

# Minutes of the Komiti Māori Meeting held at Opureora Marae, Opureora Road, Matakana Island on Wednesday, 23 August 2017 commencing at 9.30am.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** M McDonald

**Deputy Chairman:** T Marr

**Councillors:** L Thurston, D Love, W Clark

**Ex Officio:** Chairman D Leeder

**In Attendance:** Cr J Nees, Cr N Bruning, J Graham (General Manager Corporate Solutions), K O'Brien (Strategic Engagement Manager), S Omundsen (Tauranga Catchments Manager), C Koopu, H Simpson (Senior Advisors - Treaty), R Irving (Senior Regulatory Project Officer), K Heitia (Strategic Engagement Coordinator), S Hohepa, K Pihera-Ridge (Māori Policy Advisors), N Capper (Pou Ngaio Technical/Cultural), L Tauroa (Internal Services Officer), N Heitia (Office Assistant, Mātauranga Māori Framework), H Ryan (Administration Officer, Kopeopeo Remediation Project), S Kameta, M Stensness (Committee Advisors)

Tangata Whenua: K Toma, T Roretana, N Kuka (Ngāi Tuwhiwhia), R Harawira (Ngāi Te Rangi), J Murray (Matakana); Pirirakau Incorporated Society: J Shepherd (Environment Manager), R Kuka (Chairman)

**Apologies:** Crs A Tahana and L Thurston; F McTavish (General Manager Strategy and Science), H Palmer.

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## 1 Pōhiri/Welcome

A pōhiri took place at 9.30 am prior to commencement of the meeting at 10:45 am.

## 2 Karakia

Ngāi Tuwhiwhia Kaumātua Mr John Toma opened with a karakia.

## 3 Host Chair to preside

Tēnei te mihi nui kia koutou katoa ngā tangata whenua, ano nei kia koe Matemoana, nāu tenei rohe no reira māu e noho hei tiamana ki te whakahaere I tenei hui, kei ia koe te rakau.

In the absence of the Chair, Deputy Chair T Marr advised that Cr McDonald would host-Chair the meeting as it was being held in her respective constituency.

Chair McDonald acknowledged kaumātua and tangata whenua of Matakana Island and thanked them for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and welcoming Toi Moana-BOPRC.

## 4 Apologies

### Resolved

That the Komiti Māori under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts the apologies of Cr Tahana and Cr Thurston tendered at the meeting.

Marr/Clark  
CARRIED

## 5 General Business and Tabled Items

There were no General Business or late items tabled.

## 6 Declaration of conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 7 Previous Minutes

### 7.1 Komiti Maori minutes - 20 June 2017

#### Resolved

That the Komiti Māori under its delegated authority:

- 1 Confirms the Komiti Maori minutes of 20 June 2017 as a true and correct record.

Marr/Clark  
CARRIED

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Matakana and Rangiwāea Hapū Management Plan 2017 Update

This plan was formally lodged at the previous Komiti Māori hui held on 20 June 2017 as outlined in the General Managers report.

Jason Murray and Nessie Kuka thanked Toi Moana-BOPRC for their financial and technical support in completing the revised Matakana-Rangiwāea Hapū Management Plan 2017 (MHMP). It was noted that the original Hapū Resource Management Plan was still relevant and should be considered alongside the revised edition.

Mr Murray presented an overview of three key resource management issues within the MHMP that pertained to the:

1. Mill site;

2. Ski lanes; and
3. Opureora channel dredging.

## 1. Mill site

It was noted that the Mill site had operated from 1955 until 2006. The principal concern for Pirirakau was the health of the whenua (land) and commented as follows:

- Site contamination from highly toxic chemicals used (i.e PCP) during operations and failure to dispose of toxins safely away from the mill site;
- Implications of major health issues affecting the Matakana community. Mr Murray advised of a high mortality rate of people aged 50-60 years and of contamination concerns raised by the late Mr Joe Harawira who had visited the mill site;
- Major concern that toxins may have affected bore water used by residents. Sand soil testing had been performed at a 15cm depth. Hapū representatives requested deeper soil testing be carried out to ascertain the full extent of contamination risk;

Tangata whenua requested assistance from Toi Moana-BOPRC for further independent site testing for dioxins and for a report on the implications of those findings to be provided to assist tangata whenua to understand the scope of contamination.

Senior Regulatory Project Officer Reece Irving provided insight into the Hunter's Creek Sawmill history:

- Toi Moana-BOPRC staff had undertaken soil, sediment and surface water testing in 2011 - three showed heavy metals levels, one with low levels of PCP detected and one showed elevated arsenic in soil;
- Toi Te Ora Public Health had sampled the drinking water bore and advised it had met drinking water standards;
- Barriers to further testing by Toi Moana-BOPRC of site was that the land was privately owned and needed to abide by MFE regulations.

Mr Irving welcomed Tangata whenua involvement and confirmed Toi Moana-BOPRC staff could assist with technical advice regarding further investigation into soil contamination and groundwater impacts along with resources to map waste dump site locations. Maori Policy Advisor Clarke Koopu and Mr Irving would co-ordinate site visits with tangata whenua.

## 2. Ski lanes

Mr Murray reported that Hunter's Creek ski lanes continued to cause major issues for tangata whenua and residents alike, particularly during low tide. They noted their frustrations with slow processes and that hapū aspirations weren't being heard.

They requested the lanes be moved for the following reasons:

- Loss of kaimoana and shellfish in the area – kukuroa (horse mussel), titiko (mud snails) were no longer available with further depletion of pipi, tuangi (cockles) and tuna (eel) habitat in area;

- Increased and continual recreational use caused high levels of sediment and shallow beds which posed risk to safety from speeding;
- Impacts of increased recreational use on amenity issues witnessed by residents – waste left behind, increased pressure on local health facilities, recreational users urinating anywhere as no toilets in vicinity;
- Tangata whenua had aspirations to create a protected marine area in replacement of the ski lanes to allow for the regeneration and revitalisation of the natural ecology of that area.

Advice was provided that the Navigation Safety Bylaw adopted in 2016, set out rules relevant to the ski lanes. As a result of advice received from tangata whenua and the Island community at the Bylaw hearing, further monitoring had been requested to capture evidential data to affect future change (i.e moving lanes).

### 3. Opureora Channel dredging

Mr Murray informed of eight smaller projects Toi Moana-BOPRC were assisting tangata whenua with were working positively, including:

- Rangatahi (Youth) involved in clearing channels – Taiohi (younger generation) have enrolled in Marine Biology studies at Toi Ohomai;
- Long term plan and exercises in place to revive shellfish including Kukuroa (Horse mussel);
- Formation of sand banks from channel dredging was providing a landing site for migrating Kuaka (Godwit bird) – assisting increased numbers.

The Chair acknowledged hapū representatives for their perseverance to effect environmental change on Matakana and made the following remarks:

- Kua roa rawa te wa e hurihuri haere tenei kaupapa, neke atu ki te rima tau e whawhai ana koutou mo tenei take, kei te tino whakamā ahau mo tēra - Noted disappointment that the ski lanes were a long-standing issue, which had been continually raised by tangata whenua but considered as only anecdotal evidence;
- Recreational use within Hunter's Creek seemed to override cultural concerns and the protection of the environment;
- Looked forward to the implementation of the Mātauranga Māori Framework, which would give more weight to tangata whenua observations, which needed to be recognised to protect the affected marine areas;
- Kia kaha koutou ki te whawhai i tenei kaupapa - Encouraged tangata whenua to pursue their aspirations of kaitiakitanga and protection of these integral areas for the health and safety of current and future generations.

## 8.2 Formal Lodgement of Pirirakau Hapu Management Plan 2017

Pirirakau Incorporated Society Chairman Rawiri Kuka and Environment Manager Julie Shepherd gave an overview of the 2017 Pirirakau Hapū Management Plan (PHMP)

and explained that the existing Environmental Management Plan still applied and supported the 2017 PHMP which provided an updated contemporary view from Pirirakau hapū.

Gratitude for funding support and continual assistance provided by Toi Moana-BOPRC.

The following key points in the PHMP:

- Included significant interests in the Wairoa River including the connections with Tahataharoa to the Wairoa;
- Included cultural and ecological aspirations and desire to re-generate Tahataharoa into a wetland;
- Considered the urban spread in relation to septic tanks. It was noted that further discussions with WBPODC were needed to consider viable options for Te Puna West;
- Pirirakau Resource Management Unit ('RMU') had sufficient capacity and processes in place to respond to resource consent applications.

On behalf of Pirirakau, Mr Kuka requested financial support from Toi Moana-BOPRC to negotiate the future acquisition of Tahataharoa. It was noted that Tahataharoa was significant to Pirirakau as it is the burial place of their principal ancestor Tutereinga and supported by his ohākī (parting wish) 'Take me to Tahataharoa so that I may hear the murmur and song of the sea'.

The Chair acknowledged the resource management expertise held by Pirirakau and noted that Tauranga Moana hapū and iwi are challenged by limited resource management staff resourcing. She considered it may be timely for hapū/iwi resource management staff to look at options to combine resources to cope with increased demand and to build hapū/iwi capacity and capability. The Chair requested that staff facilitate a meeting with Iwi and hapū to socialise the issue.

The Chair recommended that Pirirakau submit a proposal for acquisition of Tahataharoa through the Long Term Plan process.

## **Resolved**

**That the Komiti Māori under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the presentation and report, Formal Lodgement of Pirirakau Hapū Management Plan 2017;**
- 2 Formally receives Pirirakau Hapū Management Plan 2017;**
- 3 Requests that Māori Policy staff facilitate discussions with relevant Tauranga Moana resource management staff/practitioners to investigate options to build capacity and capability (including socialising the option of establishing a single Tauranga Moana resource management unit.**

**Clark/Love  
CARRIED**

## **8.3 Tauranga Moana Programme**

*Refer Power Point Presentation Objective ID A2681075*

Tauranga Catchments Manager Sarah Omundsen provided a brief update on the Tauranga Moana Programme. She advised the programme created opportunities to allow for tangata whenua involvement in three areas: governance, strategy and planning; and operations. Operational staff continued to work with hapū on projects to improve the health of land and water in the Tauranga Harbour and catchments. The presentation highlighted:

- Areas where land management agreements were underway;
- Tangata whenua were committed to clearing overgrown areas – recently assisted in major clean-up of old urupa (burial site/graveyard);
- Approximate loss of wetland areas on Matakana equated to 95%;
- Areas such as the Wairoa River were full of sediment;
- Tangata Whenua to provide Komiti Maori with an update on the Tauranga Moana Programme and the opportunities for tangata whenua to be more involved.

**Resolved**

**That the Komiti Maori under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the Tauranga Moana Programme report.**

**Clark/Marr  
CARRIED**

**8.4 He Toka Tumoana: Environmental Scholarship to commemorate the late Councillor Awanuiarangi Black**

Strategic Engagement Coordinator Kerry Heitia provided a summary of He Toka Tumoana as follows:

- A scholarship created in commemoration of the late Cr Awanuiarangi Black;
- Administered through the Regional Community Outcomes Fund – Hapai Ora;
- Two \$5,000 scholarships would be offered – expected to go live and be available by September 2017;
- Scholarships would be focussed on improving or maintaining environmental integrity, including Mātauranga Māori within the BOP;
- Supported by a clear assessment criteria with no age limit on candidates.

**Resolved**

**That the Komiti Maori under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Supports the establishment of He Toka Tumoana (Environmental Scholarship) which will be administered through the existing Regional Community Outcomes Fund - Hapai Ora.**

**Leeder/Marr  
CARRIED**

## **8.5 Update on Treaty claims and settlements in the Bay of Plenty**

Strategic Engagement Manager Kataraina O'Brien reported, key highlights noted were:

- Deed Of Settlement had been signed by Ngāti Tūwharetoa on 8 July 2017. Once the settlement is enacted into legislation, Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Taupō) will be able to appoint a member to the Rangitāiki River Forum.
- Ngāti Pukenga Treaty Claim Settlement Bill – the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading was held on 9 August 2017. Legislation would be enacted following receipt of royal assent;
- Te Whakatōhea tribe signed their Agreement in Principle.
- Te Whānau a Apanui mandate to negotiate a Treaty claim was approved by the Crown.
- Cross claim and overlapping boundary issues between Hauraki and Tauranga Moana were being addressed by those iwi.
- Toi Moana would maintain a close working relationship with the Office of Treaty Settlements and other crown agencies to ensure that Council received timely and relevant information for claims and settlements where Toi Moana could potentially be delegated implementation responsibility.

### **Resolved**

**That the Komiti Maori under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Update on Treaty claims and settlements in the Bay of Plenty.**

**Clark/Marr  
CARRIED**

## **8.6 General Manager Strategy and Science Update**

Ms O'Brien provided the following central points from the report:

- A Māori representative from Te Puni Koriki had been appointed to the Regional Civil Defence Group. Ms O'Brien acknowledged tangata whenua, who at the previous Komiti Māori meeting held at Opureora Marae in 2014, had been instrumental in raising the need for Māori representation within Civil Defence Services.
- Toi Moana-BOPRC made a submission to the Civil Defence Act review .

- A submission is being prepared to the review of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan this action was promoted by Komiti Māori to ensure that issues raised by iwi following the Edgecumbe Flood were conveyed.
- Making Good Decisions Sponsorship – approval was sought to sponsor hearing commissioner certification for candidate Mr P Young of Ngāti Awa. Clarification was provided on reimbursement criteria, course pre-requisites and the need for applicants to have a high degree of RMA knowledge to attain certification;
- Treaty Symposium – was well attended and provided a forum for participants to build awareness and understanding of the contemporary Treaty landscape;
- LTP 2018-2028 Māori engagement – scheduled to take place February-March 2018;
- Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori 2017 scheduled for 11-17 September 2017, the Kotahitanga team will be running activities across Council to promote Te Reo.

## **Resolved**

**That the Komiti Maori under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, General Manager Strategy and Science Update;**
- 2 Approves the Making Good Decisions sponsorship for Mr Patrick Young of Ngati Awa.**

**Love/Marr  
CARRIED**

## **9 Closing Karakia**

Carried out by Kaumātua Mr John Toma.

**The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.**