

Minutes of the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee Meeting held in Mauao Rooms, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 87 First Avenue, Tauranga on Thursday, 14 September 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: P Thompson

Deputy Chairman: A von Dadelszen

Councillors: T Marr, L Thurston, D Love, N Bruning, J Nees, W Clark, S Crosby, K Winters, M McDonald

In Attendance: M Macleod (Chief Executive), C Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), E Grogan (General Manager Regulatory Services), F McTavish (Group Manager Strategy & Science), D Phizacklea (Regional Integrated Planning Manager), N Steed (Programme Leader Statutory Policy), G Corbett (Biosecurity Manager), N Poutasi (Water Policy Manager), R Fraser (Consents Manager), R Donald (Science Manager), S Omundsen (Tauranga Catchments Manager), J Low (Water Policy Team Leader), K Parcell (Senior Policy Analyst), R Burton (Senior Planner Water Policy), R Garrett (Committee Advisor).

External presenters: S Kinsella (Rotorua SPCA); J Riini (Partnership Advisor, Rotorua Lakes Council)

Apologies D Leeder, J Cronin, A Tahana.

1 Apologies

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts the apologies tendered from Chairman Leeder and Councillors Cronin and Tahana.

Thompson/Bruning
CARRIED

2 Public Forum

2.1 Rotorua SPCA

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2707200

Ms Sue Kinsella from the Rotorua SPCA informed members of the work carried out by the BOP Community Cat Project, a joint project between Rotorua SPCA and ARRC

Wildlife Trust which had been funded by Council for two years. Ms Kinsella explained the problem with feral cat colonies in the Bay of Plenty and outlined actions taken to date. Members noted the Project's mission of encouraging responsible pet ownership to achieve healthy, desexed well-cared-for animals, with owned and unowned cats distinguished by the use of micro-chipping and registration.

In response to members' questions, Ms Kinsella clarified the project work was being carried out by the SPCA in Rotorua and Kawerau and the ARRC Trust in Tauranga and that continuation of the project was solely reliant on its ability to secure funding. Ms Kinsella noted that a lack of management action would result in a rapid escalation of the feral cat population.

Members supported the development of a national solution to the feral cat problem, acknowledged that compulsory micro-chipping would require a national approach and a change of mind-set among cat owners and noted the recent LGNZ remit to support legislation to address the management of cats.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Kinsella for her presentation and acknowledged the work of the volunteers involved with the project.

3 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 **Previous minutes**

4.1 **Regional Direction and Delivery Committee minutes - 02 August 2017**

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the minutes of the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee meeting held 2 August 2017.**

**Winters/Nees
CARRIED**

4.2 **Public Excluded Regional Direction and Delivery Committee minutes - 02 August 2017**

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the Public Excluded minutes from the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee meeting held 2 August 2017.**

**Thompson/Nees
CARRIED**

5 Reports

5.1 Presentation - Operating Environment

- a) Councillor Thompson advised members that she had met with the Hon David Parker, Opposition Spokesperson for the Environment and Water, and discussed the current water royalty policy, and noted that he had been generally complimentary of the work of regional councils.
- b) General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle and Biosecurity Manager Greg Corbett updated members regarding recent biodiversity-related matters. Mr Corbett outlined the key findings from the Regional Sector Group think piece "*Addressing New Zealand's Biodiversity Challenge*" released in August, and noted that the need for strong leadership, collaboration and clarity of roles, a national plan and fit-for-purpose legislation had been highlighted.

Mr Corbett then explained the main elements of the Predator Free 2050 programme. The Department of Conservation managed project had the overall goal of ridding New Zealand of possums, rats and stoats by 2050, and involved an initial Crown investment of \$28 million over the next four years. Expressions of Interest for funding for significant projects were currently being called for by Predator Free 2050 Ltd, to close on 13 October. Mr Corbett advised members that Council was unlikely to be in a position to take advantage of this opening round of funding, but considered that there were several Council projects which should meet the criteria and funding could be pursued from Predator Free 2050 at a later date. At this stage there had not been sufficient discussion with communities associated with the various projects and it was unrealistic for this to happen by the cut-off date.

Members discussed various regional projects and local community conservation groups and their ability to access the funding. The need for co-ordination between the Council, community groups, landowners and local business was emphasised so that the opportunities provided by Predator Free 2050 could be accessed in the region.

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2707732

- c) Councillor Nees spoke to recent initiatives undertaken by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) regarding climate change. LGNZ had released three items: a stocktake of the impacts of climate change on local government, a position statement, and the climate change declaration signed by LGNZ members (including Chairman Leeder on behalf of Council). Key themes included the need for stronger national direction, collaboration and co-investment with infrastructure management and support for legislation to implement a low-carbon resilient New Zealand. Councillor Nees advised members that she was part of the steering group for a LGNZ project to develop tools to guide councils to make decisions in this climate change space.

Members considered the impacts of climate change to be one of the biggest issues facing local government, noted the problem of awareness and acknowledged the need to raise the profile of the impacts of climate change and then focus on the costs of adaptations needed.

5.2 Release of Regional Natural Resources Plan

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2698284

Water Policy Manager Namouta Poutasi, Senior Natural Resources Policy Analyst Karen Parcell and Senior Water Policy Planner Rebecca Burton presented the newly reformatted Regional Natural Resources Plan (the Plan) and sought approval to release the Plan to the public. Ms Parcell explained that the new Plan (formerly the Regional Water and Land Plan) amalgamated existing regional plans into one streamlined document, and that the process of amalgamation and reformatting had not changed provisions or content of the previous Regional Land and Water Plan. Ms Parcell explained the new structure and layout of the Plan, and advised that a searchable electronic version would also be developed. If approved, the Plan would be publicly released on October 13.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Release of Regional Natural Resources Plan;**
- 2 Agrees to the public release of the reformatted Regional Natural Resources Plan.**

**Thompson/Thurston
CARRIED**

5.3 The review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2708277

Senior Water Policy Planner Rebecca Burton outlined a preferred approach to the review of a number of regional plans included in the Regional Natural Resources Plan. The recommended review approach provided efficient use of resources and ensured all statutory requirements would be met.

Members were advised that a further paper would be brought to the Committee regarding the management and review of On-site Effluent Treatment (OSET) plans and the implications of proposed reticulated sewerage projects.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, The review of the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan;**
- 2 Approves Option 2: Rolling review of the Regional Natural Resource Plan, as outlined in the timeline contained in Appendix 1.**

3 Delegates to the General Manager of Strategy and Science the ability to amend the timeline to reflect Council decisions and national direction.

Love/Thompson
CARRIED

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10.45am and reconvened at 11.05am.

Change to Order of Business

The Chairperson advised that Agenda Item 6.9 would be moved forward and considered as the next item of business to accommodate an external presenter.

5.4 Presentation – Operations and Monitoring News

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2706339

Rotorua Lakes Council Partnership Advisor Jenny Riini presented to members on the planned cultural treatment of discharge from the proposed upgrade of the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Ms Riini outlined the current treatment and discharge arrangements and their shortcomings, and explained the iwi consultation and engagement process undertaken by Rotorua Lakes Council to arrive at the recommended cultural treatment process, which was based on four key mātāpono Māori (Māori values and principles), utilised local materials and indigenous species and was open to public access.

Ms Riini clarified that the cultural treatment was for the discharge after it had been through extensive treatment within the WWTP and noted that the proposed cultural treatment was the first of its kind designed using indigenous knowledge. The resource consent application for the WWTP upgrade, including the cultural treatment, was expected to be lodged at the end of October.

5.5 Decisions on submissions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Regional Policy Statement

Councillor von Dadelszen as the Chair of the Proposed Change 3 Hearings Committee, Regional Integrated Planning Manager David Phizacklea and Statutory Policy Programme Leader Nassah Steed presented the Hearing Committee's recommended decisions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Committee for adoption. The Hearing Committee recommended changes be made which improved the intent of the policies, provided greater clarity for implementation, and facilitated recognition of the vision, objectives and desired outcomes of Te Ara Whanui o Rangitāiki (the Rangitāiki River Document).

Members noted the greater emphasis placed on tuna and tuna passage in the recommendations and recognised the importance of tuna as a taonga species. Clarification was sought and received around the definition of amenity values.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Decisions on submissions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Regional Policy Statement;**
- 2 **Receives, adopts and records that it has had particular regard to the report entitled “Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Bay Of Plenty Regional Policy Statement V 7.3c: Section 32AA Evaluation of Changes August 2017” as part of the Council’s decisions on submissions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.**
- 3 **Receives and adopts the report and recommendations of the Hearing Committee as set out in the document “Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement Report and Recommendations of the Hearing Committee” dated 6 September 2017, attached as a supporting document to the agenda, as Council’s decisions on submissions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Regional Policy Statement under clause 10(1) of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.**
- 4 **Approves public notification of its decisions on submissions on Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement in accordance with clauses 10 and 11 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.**
- 5 **Notes that on and from the date the decisions are publicly notified, Proposed Change 3 (Rangitaiki River) is amended in accordance with those decisions.**
- 6 **Confirms that the decision has a low level of significance.**

Thompson/Thurston
CARRIED

5.6 **National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management- Science Attributes**

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2697770

Science Manager Rob Donald, Water Policy Manager Namouta Poutasi and Water Policy Team Leader James Low updated members on the development of an appropriate suite of measurable water quality attributes for the region as required for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Mr Donald explained that the attributes would be used region-wide by Council to help set measurable objectives to support key values with in-stream water quality or ecology requirements, and to measure current state of these values.

Mr Donald clarified for members that the attributes chosen for the region had been peer reviewed and compared with other councils; and were similar to those being generally discussed nationwide.

Ms Poutasi noted that hui had been held with iwi on the attributes and that iwi responses were only now coming back to Council and consultation was ongoing. Mr Low advised members that community values were in the process of being defined as well as the science attributes being developed; and that the development of freshwater objectives should be well underway by mid-2018.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, NPS-FM - Science Attributes; and**
- 2 Receives the technical report Physical, chemical, biological and ecological water quality attributes for rivers and lakes in the Bay of Plenty appended to this report.**

**Winters/Thompson
CARRIED**

5.7 **District Consent Applications Annual Report 2016/17**

General Manager Strategy & Science Fiona McTavish updated members on district resource consent applications received, commented on, or submitted on, by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Ms McTavish noted the increase in applications received and advised that resources and staff had been re-prioritised to meet the demand. The possibility of charging for this process in the future was being investigated.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, District Consent Applications Annual Report 2016/17.**

**Thompson/Nees
CARRIED**

5.8 **Tauranga Moana Programme - Annual Report 2016/17**

Refer Video Objective ID A2708529

General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle and Tauranga Catchments Manager Sarah Omundsen provided members with a summary of work carried out under the Tauranga Moana Programme during the 2016/2017 year, and outlined progress made against the annual work plan.

Members noted the usefulness of comparisons provided with previous years' work programmes and suggested that an explanation be provided in future reports where no action had been taken or a programme target not achieved.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Tauranga Moana Programme - Annual Report 2016/17;**

**Bruning/Thompson
CARRIED**

5.9 **Review of the Rotorua Lakes and Bay of Plenty Coastal Chairs**

Refer PowerPoint Objective ID A2698443

Science Manager Rob Donald advised members of the outcomes of the University Chairs Review and noted that overall the findings of the review were positive. Concern had been expressed regarding the increased workload expected of the Chairs, and it was acknowledged that more support for the Chairs was required. Mr Donald clarified that this support was not in terms of any increase in Council funding but in terms of administrative support; and noted that a discussion around provision of support needed to take place with the universities or possible additional partners.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Review of the Rotorua Lakes and Bay of Plenty Coastal Chairs;**
- 2 Notes that staff will work with the University of Waikato to implement the recommendations of the review;**
- 3 Agrees that while the recommendation to carry out an assessment of the economic benefit of the Chairs to the region has merit, the assessment is not a high priority for Bay of Plenty Regional Council;**
- 4 Notes that the recruitment process for the new Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chair in Lake and Freshwater Science has commenced.**

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

5.10 **2016/2017 Regional Pest Management Plan Annual Report**

Biosecurity Manager Greg Corbett sought approval from the Committee for the public release of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) Annual Report for 2016/17. Mr Corbett noted that Council is required to make the Annual Report on the implementation of the RPMP publicly available; and summarised progress made with the key pest programmes. The discovery of myrtle rust in the region and catfish in Lake Rotoiti had created significant areas of new work for pest management.

In response to members' questions, Mr Corbett clarified that management of wallabies was on a containment not eradication basis; and that "advisory" pests such as possums, rats and feral cats (where advice and limited funding was provided rather than specific Council management action) were not covered in the Annual Report.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, 2016/2017 Regional Pest Management Plan Annual Report.**

**Thompson/Thurston
CARRIED**

5.11 **Regional Direction & Delivery Work Programme**

Members considered the updated Committee Work Programme and noted that this was always subject to change.

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee under its delegated authority:

- 1 Receives the report, Regional Direction & Delivery Work Programme**

**Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.