

# Minutes of the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Meeting held in the Board Room, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Ngati Awa House, 4/10 Louvain Street, Whakatāne on Monday, 19 March 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairperson:** Councillor T Marr (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor L Riesterer (Ōpōtiki District Council)

**Appointees:** G Tuari-Kohunui (Whakatōhea Maori Trust Board), R Kora (Te Waimana Kaaku (Ngai Tuhoe)), Councillor N Tanczos (Alternate, Whakatāne District Council), T Ransfield (Te Upokorehe), C Bluett (Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa), Alternates: T O'Brien (Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa), K Te Pou (Te Waimana Kaaku (Ngai Tuhoe), Councillor W Clark (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**In Attendance:** BOPRC: S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), T Senior (Land Management Officer), C Bell (Senior Projects Officer (Kaituna Catchments)), S Lamb (Natural Resources Policy Manager), K O'Brien (Kotahitanga Strategic Engagement), T Rother (Contractor), S Kameta, T Nerdrum-Smith (Committee Advisors); Te Upokorehe hapū members: P Van Kampen (nee Aramoana), M Tuari-Hape, U Kave, J Tuari, C Keno, D Curtis, M Keno, J Tuari-Hape; Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust members: R Edwards (Chairperson), M Hudson, B Pukepuke, J Mortensen; M Jones (Department of Conservation), I Molony (Whakatāne District Council), T Gedson (Ōpōtiki District Council), B Day.

**Absent:** Cr A Iles (Whakatāne District Council)

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## 1 **General Business and Late Items**

There was no general business or late items.

## 2 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

Cr Riesterer and G Tuari-Kohunui declared an interest in respect to Agenda item 10.7, Enhancements for Ōhiwa Harbour through Whakatōhea Settlement.

## 3 **Update from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa**

Mr Charlie Bluett advised there were no matters to report.

## 4 Previous Minutes

### 4.1 Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Minutes - 12 September 2017

#### Matter Arising

Minute Item 6.6: Department of Conservation Annual Update 2016-17 (agenda page 16) – it was noted that BOPRC staff would follow up with the Department of Conservation regarding co-operation on matters raised as part of the item.

#### Resolved

That the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Ōhiwa Harbour Implementation Forum Minutes of 12 September 2017, as a true and correct record.

Tuari-Kohunui/Riesterer  
CARRIED

## 5 Reports

### 5.1 Forum Membership Appointment

The Chairperson welcomed Tuwhakairiora (Tu) O'Brien onto the Forum as Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa's alternate member.

#### Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Forum Membership Appointment;
- 2 Notes the appointment of Mr Tuwhakairiora O'Brien onto the Forum as the alternate member for Te Rūnanga o Ngati Awa.

Marr/Riesterer  
CARRIED

### 5.2 Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Programme update for 2017/2018 and Proposed 2018/2019 Annual Work Plan

*Refer PowerPoint presentation Objective ID A2831922*

Tim Senior, Land Management Officer provided an update on progress of the Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Work Programme 2017-2018 and outlined the proposed 2018/2019 Annual Work as follows:

- Modest koha contributions had increased volunteer participation;
- The option of using a hovercraft for mangrove removal had been explored, however was not suitable for the Ōhiwa Harbour environment;
- Health & Safety provisions meant using PD workers as volunteers was less viable;
- The mussel research project had been delayed as the contracted researcher, Kura Paul-Burke, had commenced work at NIWA;

- The Ōhope Harbourside Trail was almost complete, with the official opening taking place on Saturday 23 March 2018. The trail signs would be ready, however the heritage signage was still being completed;
- Recognised the contribution by Rotary in bringing the trail project to completion;
- The work programme for 2018-19 was relatively similar to 2017-18;
- Would continue to work with dairy farmers on fencing to protect the waterways;
- Staff was following the bylaw reviews currently underway by Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council.

Support was raised for a letter to be submitted in support of Kura Paul-Burke's application for extra funding to expand mussel and seastar research, along with a further letter to recognise a landowner's involvement in riparian wetland planting.

#### Actions for Staff:

- Provide an update on the mangrove management programme for new Forum members;
- Report back to the next meeting of the Forum regarding the seastar management programme.

## Resolved

### That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Programme update for 2017/2018 and Proposed 2018/2019 Annual Work Plan;**
- 2 **Endorses the 2018/2019 Annual Work Plan for the Ohiwa Harbour Catchment Programme.**

**Riesterer/Kora  
CARRIED**

- 3 **Submits a letter of support for funding of the mussel project undertaken by Kura Paul-Burke, NIWA.**

**Marr/Ransfield  
CARRIED**

- 4 **Submits a letter of congratulation and recognition to the landowners involved in the wetland conversion programme.**

**Marr/Riesterer  
CARRIED**

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.40 am and reconvened at 11.00 am.

### 5.3 Consultation on the proposed Long Term Plan 2018-2028

Simon Stokes, Eastern Catchment Manager supported by BOPRC staff, provided a verbal update on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 as follows:

- Emphasised projects and initiatives that supported the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy;
- Coast Care funding allocated to Ōhiwa Harbour remained unchanged;
- Any wallaby sightings were to be reported to BOPRC;
- Approximately \$61,000 had been allocated towards the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy;

- Suggested that the Forum, with the support of staff, prepare a submission to the Long Term Plan by the extended deadline of Wednesday 21 March 2018;
- Recognised that climate change could have an impact on the Harbour;
- Climate change assessments were planned with a focus on adaption, rather than management;
- Converting low lying land into wetlands was an effective way to adapt to rising sea levels and flooding;
- In-kind support from partner organisations was essential in managing the Harbour.

Points raised by Members:

- The possibility of a targeted rate for Ōhiwa property owners was raised however, was not supported with Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne rates considered as some of the highest rates in the region;
- Ongoing flood remediation works would have an impact on rates;
- Should consider opportunities for 'tapping into' Central Government's one billion trees project;

## Resolved

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Consultation on the proposed Long Term Plan 2018-2028;**
- 2 Prepares a submission to the Long Terms Plans 2018-28 for Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council to seek additional funding to support the biodiversity programme; the shellfish project and the heritage trail project;**
- 3 Includes in the submission to the BOPRC and ODC, that any opportunity to add land to Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park be considered;**
- 4 Includes in the submissions to Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council a request to consider how to support the implementation of Ohiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy through the Long Term Plan process.;**
- 5 Includes in the submissions to Ōpōtiki District Council the need for increased management of illegal rubbish dumping;**
- 6 Delegates to Cr Clark and Mr Bluett to represent the Forum at LTP hearings for ODC and WDC, and for Mr O'Brien to represent the Forum at LTP hearing for BOPRC**

Marr/Tuari-Kohunui  
CARRIED

## 5.4 Onekawa Te Mawhai Regional Park Update

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2831820*

Courtney Bell, Senior Project Officer provided an update on operational matters at the Park over the last year as follows:

- The information contained within the presentation was public and could be shared by members;

- The co-management model between Ōpōtiki District Council, Te Upokorehe and BOPRC was effective;
- A park user satisfaction survey was undertaken every two years, with the KPI set at 85%;
- A visitor counter would be installed.

## Resolved

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:**

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

**Marr/Kora  
CARRIED**

## Order of Business

With the leave of the Forum, the Chair advised that Agenda item 10.7 would be received next to accommodate the arrival of external presenters.

### 5.5 **Enhancements for Ōhiwa Harbour through Whakatōhea Settlement**

*Refer Tabled Documents 1 and 2.*

#### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

It is noted that Cr Riesterer and Gaylene Tuari-Kohunui declared an interest in this item.

Whakatōhea Pre-Settlement Claims Trust Chairman Graeme Riesterer provided an opening statement and Maui Hudson outlined the rationale behind the Trust's wishes that the Forum discuss the possibility of establishing a co-governance entity over the Ōhiwa Harbour; and elevate the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy into a statutory document. Such changes were not intended to affect the current composition of the Forum, but rather to provide a more formalised structure. Mr Hudson noted a benefit of formalising the structure may have a positive impact on funding opportunities that could be channelled back into Ōhiwa Harbour.

Discussion followed with the following advice and comments provided:

- Staff advised that the Regional Council was not a party to the Whakatōhea Treaty Settlement negotiations and provided advice only as required and requested;
- The Office of Treaty Settlements provided the overarching direction for the Forum;
- The Forum did not have authority to make a decision regarding co-governance and the legal status of the Strategy.
- Te Upokorehe member Trevor Ransfield and Te Whakatōhea member Gaylene Tuari-Kohunui tabled letters that conveyed feedback from Te Upokorehe and Ngāti Ira respectively (Refer Tabled Documents 1 and 2).

## Resolved

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Enhancements for Ōhiwa Harbour through Whakatōhea Settlement;**

- 2 **Receives tabled item 1: Letter from Te Upokorehe Iwi dated 19 March 2018 and tabled item 2: Email from Ngāti Ira Hapū dated 2 March 2018.**

Marr/Kora  
CARRIED

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.30pm and reconvened at 1.05 pm.

## 5.6 Ohiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy

Tim Senior, Land Management Officer presented the proposed Ohiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy to the Forum as follows:

- Actions within the Strategy were presented more prominently than in earlier versions;
- Vision and Purpose was clearly identified;
- Freedom camping was permitted, unless councils had bylaws in place banning it from certain areas;
- Noted that Ōpōtiki District Council had been required to provide additional monitoring and cleaning during the peak holiday season to manage the impact of freedom campers.

Regarding the issue of rubbish dumping around the Eastern side of the harbour, Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes suggested including the issue in the Forum's submission to the district councils, recommending they take the Recreation Strategy into account when reviewing their bylaws; and for the issue to be included within the Recreation Strategy.

Operating constraints of the Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy Coordination Group (OHSCG) to implement the work was raised, with timeframes to be considered.

## Resolved

That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:

- 1 **Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy;**
- 2 **Endorse the Ohiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy and request that the Ōhiwa Harbour Coordination Group implement the Strategy;**
- 3 **Requests that Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council take the Recreation Strategy into consideration when undertaking the review of their Bylaws.**

Riesterer/Kora  
CARRIED

## 5.7 Ohiwa Harbour Heritage Trail, Nga Tapuwae o Tairongo, Update

*Refer PowerPoint presentation A2831575*

Tim Senior, Land Management Officer and Tanja Rother, Contractor updated the Forum on progress in developing the heritage trail as follows:

- Signs would be bilingual;
- Logo depicted the rig shark;
- Extensive proof reading of the signs was being undertaken and any minor spelling mistakes etc. to be corrected;
- Quotes for the cost of the signs had been requested;
- Timeframe for completion was the summer 2018-19;
- Signs would not be stand-alone and would form part of a wider suite of information.

The potential to seek sponsorship from local community organisations for signage funding was suggested, with members indicating their interest to seek sponsorship from within their respective organisations and trusts.

Actions for staff:

- Explore the possibility of signage sponsorship with community organisations; and
- Provide cost indications to Forum members once they have been obtained.

## **Resolved**

**That the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Ohiwa Harbour Heritage Trail, Ngā Tapuwae o Tairongo, Update;**
- 2 Endorses the signage for the first stage of the heritage trail.**

**Marr/Riesterer  
CARRIED**

## **6 Karakia**

Kaumatua Te Uri Kore Tuari closed the meeting with a Karakia.

**The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.**