**Minutes of the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group meeting held at the Cruise Deck, Club Mount Maunganui, 45 Kawaka Street, Mount Maunganui, on Friday, 16 August 2019 commencing at 9.30am**

**Present:**

**Chairperson:** Cr Norm Bruning - Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**Members:** Cr Mark Dean - Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Cr Peter Mackay - Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Cr Kelvin Clout - Tauranga City Council

Cr Catherine Stewart - Tauranga City Council

Kahurangi Tapsell - Ngāti Pūkenga

Cr Matemoana McDonald - Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**Observer:** Jeff Milham - Department of Conservation

**In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC)**:

Chairman Doug Leeder; Councillor Jane Nees; Sarah Omundsen - General Manager Regulatory Services; James Low - Team Leader Policy (Freshwater); Clarke Koopu - Senior Advisor (Treaty); Hamish Dean - Team Leader Western Catchments; Heidi Fraser - Programme Co-ordinator Integrated; Josie Crawshaw - Environmental Scientist; Pim De Monchy - Coastal Catchments Manager; Ruth Feist - Team Leader Urban; Santiago Bermeo - Senior Planner; Terry Long - Senior Regulatory Project Officer and Merinda Pansegrouw - Committee Advisor

**Tauranga City Council (TCC)**:

Radleigh Cairns - Consents Officer, Growth & Infrastructure

**Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC)**:

Peter Watson - Reserves and Facilities Manager; Chris Nepia - Māori Relationships & Engagement Advisor; Matthew Leighton - Senior Policy Analyst

**Other**

Riki Nelson - Lead Track Ambassador, Department of Conservation; Matthew McDougall – Senior Fish & Game Officer, Fish and Game NZ Eastern Region; Trisha Simonson - Senior Engineering Geologist, Ormiston Associates Ltd; Frances Teinakore-Curtis - PhD student and trustee of Tapuaekura Rakeiao Marae

**Apologies:** Deputy Chairperson Charlie Tawhiao - Ngāi Te Rangi; Cr Paula Thompson - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Cr A von Dadelszen - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Te Pio Kawe - Ngāti Ranginui, Pia Bennett - Ngāi Te Rangi and Rehua Smallman - Ngāti Pūkenga

# Opening Karakia

Chris Nepia opened the meeting with a karakia.

Members acknowledged the resignation received from Tauranga Moana Advisory Group Ngāti Ranginui representative Riki Nelson.

# Apologies

Resolved

That the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group:

**Accepts the apologies tendered by Charlie Tawhiao, Cr Paula Thompson, Cr A von Dadelszen, Pia Bennett, Te Pio Kawe, Rehua Smallman and Cr Catherine Stewart for lateness.**

**Bruning/Mackay**

**CARRIED**

# Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Nil

# Previous Minutes

## Tauranga Moana Advisory Group Minutes – 19 May 2019

Resolved

That the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group:

1. Confirms the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group Meeting Minutes of 19 May 2019, as a true and correct record.

**Dean/Clout**

**CARRIED**

# Change to Order of Business

With the agreement of members, the order of business was changed to allow for external presenters to be released from the meeting. Items 8.3 “Swan Control” and 8.4 “Tauranga Moana marae OSET Project” were considered after item 6, “Department of Conservation Update”.

# Update from Partners

## Ngāi Te Rangi

Nil

## Ngāti Ranginui

Nil

## Ngāti Pūkenga

Ngāti Pūkenga Representative Kahurangi Tapsell provided the following verbal update:

Key Points

* Current focus was the development of Te Tāwharau o Ngāti Pūkenga’s 30 year vision and related strategic plans. A working group and funding for activities have been allocated to pursue this
* Te Whetu O Te Rangi Wharekaiwas near completion: the formal opening ceremony had been scheduled for 20 September 2019.

## Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Western Bay of Plenty District Council Councillors Peter Mackay and Mark Dean and Reserves and Facilities Manager Peter Watson provided a verbal update highlighting the following:

Key Points

* Katikati Wastewater Treatment Plant – Alternative Options Update
  + Consent conditions had required Council to look at alternative options for the long-term discharge of the treated wastewater from the Katikati Wastewater Treatment Plant
  + A working group had been formed that included tangata whenua, councillors and community board representatives
  + Potential sites have been narrowed down for the beneficial reuse option and these sites were currently undergoing in-depth engineering assessment by technical consultants
  + The engineering team was looking at developing concept designs for the different disposal methods: Notwithstanding a blanket ban on the use of treated wastewater by the kiwi-industry, the working group had recommended that a trial be run on small blocks of kiwi plantations adjacent to the Katikati Wastewater Treatment Plant; in time to come treated wastewater needed to be seen as a useful resource.

09.38 am – Cr Catherine Stewart entered the meeting.

* Kauri Point Slip Repairs
  + Final design and tender documentation was under way with a target contract advertising date in October
* Omokoroa to Tauranga Cycleway
  + The public has given the Plummers Point Connection cycleway big thumbs up following the official opening on 20 July. More than 200 people participated in the official opening of the cycleway
  + Wairoa Bridge - design and consultation was almost complete. Site works were expected to commence soon and would be timed to finish in time for the Wairoa Bridge opening
* Environment strategy
  + The Community Matching Fund available to Western Bay Community Groups allowed $40,000 for environmental projects. For the 2019/2020 the following had been allocated:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Friends of the Blade (Whakamarama Community) for extending their pest free area | $7,000.00 |
| Kotukutuku Gully – for weed control and increase of biodiversity | $6,200.00 |
| New Zealand Landcare Trust – for water monitoring | $3,000.00 |
| Pahoia Primary School – for a sensory garden for children with disabilities | $3,000.00 |
| Rotoehu Ecological Trust – for refurbishing the bait station | $12,000.00 |
| Western Bay Museum – for an environmental education programme. | $8,500.00 |

Point Raised by Members

* Congratulated Western Bay of Plenty District Council on progress made with the Omokoroa to Tauranga Cycleway.

## Tauranga City Council

Cr Kelvin Clout highlighted TCC key work streams as follows:

Key Points

* Acknowledged a sewage spill at the Southern Pipeline in Matapihi on 14 August 2019. The cause of the leak had been an air release valve that failed near the odour green dome. The sewage leak near Matapihi School was reported about 8pm and Council contractors were onsite throughout the night to ensure the leak was contained. Repairs were completed at 9.30am the following day and the pipeline was fully functional again using another air valve
* Te Maunga Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
  + The Te Maunga outfall pipeline was the only asset required to carry 100% of the city’s treated wastewater; this critical asset was in poor structural condition and needed replacing. Council’s intention was to initiate the early phases of a review into a replacement ocean outfall pipeline and the associated requirement for a new consenting process
* Te Maunga thickening and dewatering plant
  + Was a significant project commissioned in April 2019 which replaced the previous placement of sludge into Pond 1. No further waste activated sludge has been placed in Pond 1 since the dewatering plant had been commissioned
  + Upgrading has commenced on the final effluent pipeline from the Te Maunga WWTP to the ponds and outfall pump station and would be completed August 2020
* Stream and estuary clean ups by schools were progressing well – 350 students have assisted to clear up to 900kg of rubbish from stormwater reserves and estuaries
* Several stormwater projects, based on the 2017 Five-yearly Stormwater Monitoring Report, were ongoing.

Point Raised by Members

* Conveyed the frustration and disappointment of the Matapihi community following the recent sewage spill of the Southern Pipeline directly across from Te Kura O Matapihi. Reminded that the community’s request not to run the pipeline in close vicinity of Te Kura O Matapihi had been disregarded. Pointed out that there was an ongoing odour around the school, constantly exposing students. Suggested that Council representatives visit the community as a priority.

Item for TCC staff follow-up

* To further investigate the ongoing odour around Te Kura O Matapihi caused by the Southern Pipeline release valve.

## Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Cr Norm Bruning outlined BOPRC priorities as follows:

Key Points

* The Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) - report back to the court was scheduled for 23 August; formal mediation would commence shortly thereafter
* The Regional Coastal Environment Plan was with the Minister of Conservation for approval; in parallel to this process Council was still working through two outstanding appeals
* A Kopurererua catchment action plan was being drafted with Ngāi Tamarawaho hapū. In collaboration with TCC, WBOPDC and BOPRC sampling was being undertaken at 12 sites within the catchment and the results were being analysed
* A Harbour Margin Project and Environmental Programme at Kauri Point was progressing, with fencing complete and planting to be undertaken shortly. The site was significant with a PĀ site and complex wetlands. Works were being carried out in consultation with hapū
* Regional Council was in the process of replacing the light house on Motiti Island in partnership with hapū. The same would take place at Tūhua
* The Minister of Conservation and Associate Minister for the Environment Eugenie Sage visited Tauranga on 12 August 2019 looking into matters relating to the Kaimai Mamaku catchment. She undertook to further investigate an unsuccessful funding request to the Department of Conservation for joint funding to extend pest management in the Kaimai Mamaku area.

Point Raised by Members

* Expressed appreciation for the valuable contribution made by the Chair in Coastal Science, Prof Chris Battershill. Suggested that the appointment of a similar role to pursue the interest of the Kaimai Mamaku catchment be considered
* Mentioned that the City of London has recently been declared the world's first National Park City, in recognition of its green spaces, rivers, biodiversity, natural habitats, and the myriad benefits they provided the capital. Noted that Envirohub Tauranga was currently investigating this as an option for Tauranga.

# Conservation Update

## Department of Conservation

Department of Conservation District Manager Jeff Milham provided a verbal update, outlining the following:

Key Points

* Following the recent visit by the Minister of Conservation and Associate Minister for the Environment, Eugenie Sage a debriefing session had been scheduled in Taupō
* Points to be further pursued with the Minister were: (1) investigating central funding options such as the international visitors levy and the Budget 2020 process; (2) follow-up conversations regarding the recent unsuccessful funding application by the Kaimai Mamaku Catchment Forum and (3) investigating potential rangatahi development proposals with Min Jackson
* Proactive future planning by the Kaimai Mamaku Ranges Forests Forum
* Progress made with the Department of Conservation’s Community Fund - Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori, supporting community-led conservation projects on public and private land – successful applicants to be announced during September 2019.

Progress - Kauri Dieback

*Refer Video Clip Objective ID A3335968*

Lead Track Ambassador, Department of Conservation Riki Nelson provided an overview of the Department of Conservation (DOC) Kauri Track Ambassadors Programme highlighting the following:

Key Points of Presentation

* DOC was responsible for protecting Kauri on the land it managed; supported a multi-agency response to protect Kauri
* Kauri Dieback was a disease caused by a microscopic fungus-like organism. It lived in soil and infected kauri roots. It damaged the tissues that carried nutrients and water within the tree, starving the tree to death
* Kauri Dieback was spread through soil movements
* Kauri were an ancient species, alive when dinosaurs roamed the earth. They were among the longest-living tree species, reaching ages of more than 2000 years, as well as being the largest trees in the world
* To Māori, Kauri were kings of the forest and a taonga (treasure) that connected them and their spiritual world
* Kauri deserved every effort of protection to ensure they survived for generations to come
* Required the support of all our communities to win the fight against Kauri Dieback disease
* What to do to help: Clean footwear and equipment; stay on tracks and keep away from tree roots.

# Presentations

## Swan Control

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3238831*

Senior Fish & Game Officer, Fish and Game NZ Eastern Region Matthew McDougall provided an overview on the status of swan control in the Tauranga Harbour area:

Key Points of the Presentation

* The three main complaints relating to swans were:
* Eating all the seagrass (Zostera sp.)
* Pooping everywhere and contaminating the harbour
* Responsible for the eutrophication of the lakes and rivers
* Status of the black swan
* Black swan population dynamics
* Legal status
* Listed as a game bird under the Wildlife Act (Schedule 1 Wildlife Act 1953)
* May be hunted with Minister of Conservation’s Authorisation
* Status of Fish and Game NZ (F&G):
* F&G was set up under the Conservation Act, reported to Parliament, funded solely from licence sales
* Managed sports fish and game birds and made game bird harvest recommendations to the Minister of Conservation
* Impact of swan on Zostera
* Council’s responsibilities
* F&G response
* F&G was trying to reduce the swan population through very relaxed hunting regulations (no limit and 4-month season) and a special swan season in February
* Collaborative answer
* Needed to make informed decisions based on sound science
* F&G have had discussions with Waikato University (Professors Chris Battershill and Ian Hawes) and Biosecurity Manager Greg Corbett
* Prepared to work collaboratively to identify solutions where genuine issues were identified.

10:50 am The meeting **adjourned**.

11:07 am The meeting **reconvened**.

## Tauranga Moana marae OSET Project

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3335966*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Senior Regulatory Project Officer Terry Long, assisted by Trisha Simonson, Senior Engineering Geologist - Ormiston Associates Ltd and Frances Teinakore-Curtis, an adult student completing her PhD and also a trustee of the Tapuaekura Rakeiao Marae jointly presented the following:

Key Points of the Presentation

* Background/Statutory Framework
* Pilot Project Brief
* Engagement process followed / site visits conducted
* Findings in terms of occupancy, existing systems, environmental constraints and cultural considerations
* Risk Assessments
* Issues Identified
* Existing systems: septic tanks and soak holes. No effluent filters
* Maintenance: only performed in response to failure/blockage
* Small legal lots: expanding or replacing OSET difficult
* Cultural: tapu ground/other beliefs/tino rangatiratanga
* Funding: issue of significant concern
* Lack of available area: limits development aspirations
* Large events: possible public health risks
* OSET not a top priority: more significant problems, lack of funds/deprivation in some cases
* For two marae gaining consent may be a difficult process
* Challenges Identified
* Contacting people
* Advantage / Disadvantage of not being directly BOPRC
* Marae Trustees were volunteers
* Trustees sought assistance with other issues e.g. feasibility study to develop papakainga
* It was noted that occasionally issues with tikanga may possibly derail a project
* Tino rangitiratanga
* Summary – Pilot Project Findings
* Next Steps
* Wider Project Pathways:
* Assist Marae Trustees
* Region-wide
* Voluntary participation

Item for Staff Follow-up

* As a next step, the contents of the presentation “Tauranga Moana marae OSET Project” to be shared with elected members from affected territorial authorities across the Bay of Plenty Region.

# Reports

## Tauranga Moana Programme Update

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Team Leader Western Catchments Hamish Dean and Programme Co-ordinator – Integrated, Heidi Fraser presented the Tauranga Moana Programme Update Report.

Resolved

That the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group:

1. Receives the report “Tauranga Moana Programme Update” containing the Tauranga Moana Programme Dashboard dated August 2019.

Bruning/Mackay

CARRIED

## Strategic Context: Freshwater Futures update

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3334851*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Team Leader Policy (Freshwater) James Low presented the report supported by a PowerPoint Presentation and responded to questions:

Key Points of Presentation

* A lot was happening in the water space at central government level: The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment were currently calling for submissions on the proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) for Highly Productive Land
* BOPRC would any day soon have a first glimpse of a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM), and there would be changes to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPSUDC) and for Biodiversity too
* Furthermore, BOPRC needed to implement the NPS across all plans. All of this would affected Council’s policy program and there were big overlaps with freshwater
* The new NPSFM would be released for discussion towards then of August, early September. It would be accompanied by new National Environmental Standards (NES)
* Expected that the new NES would require good practice and would introduce a concept of priority catchments which needed to be addressed first
* Highlighted the challenges and the need for sound policies.

Resolved

That the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group:

1. **Receives the report, Freshwater Futures Update dated 6 August 2019.**

Tapsell/Stewart

CARRIED

# Presentations (continued)

## National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management – Te Mana o Te Wai

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3331474*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Senior Planner Santiago Bermeo provided an update as follows:

Key Points of the Presentation

* Work currently underway
* Review of stormwater discharge consent monitoring data
* Advice on integrated catchment models
* Groundwater model
* Next steps:
* Central government *Essential Freshwater* proposals and response
* Wai Māori Kaupapa: mana whenua values, Mātauranga Māori
* Harbour requirements
* Freshwater Management Units
* Stakeholder and community values
* Decisions on catchment modelling.

## State of the Environment Report

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3330999*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Scientist Josie Crawshaw and Senior Advisor (Treaty) Clarke Koopu presented an overview of the State of the Environment Report:

Key Points of the Presentation

* Acknowledged tangata whenua kaitiaki who had contributed to the SOE Report
* Tribute was also paid to Elva Conroy who had assisted kaitiaki in the development process
* Highlighted the Māori perspective – including Tangata Whenua values and Mātauranga Māori
* Key conclusions of the report were divided onto the environmental domains of air, land, freshwater and coast
* Highlighted that none of these domains could be viewed in isolation; what happened on land affected freshwater and air
* While some aspects of our environment appeared to be in a good state, other showed signs of degradation – mostly as a result of human activity
* Next steps would be to bring the SOE Report to life through stories, snapshot cards, videos, live data and development of indicators that would weave together Mātauranga Māori and western science.

Members Comment:

* Commended the report and congratulated staff for working with tangata whenua.

Item for Staff Follow-up

* For future reports challenged staff to provide for tangata whenua to participate effectively in this space by ensuring there was a procedure whereby tangata whenua could interface with the process: ultimately the owner of the intellectual property should be provided for by creating a place of trust – this would encourage the successful interfacing of Mātauranga Māori and western science.

## Focus Catchments

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A3319461*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Coastal Catchments Manager Pim de Monchy by means of a PowerPoint Presentation, provided an overview summarising a new “Focus Catchments” approach for the work undertaken by Land Management staff on water quality:

Key Points of the Presentation

* Focus Catchments
* A new approach to engagement and incentives, targeting 11 small at-risk catchments where water quality and in-stream ecology could be monitored and managed ahead of NPS-FM Plan Changes
* Why Change?
* MfE Essential Freshwater alignment
* LTP 2018-28 Swimmability KPI
* Focus on outcomes
* Links policy, science and land management
* Links to industry, eg Fonterra 50CP
* What was not changing?
* Biodiversity programme
* Care group support
* Coast Care / Estuary Care
* Land management advisory services
* Selection Process
* Initial assessment criteria drafted up in relation to:
* Water quality state
* Catchment Receiving Environment Habitat and Health
* Community/Stakeholders
* Financial/Resourcing
* Planning/Compliance
* Workshops held with land management teams to examine Regional sub-catchments against assessment criteria
* Provisional Sub-catchments agreed by Land Management.
* Review of criteria and provisional list by: Science, Policy/Planning, Rivers and Drainage, Engineering, and Compliance.
* The following 11 Focus Catchment across the Region have been selected: Uretara, Te Mania, Kopurererua, Waitao, Kopuaroa, Ford Road/Waitepuia, Waihī Estuary Catchments, Awakaponga Stream, Upper Rangitāiki/Otametea, Ōhiwa Harbour Catchments and Waiōtahe.

# Reports (continued)

## 2019 Local Government Elections Update

Resolved

That the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group:

1. **Receives the report, 2019 Local Government Elections Update.**

Bruning/Clout

CARRIED

## Tauranga Moana Wai Māori Strategy Update

Nil

# Consideration of General Business

Nil

# Next Meeting

* Noted that the next meeting of the Tauranga Moana Advisory Group would be held early 2020
* Expressed appreciation to all members for their valuable input – especially Councillors Peter Mackay and Catherine Stewart who would be retiring at the end of the triennium
* Wished all well for the 2019 Local Government Elections.

# Closing Karakia

Cr Matemoana McDonald closed the meeting with a karakia.

# The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.

4 October 2019

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Councillor N Bruning, Chairperson Date

Tauranga Moana Advisory Group

4 October 2019

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Fiona McTavish – Chief Executive Date

Bay of Plenty Regional Council