

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, 9 March 2018 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

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

Deputy Chairman: Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)

Appointees: Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes 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: Ministry for the Environment: S Lewis (Director Operations), Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Toi Moana: Councillor Thurston, Te Arawa Lakes Trust: R Meha-Rangitauira (Trustee), N Douglas (Manager - Environment), Rotorua Lakes Council: G Williams (Chief Executive) in part, C Dillon (Rotorua Lakes Council), Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Toi Moana: C Ingle (General Manager, Integrated Catchments), S Omundsen (General Manager, Catchment Management), H Creagh (Rotorua Catchments Manager), R Burton (Freshwater Team Leader), R Keber (Marketing and Communications Advisor), T White (Incentives Programme Director), A Grayling (Rotorua Catchments Principal Advisor), G Corbett (Biosecurity Manager), S Grayling (Biosecurity Team Leader), Y Tatton (Governance Manager); D Atkinson (Lakes Water Quality Society),

Apologies: Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

1 Karakia

Te Taru White opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 Apologies

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Accepts the apologies tendered by Chairman D Leeder.

Winters/Chadwick
CARRIED

3 General Business

The timing of meetings was agreed to be discussed under General Business.

4 Declaration of conflicts of interest

Nil.

5 Previous Minutes

5.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group minutes - 8 December 2017

Matter Arising

In relation to Item 3 General Business, staff advised that invitations to Government Ministers to meet with the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group had not yet been actioned. Members requested the General Manager, Integrated Catchments extend the invitation as soon as possible to Ministers Sage, Parker and Mahuta.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Confirms the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group minutes - 8 December 2017.

Winters/Chadwick
CARRIED

6 Reports

6.1 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update for Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group 9 March 2018

Refer Tabled Document 1.

Ms N Douglas, Environment Manager, Te Arawa Lakes Trust provided members with a status update and summarised the progress of key projects and activities outlined in the report.

In response to questions pertaining to the Te Arawa Lakes Bylaw that was out for consultation, the Ministry for Primary Industries was responsible for the Bylaw's regulatory monitoring and compliance.

It was noted that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) had been overwhelmed by the scale and challenges of freshwater quality across New Zealand. Consideration was being given to the current fragmentation of funding across agencies and MfE was looking to pilot intervention programmes which if successful could be rolled out across New Zealand.

Mayor Chadwick tabled Options for New Zealand to adapt to Climate Change – Targeted Engagement – February to March 2018 (Refer Tabled Document 1), recent work from the Local Government New Zealand Climate Change Adaption Technical Working Group.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

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

**Hunt/Winters
CARRIED**

- 2 Invite the Ministry for Primary Industries to take a more active role in the monitoring and protection of taonga species in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes.**

- 3 Be provided with an MfE update report as a standing item on the agenda.**

**Chadwick/Winters
CARRIED**

6.2 Update Report from Rotorua Lakes Council

Mr G Williams, Rotorua Lakes Council Chief Executive introduced the item which was taken as read.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

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

**Hunt/Chadwick
CARRIED**

6.3 Update on Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme Activities

Mr T White, Incentives Programme Director reported that the Lake Rotorua Incentives Board had secured ten contracts resulting in 10.7 tonnes of nitrogen at the lake purchased to date. Four additional negotiations were currently underway, one of which could result in an additional 8.5 tonnes reduction to the lake alone. It was noted that agreements in the pastoral sector were proving challenging due to the uncertainty with the Plan Change 10 appeals process.

In response to questions it was noted that land use changes were occurring with landowners seeking optimal utilisation of different land uses.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

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

**Chadwick/Hunt
CARRIED**

6.4 Consultation on the proposed Long Term Plan 2018 – 2018

Refer PowerPoint presentation Objective ID: A2822558

Ms S Omundsen, General Manager, Catchment Management presented an overview of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) that was currently out for consultation and invited member organisations and members of the public to make submissions on all aspects of the LTP.

It was noted that Rotorua Lakes Council would be submitting on the establishment of a Freshwater Centre of Excellence.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Consultation on the proposed Long Term Plan 2018 – 2018.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

6.5 Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund

Refer PowerPoint presentation Objective ID: A2824511

Ms A Grayling, Rotorua Catchments Principal Advisor presented projects completed to date, which included dNITRO modelling tool for land use change return on investment, Rotorua Land Use Directory, and Good Management Practice video. Ms Grayling proposed next steps for the fund which included filling gaps in the existing directory, extension of the information available throughout the catchment and seeking interest from landowners wanting to undertake trials of low nitrogen land uses.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund Report 2017/2018;**
- 2 Approves the broad approach proposed to the LNLUF in 2018 which includes;**
 - a. Completion of further research on identified gaps;**
 - b. Extension of information and education on all Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund tools and land uses;**
 - c. Request Expressions of Interest from land owners wanting to trial one of the land uses contained within the Land Use Directory.**

**Chadwick/Winters
CARRIED**

6.6 **Brown Bullhead Catfish- Incursion Update**

Refer PowerPoint presentation Objective ID: A2825714

Mr S Grayling, Biosecurity Team Leader presented an overview and history of Brown Bullhead Catfish incursion into the freshwater lakes from the time of the initial discovery in 2016 and highlighted operational work undertaken to date.

Members expressed concern at the proliferation and spread of catfish in Lake Rotoiti lately and the potential for them to migrate to other lakes.

In response to questions Mr Grayling acknowledged the responsibility lay with BOPRC to manage the incursion while requiring the collaborative involvement of key stakeholders and reiterated it was a matter of priority on the biosecurity programme. While he believed funding was adequate, the challenge was in prioritising control versus research and innovation.

Members shared their concern of the significant impact catfish were having on the lake and requested increased public communication and education on the seriousness of the situation.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Brown Bullhead Catfish – Incursion Update.**

**Winters/Chadwick
CARRIED**

6.7 **Current State and Management of Rotorua Urban Streams**

Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2824509, Tabled Document 2: Your Lifestyle Block and Lake Rotorua; and Tabled Document 3: Working Together to Protect Lake Rotorua.

Ms H Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager first responded to questions from earlier in the meeting regarding gorse management in the road reserve, noting the work staff were currently doing with NZTA negotiating an MOU relating to the Regional Pest Management Plan. She also circulated a brochure on Plan Change 10 and Lifestyle Block Guide recently circulated and offered to rural landowners in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

Ms Creagh, provided information on the state and management of a number of streams in the Rotorua urban area following concerns raised by iwi at the October 2017 Komiti \ Māori meeting. In response to the concerns raised regarding sediment build up, health warnings related to swimming, loss of kai and weed management (terrestrial).

In response to a query regarding the “Let’s Clean Rotorua” initiative direction was provided to apply to the MfE Waste Minimisation Fund to support the project.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Current State and Management of Rotorua Urban Streams;**
- 2 Notes that staff will continue to work with locally led initiatives to improve the health of urban streams in Rotorua.**

**Hunt/Winters
CARRIED**

6.8 Programme Status Update and Six Month Report (2017 – 2018)

Refer PowerPoint presentation Objective ID: A2824509

Ms H Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager and Ms A Grayling, Rotorua Catchments Principal Advisor provided a status update of activities since the last meeting and the Six Month Report for the Programme, to December 2017.

Members requested monitoring of the impact on Waitangi Stream when the outlet pipe was flowing at full capacity be carried out.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Programme Status Update and Six Month Report (2017 – 2018).**
- 2 Approves the Six Month Report (2017-2018) for submission to the Minister for the Environment, in accordance with the Deed of Funding for the Programme.**

**Winters/Hunt
CARRIED**

7 General Business

A request to change the start time of Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group meetings from 10:30 am to 9:30 am was supported.

Mr D Atkinson, Lakes Water Quality Society was invited to comment on the matter of catfish incursion and highlighted the devastating escalation of growth. He requested maximum resourcing to control the increase in catfish and considered the current funding for control intervention inadequate.

Councillor Thurston, Bay of Plenty Regional Council representative for the Rotorua Constituency, was invited to address the meeting and reiterated the members concerns and urgency for appropriate action to be taken to control the prolific spread of catfish in the lakes.

Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 In relation to Item 6.6 Brown Bullhead Catfish - incursion update, request a report from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chief Executive be presented to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group as a matter of urgency, identifying a comprehensive response of actions to date and advice on appropriate intervention measures and associated allocation of resources for the control of brown bullhead catfish.**

**Chadwick/Winters
CARRIED**

8 Karakia

Sir Toby Curtis closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.