

# Minutes of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Meeting held in Committee Room 1, Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Administration Building, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua on Friday, 15 June 2018 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

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## Present:

**Deputy Chairman:** Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)

**Appointees:** Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional 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, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships), Te Arawa Lakes Trust: K Vercoe (Chief Executive), N Douglas (Manager - Environment), Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Toi Moana: Councillor Bruning, C Ingle (General Manager, Integrated Catchments), H Creagh (Rotorua Catchments Manager), A Grayling (Rotorua Catchments Principal Advisor), S Grayling (Biosecurity Team Leader), R Cross (Land Management Team Leader), L Mason (Integrated Catchments Programme Manager), Y Tatton (Governance Manager), T White (Incentives Negotiator), J Pani (Incentives Board Support, Rotorua Catchments); Rotorua Lakes Council: G Williams (Chief Executive) in part, JP Gaston ((Group Manager Strategy and Partnerships) in part, S Michael (Infrastructure Manager) in part, G Rangi (,C Sutton (Rotorua Lakes Rural Board), P Thomas (Chair Rotorua Lakes Community Board)

**Apologies:** Sir T Curtis (Chairman Te Arawa Lakes Trust)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mayor Chadwick assumed the chair.

## 1 **Karakia**

Councillor Marr opened the meeting with a karakia.

## 2 **Apologies**

### **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Accepts the apology from Sir Toby Curtis tendered at the meeting.**

**Chadwick/Hunt  
CARRIED**

### 3 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Members were advised Item 8.1 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report and an additional item, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy, were distributed under separate cover.

The reason why the Late Item, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy was not on the agenda was that it had just come to hand. The reason why it could not be delayed was to provide an update to members while the matter was current and no decision was required.

#### **Resolved**

**That pursuant to section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be considered at this meeting:**

- 1) **Late Item, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy**

**Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED**

### **Change to the Order of Business**

It was proposed Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy be dealt with after item 8.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report.

### 4 **General Business**

Nil

### 5 **Confidential Business to be Transferred Into Open**

Nil

### 6 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

### 7 **Previous Minutes**

#### 7.1 **Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 09 March 2018**

#### **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 **Confirms the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 09 March 2018 as a true and correct record.**

**Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED**

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report

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

#### Key Points:

- Reference to the correct spelling of Thomas Malcolm (Puna Consultants) in the report was noted
- A discussion document as part of the Te Arawa /Rotorua Lakes Iwi Management Plan was currently out for consultation
- Acknowledged the Regional Council's support to enable a Community Action Coordinator to be appointed to increase efforts in reducing catfish migration and numbers
- TALT and Scion's joint application to the Ministry of Research, Science and Innovation to develop a Climate Change Research Plan and Strategy had been successfully funded
- TALT and Ngati Tarawahi had been successful in securing funding to undertake research and monitoring of taonga species in Lake Okataina.

#### In Response to Questions:

- Members would be informed when the Community Action Coordinator was in place, expected late July/ mid-August
- It was anticipated the first report on the Climate Change Research Project would be presented to the Strategy Group in a year's time.

### **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report.**

Hunt/Meha  
CARRIED

### 8.2 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy Visit

Ms N Douglas, Environment Manager, Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) provided members with a summary of a recent visit from the Nature Conservancy.

#### Key Points:

- Nature Conservancy was a global, nature capital investment organisation investing in large scale, green infrastructure projects focused on the restoration of complex and significant ecosystems
- Investment included supporting communities, relationships and capacity building to enable continuity and cultural overlay
- Lake Tarawera was considered a significant lake restoration project.

#### In Response to Questions:

- Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Department of Conservation (DoC) had engaged with the Nature Conservancy over the past two years with a DoC staff member seconded to assist the Nature Conservancy work in New Zealand

- A joint workshop was to be held with the Nature Conservancy, MfE and DoC on Freshwater Improvement funding and investing in New Zealand.

## Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report on Nature Conservancy Visit.**

Hunt/Meha  
CARRIED

### 8.3 Rotorua Lakes Council Update Report

Mr G Williams, Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) Chief Executive, Mr JP Gaston, Group Manager Strategy and Partnerships and Mr S Michael, Infrastructure Manager presented the report.

#### Key Points:

- The wastewater treatment plant construction was progressing well with an expected completion date of April 2019
- RLC had met with Minister Parker (MfE) regarding alternative approaches to Plan Change 10 and Incentives Funding
- Improving the Lake Rotorua frontage was a major project in the RLC Long Term Plan 2018-28.

#### In Response to Questions:

- A correction to the report - 4. bp 2 noted the two kilometres of sewer trunk main was to link Lake Rotoma not Lake Rotorua to the wastewater treatment plant as incorrectly stated in the report
- While there were outstanding issues with some hapu regarding the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plan resource consent renewal, extensive consultation had been undertaken and any outstanding matters would be considered through the renewal application process
- An estimated \$15-19M was required to finance the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme and a working party was assessing the optimal funding mix
- RTALSG members had resolved at the September 2017 meeting to support in principle the reticulation of sewage from the Lake Rotoehu community to the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti sewage scheme, subject to appropriate funding.

## Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:

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

Leeder/Hunt  
CARRIED

### 8.4 Ministry for the Environment Update Report

Mr S Lewis, Director, Mana Honohono – Investments and Partnerships, MfE, provided an overview of the report.

Key Points:

- Waste minimisation transition towards a circular economy was progressing well
- A stakeholder taskforce had been established to address waste minimisation, particularly recycling
- MfE were developing a detailed work plan to improve the synergies between freshwater, land use intensification and contamination and climate change impact.

In Response to Questions:

- It was noted bp 4, urban development, should read 'affordable housing' not 'the Housing Commission' as incorrectly stated in the report
- The long term waste minimisation programme was moving towards a circular economy, eliminating the need to send any waste offshore
- Key initiatives included increasing the waste levy; expanding the levy to more landfill types; increasing resource efficiency initiatives; improving the waste data framework; prudent investing of funding from increased levy; increasing onshore waste processing and decreasing the toxic impact from waste packaging
- It was clarified that the impact of Climate Change on Rotorua Lakes was included in the Rotorua Lakes Council work streams.

**Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ministry for the Environment Update Report.**

**Chadwick/Hunt  
CARRIED**

## 8.5 **Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Terms of Reference Review**

Key points:

- Members discussed the need for the Strategy Group's Terms of Reference and membership to remain relevant to the changing needs of the partnership and issues of environmental concern.
- While the Strategy Group acknowledged the principles of the Terms of Reference membership, it had not adhered to the requirement of annual rotation of the Chair and felt it appropriate to amend the Terms of Reference and membership to meet current needs and priorities.
- MfE to provide advice regarding process to amend the membership and Terms of Reference and any affect it may have on the funding Deed.
- Further inclusion of scope for the Strategy Group included: climate change impacts, lake related biosecurity matters, fisheries bylaw enforcement, Lake Tarawera as a Deed funded lake.

**Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Terms of Reference Review.**

Hunt/Leeder  
CARRIED

- 2 Recognises the need to ensure the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group membership is effective and supports Te Arawa Lakes Trust's request to amend the membership of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group to allow for the appointment of an Independent Chairperson without voting rights.
- 3 Recognises that the current membership restrictions of the three parties will require amending accordingly.
- 4 Requests that Sir Toby Curtis be approached to undertake the position of Independent Chairperson for a term of three years.
- 5 Acknowledges a vacancy arising from the appointment of Sir Toby Curtis as Independent Chairperson and requests that Te Arawa Lakes Trust appoint a further member to the Strategy Group.
- 6 Staff from the three partners to undertake a further review of the Terms of Reference to reflect the need to respond to changes in the governance structure and changing environmental priorities, and bring back to the Strategy Group for discussion.

Leeder/Chadwick  
CARRIED

## 8.6 Brown Bullhead Catfish Incursion Project Update

*PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2900921*

Ms H Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager and Mr S Grayling, Biosecurity Team Leader updated the Strategy Group on action taken in response to the Catfish incursion in Lake Rotoiti.

### In Response to Questions:

- Catch rates were still high in Te Weta Bay
- Biological control may not be effective
- Electronic DNA testing was specific to each species
- BOPRC biosecurity budget had significant increases over the coming years.

### **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

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

Hunt/Winters  
CARRIED

## 8.7 Programme Status Update, Three Year Plan and Annual Work Programme

*PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2900919*

Ms H Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager, Ms A Grayling, Rotorua Catchments Principal Advisor provided an update on progress and submitted the Three Year Plan and Annual Work Programme for approval, as provided for in the Deed of Funding with the Crown.

### In Response to Questions:

- Members would receive an invitation to attend the Low Nitrogen Use Fund launch to be held in July 2018
- While the Ohau Chanel diversion corrosion control was not Deed funded it could be reconsidered after further discussions with MfE
- Trialling alternative materials regarding corrosion control would require technical engineering input
- Forestry conversion plans needed to identify setbacks from waterways in order to comply with Regional Council's land use requirements and harvesting and conversion needed to be in accordance with Resource Management Act requirements including Regional Plans.
- The Te Tuapapa o ngā wai o Te Arawa was expected to be embedded across the two councils through staff training sessions.

In response to an invitation to update members on the Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme, Councillor Bruning, Chair of the Lake Rotorua Incentives Committee advised the Incentives Scheme was tracking well against targets.

In response to an invitation to address members, Mr P Thomas, Chair of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board acknowledged Te Arawa Lakes Trust and the progress and management of the various projects undertaken. Catfish incursion had been highlighted as an issue of concern to the Community Board.

### Staff Follow-up:

- Rotorua Lakes Council staff to report back to the Strategy Group on the Lake Rotorua sewage reticulation connection to ensure the project was completed and all properties connected
- Achievements against nutrient removal goals and targets to be included in future Programme Status Reports
- An update from the Chair of Lake and Freshwater Science be included in the RTALSG agenda as a standing item on a 6 monthly basis
- Staff to report back on any long term affects of the recent floods on Lake Rotorua and in particular any occurrence of silting.

On behalf of Rotorua Lakes Council, Mayor Chadwick acknowledged the Regional Council's contribution to the Mayoral Manaakitanga Relief Fund established following the Rotorua April 2018 Flood event.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report: Programme Status Update, Three Year Plan and Annual Work Programme.**

- 2 Approves the Three Year Plan (2018/2019-2020/2021) and Annual Work Programme 2018-2019 for submission to the Minister for the Environment in accordance with the Deed of Funding for the Programme.

Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED

## 9 Karakia

Councillor Marr closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 12:25 pm**

Confirmed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date