

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, 26 October 2017 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: P Thompson

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

In Attendance: M Macleod (Chief Executive), F McTavish (Group Manager Strategy & Science), C Ingle (General Manager Integrated Catchments), E Grogan (General Manager Regulatory Services), D Phizacklea (Regional Integrated Planning Manager), N Poutasi (Water Policy Manager), S Omundsen (Tauranga Catchments Manager), G Corbett (Biosecurity Manager), P de Monchy (Kaituna Catchments Manager), L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager), N Steed (Programme Leader (Statutory Policy)), R Donald (Science Manager), L Mason (Integrated Catchments Programme Manager), N Newman (Principal Advisor), A Bruere (Lakes Operations Manager), R Burton (Team Leader Freshwater), E Farquhar (Planner), R Garrett, J Durham, M Stensness (Committee Advisors).

External presenter: K Taylor ("Our Land and Water" National Science Challenge).

Apologies: Chairman Leeder, Councillors Nees, Tahana and von Dadelszen.

1 Apologies

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from Chairman Leeder and Councillors Nees, Tahana and von Dadelszen tendered at the meeting.

Thurston/Thompson
CARRIED

2 Tabled Items

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee:

- 1 Agrees to receive and consider the following tabled documents:

Tabled Document 1	<i>Recommended Membership from the Selection Panel</i>	Agenda Item 7.2: Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Selection Panel's Recommendations.
Tabled Document 2 (Public Excluded)	<i>Section 274 Parties</i>	Agenda Item 8.2 (Public Excluded): Plan Change 10 Lake Rotorua Management – Appeals Received.

Thompson/Thurston
CARRIED

3 Declaration of conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4 Previous Minutes

4.1 Regional Direction and Delivery Committee minutes - 14 September 2017

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee:

- 1 Confirms the minutes of the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee meeting of 14 September 2017 as a true and correct record.

Thompson/Crosby
CARRIED

4.2 Regional Coastal Environment Plan Appeals Subcommittee minutes - 30 August 2017

Resolved

That the Regional Direction and Delivery Committee:

- 1 Receives the minutes of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan Appeals Subcommittee meeting of 30 August 2017.

Cronin/Thompson
CARRIED

5 Presentations

5.1 Operating Environment

a) New Government

Refer Powerpoint Obj ID: A2724329

Principal Advisor Nic Newman updated members on the recently announced ministerial appointments and assigned portfolios, and outlined coalition priorities. Key areas of focus for the new government particularly relevant for Council

included regional economic development and infrastructure, freshwater management, local government funding and climate change and the mitigation of its effects. Members noted that the Ōpōtiki harbour development had been identified as a possible regional development project. Members also noted that the region was no longer represented in Cabinet.

b) Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Roadshow

Refer Powerpoint Obj ID: A2725398

Councillor Crosby updated members on the major topics, progress and outcomes of the recent LGNZ roadshow. Key findings included:

- Territorial authorities were experiencing significant funding constraints across all regions;
- Infrastructure funding was critical;
- Provision and safety of potable water following the Havelock North inquiry a key concern;
- Management and treatment of waste and storm water variable across territorial authorities;
- Regulatory function creates friction and breaks down relationships between territorial local authorities and regional councils;
- Councils were increasingly spending money on mitigation and adaptation to climate change such as construction of sea walls;
- Real and meaningful focus on iwi relationships with all councils; Māori wards were being considered and participatory pathways developed for decision-making processes;
- Many local authorities frustrated with the performance of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and considered that the centralisation of NZTA back to Wellington had disempowered regional directors and had been detrimental to relationships.

Members noted that LGNZ was politically neutral and continued to work with all political parties, and that its aim was to be included in the early stages of legislation development rather than at the select committee stage.

c) Tauranga City Council (TCC) Environment Committee

Councillor Thompson advised members of topics discussed by the Environment Committee, noted the proactive view adopted by TCC in its storm water review and that rates-funded kerbside recycling had been considered by TCC in its long term planning. The Youth Advisory Group had presented to the Environment Committee on sustainability and the environment, with suggestions regarding bottle recycling and returns and the establishment of food forests.

5.2 **Our Land and Water National Science Challenge**

Refer Powerpoint Obj ID: A2729150

Director of the *Our Land and Water* National Science Challenge Mr Ken Taylor outlined the concept and background of the National Science Challenges, and noted that the Challenges were intended to focus science investment on issues that matter to all New Zealanders. Mr Taylor explained that the objective of the *Our Land and Water* Challenge was “to enhance primary sector production and productivity while maintaining and improving land and water quality for future generations”. Mr Taylor presented an overview of the Challenge to members and outlined the Challenge themes of greater value in global markets, innovative resilient land and water use and collaborative capacity.

Mr Taylor informed members of several specific Challenge research programmes underway, which included denitrification, resilience of receiving waters and classification of land use, mauri whenua ora and the collaboration lab. Mr Taylor noted that the next round of new funding would become available in 2019.

The Chair thanked Mr Taylor for his attendance and informative presentation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11am and reconvened at 11.15am.

6 Reports

6.1 Draft Rotorua Spatial Plan

Statutory Policy Programme Leader Nassah Steed and Planner Esta Farquhar advised members that the Draft Spatial Plan 2017 – ‘Planning for the Future of Rotorua’ consultation document was released on 10 October 2017. Following community consultation and technical studies the spatial plan sets out seven core objectives:

- Build homes that match needs;
- Create thriving neighbourhoods;
- Enhance playgrounds and environment;
- Support iwi aspirations;
- Create a vibrant city heart;
- Grow jobs; and
- Build supporting infrastructure.

Members were briefed and provided feedback on key points for a Council submission, which included: the need for the spatial plan to be supported by evidence-based research; strengthened links with regional economic growth strategies and other regional agencies; and clarification around possible development of mana whenua land. Members noted that submissions closed 17 November 2017, and agreed that a presentation on the draft spatial plan, including any financial implications for Council, by either/or the Mayor or Chief Executive of Rotorua Lakes Council before submissions closed would be helpful.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Draft Rotorua Spatial Plan;**
- 2 Makes a submission to the Draft Rotorua Spatial Plan along the lines set out in this report, following direction and feedback from the Committee including matters raised by Councillors at this meeting.**

Thurston/Winters
CARRIED

6.2 Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Selection Panel's Recommendations

Refer Tabled Document 1: Recommended Membership from the Selection Panel.

General Manager Integrated Catchments Chris Ingle sought members' approval for the Selection Panel's recommendations for the membership of the four River Scheme Advisory Groups:

1. Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme;
2. Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme (including part Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme);
3. Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme (including part Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme), and
4. Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme.

Mr Ingle informed members that despite receiving over 30 expressions of interest, there were still vacancies on the Whakatāne-Tauranga and Waioeka-Otara groups. In response to a query regarding councillor appointments to the Advisory Groups, the appointments would be reviewed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive and a report brought back to Council if necessary.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Selection Panel's Recommendations;**
- 2 Approves the selection panel's recommendations for membership of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group (Schedule 1 – tabled item).**
- 3 Approves the selection panel's recommendations for membership of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group (Schedule 2 – tabled item).**
- 4 Approves the selection panel's recommendations for membership of the Whakatāne-Tauranga Rivers Scheme Advisory Group (Schedule 3 – tabled item).**
- 5 Approves the selection panel's recommendations for membership of the Waioeka Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group (Schedule 4 – tabled item).**
- 6 Notes that there are vacancies yet to be filled on the Advisory Groups;**
- 7 Delegates authority to the Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Selection Panel to fill the vacancies still outstanding on the Advisory Groups.**

**Clark/Winters
CARRIED**

6.3 Implementation of Method 40 - Rural Advisory Panel

Statutory Policy Programme Leader Nassah Steed and Planner Esta Farquhar updated members on the implementation of Method 40 under the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Members were presented with four options to consider the formation of a Rural Advisory Panel:

1. No Rural Advisory Panel – rely on existing consultative processes on a case by case basis;
2. Expand scope of the Regional Water Advisory Panel (RWAP) to include wider rural matters;
3. Organise a RWAP subgroup to focus on broader rural matters; and
4. Establish a separate Rural Advisory Panel with its own Terms of Reference and membership.

Members discussed the options and the need for a Rural Advisory Panel and noted the varied consultation processes already undertaken by Council in the rural sector. Members agreed that sufficient coverage of rural issues was provided through the Regional Water Advisory Panel and other forums, as well as by direct consultative approaches that included organisations such as Horticulture New Zealand.

Attendance

Councillor Bruning left the room at 11.50am and returned at 11.52am.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Implementation of Method 40 - Rural Advisory Panel;**
- 2 Agrees not to establish a Rural Advisory Panel (Option 1 set out in this report) but to ensure that other forums and existing consultative processes are used to address rural sector issues.**

**Winters/Thurston
CARRIED**

6.4 Freshwater Futures Update

Water Policy Manager Namouta Poutasi updated members on key work undertaken by the Freshwater Futures programme. Ms Poutasi noted that staff continued to engage regionally with local communities (through the PC12 community groups) particularly seeking input into model calibration; and also informed members that hearings for PC9 had been rescheduled to next year.

Nationally, Ms Poutasi noted that officials' Briefings for Incoming Ministers were being prepared and focussed on three key points:

1. Ministries and regional sector must work together;
2. Large amount of national direction being proposed; and
3. Capacity and capability issues in the regional sector to cope with the volume of change.

Ms Poutasi also noted that Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) had released its Local Government Leaders' Water Declaration on 10 October. The Declaration emphasised that improving water quality with communities and stakeholders was a priority for local government; and called on central government to take an integrated approach to water policy and work with local government to meet costs associated with improving water quality.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Freshwater Futures Update.**

**Thompson/Bruning
CARRIED**

Attendance

Councillor Love left the meeting at 11.55am.

6.5 **Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Annual Report 2016-2017**

Refer Powerpoint Objective ID: A2725386

Rotorua Catchments Manager Linda Goldsmith and Lakes Operations Manager Andy Bruere advised members that the Annual Report had been approved by the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group on 8 September 2017 and submitted to the Ministry for the Environment. Ms Goldsmith noted that the Annual Report provided the latest trophic level index (TLI) results for all the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes and confirmed that five of the lakes (Lakes Rotorua, Ōkaro, Rerewhakaaitu, Tikitapu and Rotomā) had reached their target TLI.

Mr Bruere advised that Lakes Rotoehu and Tarawera were of particular concern, and noted that further work to assess the impacts of land uses in contributing catchments was being undertaken, sewerage reticulation had been supported in principle by the Strategy Group, and that possible phosphorus contribution from geothermal activity was being modelled. In response to a member's question regarding forestry practices, Mr Bruere advised that the implications of the recently published National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry for water quality had yet to be assessed.

It was noted that the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant presentation previously provided by Ms J Riini from Rotorua Lakes Council should be forwarded to the Ministry for the Environment.

Resolved

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

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Annual Report 2016-2017.**

**Thurston/Winters
CARRIED**

6.6 **Regional Direction & Delivery Work Programme 2017 – October**

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 and Delivery Work Programme 2017 – October.**

**Thompson/Crosby
CARRIED**

6.7 Operations and Monitoring News

Refer Powerpoints Obj ID: A2724259 and A2725540

Tauranga Catchments Manager Sarah Omundsen and Kaituna Catchments Manager Pim De Monchy updated members on work programme activities in their catchments. Key areas of work included: the Kaiate Falls taskforce, the Kaimai Mamaku Catchments Forum, the Kopurererua Valley concept plan, the Fonterra 50 Catchments programme, the Pāpāmoa Hills Park land acquisition, collaboration with community care groups, Papahikahawai Island work including bridge and chenier construction, causeway removal and native planting, and re-diversion construction tenders.

Biosecurity Manager Greg Corbett updated members on current biosecurity work including exclusion and eradication of pests such as fanworm and catfish, destruction of various pest plants, and management and containment of goats and wallabies. Mr Corbett noted that a progressive containment approach was currently being followed for wallabies, and that better engagement with the Ministry of Primary Industries was being sought on this issue and possibilities offered by Predator Free 2050 were being investigated.

Attendance

Councillor Thurston left the meeting at 12.40pm.

7 Public Excluded Section

Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of Matter to be Considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution
Public excluded Regional Coastal Environment Plan Appeals Subcommittee minutes – 30 August 2017	Please refer to the relevant clause in the meeting minutes.	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
Plan Change 10 Lake Rotorua Management -	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant

Appeals Received	the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege.	part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.
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**Thompson/Bruning
CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.