), Cr W Clark (Alternate), S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), T Senior (Land Management Officer), J Noble (Senior Planner - Coastal), M Stensness (Committee Advisor); Whakatāne District Council: M Naude (General Manager Community Services); Department of Conservation: J King-Hazel (Operations Manager), C Savage (Senior Supervisor Community), V Temo (Iwi Implementation Ranger, Community); T Rother (Contractor); D Lewell, J Storey (Rotary Club of Whakatāne) S Kameta (Committee Advisor)

Apologies: M Manuel (Alternate, Te Upokorehe), Cr A Iles (Whakatāne District Council)

Absent: R Kora (Te Waimana Kaaku)

1 Opening Karakia and Mihi

Councillor Marr opened the meeting with a karakia and mihi that welcomed members and attendees and acknowledged the Ngāti Awa rohe and Whakatāne District Council for hosting the meeting at its venue. A mihi of response was given by member Charlie Bluett.

2 Apologies

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Maui Manuel and Cr Andrew Iles tendered at the meeting.

Marr/Bluett
CARRIED

3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

Nil.

4 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5 **Previous Minutes**

5.1 **Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Minutes - 13 March 2017**

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Confirms the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Minutes of 13 March 2017, as a true and correct record.**

Marr/Riesterer
CARRIED

6 **Reports**

6.1 **Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Annual Work Programme Results for 2016-17**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2697170.

Land Management Officer Tim Senior provided highlights of progress results from the 2016/17 Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Annual Work Programme.

An error was noted on page 23 of the agenda under section 1, paragraph 1 within the second sentence '2015-16' should read '2016-17'.

Members were informed that Consultant Alison Dewes had taken a dairy farmer group to visit a Ballance Award winning farm in the Western Bay of Plenty to look at farm practices. Mr Senior advised a further update on mangrove removal coverage and the potential to utilise Council's hovercraft would be reported to the next meeting.

Attendance

Cr N Tánčzos entered the meeting at 10:01 am.

Discussion and comment was raised on the following issues:

- 1) Black swan issue (Action 1.8) – it was considered that a realistic approach was needed, including opportunities for seasonal culling and that it should be driven by those who were directly affected, such as Iwi. Staff endeavoured to take some action, noting the previous request for action from the Forum.
- 2) Biodiversity and pest control (Action 3.11) - staff confirmed that wild cats were not an issue at the Ōhiwa Headland and spit.

- 3) Wainui Road safety improvements (Action 3.13) – comment was made that NZTA had developed a business case following community feedback, which included some good design options however, these would depend on attaining safety improvement funding approval in 2018. A member noted that the Safe Roads team would be coming back to consult on their findings in the near future and that it was beholden on members to impress the importance of the business case gaining approval.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Annual Work Programme Results for 2016-17.**

**Marr/Tuari-Kohunui
CARRIED**

6.2 Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Annual Work Programme 2017-2018 Update

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2697171.

Land Management Officer Tim Senior highlighted key achievements and progress against the 2017/18 annual work programme for the period between 1 July and 22 August 2017. Mr Senior advised all indicators were progressing well. He informed members BOPRC-Toi Moana had recently updated its policy on biodiversity and a map was shown delineating high value ecological sites.

Comment and clarification was noted on the following matters:

- 1) Action 1.9 - While Tauwhare Pā was a place of special significance, the vegetation on the pa site was excluded from the map as it did not meet the high value ecological criteria. Re-vegetation at the site was queried and would be addressed later on the agenda under the Department of Conservation update.
- 2) Action 3.1 - The impact of recreational use on biodiversity was highlighted as a matter for consideration in the Ōhiwa Harbour Recreational Strategy.
- 3) Action 3.5 – as per the Forum’s protocol, the use of Te Reo Māori on heritage trail interpretation signage would be brought back to the Forum (via OHSCG) for approval before installation.
- 4) Action 1.5 – the inter-relationship between new Regional Coastal Environment Plan provisions and existing mangrove consents in the harbour was queried, along with the potential to invest in technology to assist with mangrove seedling removal.

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes advised that the new coastal plan provisions would be clarified under agenda item 7.5. An assessment of financial costs and operational feasibility of utilising Council’s hovercraft for mangrove removal was planned in the near future. It was requested that a capital project review of the effectiveness, efficiency and financial investment of the hovercraft be undertaken, which staff noted for follow-up.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment Annual Work Programme 2017-2018 Update.**

**Marr/Ransfield
CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am and reconvened at 11:07am.

6.3 State of Ōhiwa Harbour and Catchment Interim Report 2017

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2696854.

Environmental Data Officer Lisa Bevan presented monitoring results and findings from the 2016/17 year. Ms Bevan reported biodiversity and water quality within Ōhiwa Harbour was in fair to good health and improvement in sediment and water quality in the Nukuhou River.

Further points highlighted:

- 1) Work carried out in the Nukuhou over the past 10 years had significantly assisted water quality improvement, however further work and improvement was still required, including around land stability.
- 2) Pest control had impacted positively on bittern populations and further work with Department of Conservation would be carried out to further encourage this.
- 3) BOPRC-Toi Moana wanted to explore with its Iwi partners, the potential to use Mātauranga Māori options for environmental monitoring in Ōhiwa harbour.

It was clarified that the five year report would be more comprehensive and that monitoring was ongoing with some indicators monitored monthly, annually or 5 yearly.

Resolved**That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, State of Ōhiwa Harbour and Catchment Interim Report 2017.**

**Riesterer/Ransfield
CARRIED**

6.4 2017 Re-survey of Selected Threatened, at Risk and Other Significant Native Plants in the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2692837.

In the absence of Mr Wayne O'Keefe, Land Management Officer Tim Senior presented Mr O'Keefe's survey findings and recommendations for future management of selected at risk and threatened native plant species, involving propagation and replanting. Mr Senior advised it was often difficult to know what impacted and/or assisted plants. Māori names of plants were included within reporting where known.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, 2017 Re-survey of Selected Threatened, at Risk and Other Significant Native Plants in the Ōhiwa Harbour Catchment.**

Marr/Tánczos
CARRIED

6.5 **Update on the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2696269.

Senior Planner – Coastal Jo Noble gave an update on the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan and an overview of implications for Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy and the Forum's work.

Key points outlined:

- 1) Ōhiwa Harbour was recognised as having high biodiversity values and outstanding natural character and landscape features.
- 2) Consents must avoid adverse effects and consider a suite of policies and rules for mangrove management. Existing resource consents would not be affected until applying for renewal of consent.

Ms Noble advised that the use of Council's hovercraft for mangrove management in biodiversity A areas (ie. Ōhiwa harbour) would require a change to the existing consent and needed to look carefully at the new rules and potential effects, such as disturbance of bird life.

- 3) The plan took legal effect on 12 April, with several appeal topics still under appeal with the Environment Court, including rules for regionally significant infrastructure within high natural heritage areas (such as Ōhiwa Harbour).

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Update on the Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan.**

Marr/Bluett
CARRIED

6.6 **Department of Conservation Annual Update 2016-17**

Operations Manager Jade King-Hazel, Senior Supervisor (Community) Clint Sullivan and Iwi Implementation Ranger (Community) Violet Temo provided the update on Department of Conservation's (DOC) operations within the Ōhiwa Harbour catchment. Background was provided on area of coverage and responsibilities for DOC's Whakatāne-Whirinaki-Ōpōtiki District. Ms King-Hazel advised that while DOC was not a key partner of the Forum, an important part of their role was to collaborate and support Iwi, community groups, businesses and various governance agencies, which also assisted them to deliver their work.

Key points and clarification outlined:

- 1) Tauwhare Pa – was listed as one of the top 50 iconic sites. Funding had been secured for phase 2 of the upgrade for installation of interpretation panels. An important part of this work was working with Iwi partners and members of OHIF and OHSCG, as one of the sites to be included on the Ngā Tapuwāe o Tairongo trail.

It was clarified that any revegetation at the pa site would need to be driven by Iwi via Heritage New Zealand and would have to align with the Heritage Act.

- 2) Whitebait compliance and monitoring – advice was provided on the potential for Iwi to seek the gazetting of a rohe moana over Ōhiwa harbour and its tributaries, which would have implications for various regulations; therefore it was suggested that if such a proposal was being explored that discussion be raised with DOC.

Comment was raised regarding whitebait population decline. It was clarified that data would be needed to backup any subsequent enforcement and that water quality had the greatest impact on whitebait.

- 3) Community – funding support had been provided to a number of community projects and initiatives that supported DOC's work, including the Nukuhou Saltmarsh Care Group, the Ōhiwa Headland Sanctuary Trust and the Whakatāne kiwi Trust.
- 4) Mahi Ohotata Whale Strandings – it was acknowledged that whale stranding practices of Iwi were culturally significant to tangata whenua and that scientific research and work being carried out to develop protocols nationally would be approved by Iwi.

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes expressed appreciation for DOC's support and looked forward to working with staff.

DOC's current status of involvement with the Forum was queried. Ms King-Hazel advised she was comfortable with the current arrangement of providing updates to the Forum and looked forward to continued collaboration and working together.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Department of Conservation Annual Update 2016-17.**

**Marr/Ransfield
CARRIED**

6.7 **Rotary Club of Whakatāne - Update on Proposed Ohope Harbour Side Trail**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2692834.

Don Lewell from the Rotary Club of Whakatāne provided an update on the Proposed Ōhope Harbour Side Trail. Mr Lewell outlined the objectives, revised design and timeframes for construction of the trail. He noted the proposed trail aligned with Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy objectives and that resource consent had been granted in October 2016 with mobility access and environmental effects and mitigation provided for.

Members were informed that trail signage would complement other signage around the harbour and that he would be working with OHSCG to ensure signage complied with the Forum's protocols. Mr Lewell hoped a staged approach for construction could commence in November 2017, subject to funding being obtained from community grants and assistance within set timeframes.

Mr Lewell responded to questions. He advised that community concerns had been considered within the design. Consultation with Iwi Forum partner representatives had been carried out and an archaeological assessment completed. As there were several points of entry onto the trail already, no additional parking areas were intended.

Some members expressed their reservation for endorsing the proposal, without having been part of previous consultation and confirming approval from their organisations. In view of these reservations, the Forum agreed to support the proposal in principle.

Mr Lewell advised he would be available to present the proposal to Forum partners where requested.

A request was raised that the archaeological assessment report that was undertaken be made available to Forum members.

Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 Receives the Update on the Ohope Harbour Side Trail and provides its support in principle for the proposal.**

**Riesterer/Ransfield
CARRIED**

7 Closing Karakia

Provided by Cr T Marr.

The meeting closed at 1.16 pm.