

Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Council Chambers, Whakatāne District Council, Civic Centre, Commerce Street, Whakatāne on Friday, 14 September 2018 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Maramena Vercoe (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa)

Appointees: Crs Tīpene Marr, Bill Clark, Kevin Winters, David Love - Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Reverend Graham Te Rire - Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust, Miro Araroa - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Cr G Johnston - Whakatāne District Council, Ivy Kahukiwa Smith, Janice Wall (Alternate) - Hineuru, Cr Tangonui Kingi - Taupo District Council, Te Waiti Rangiwai (Alternate) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, Ngapera Rangiaho – Tūhoe

In Attendance: Bay of Plenty Regional Council: Chairman Doug Leeder, Simon Stokes – Eastern Catchments Manager, Kataraina O'Brien – Strategic Engagement Manager, Yvonne Tatton – Manager Governance, Michelle Lee – Planner (Water Policy), Mieke Kapa - Land Management Officer, Fiona Wood – Programme Coordinator Integrated Catchments, Shari Kameta – Committee Advisor; Dominic Bowden – Taupō District Council, Bill Kerrison – Kokopu Trust, Brad Bluett – Department of Conservation, Cr Alison Silcock – Whakatane District Council, Chris Fern - Trustpower, Tina Porou – Poipoia Ltd, Jason Nairn, Iwi Environment Manager – Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa

Apologies: Earl Rewi (Deputy Chair) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare, Tuwhakairiora O'Brien (Alternate) - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Councillor Rosie Harvey (Alternate) - Taupō District Council, Chris Ingle, General Manager Integrated Catchments – Bay of Plenty Regional Council

1 Karakia

Provided by Reverend Graham Te Rire.

Cr Tīpene Marr responded with a mihi of acknowledgment.

2 Apologies

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 **Accepts the apologies from: Earl Rewi, Tuwhakairiora O'Brien, Cr Rosie Harvey and Chris Ingle tendered at the meeting.**

**Marr/Rangiwai
CARRIED**

3 **Public Forum**

3.1 **Mr Bill Kerrison, Kokopu Trust**

Refer Tabled Document Number 1.

Mr Bill Kerrison of the Kokopu Trust presented a proposal, jointly prepared by Mr Kerrison and Mr Alan Riwaka of Te Ohu Kaimoana, to mitigate tuna mortalities and address passage of adult tuna migrating to sea at Matahina Dam.

Key points:

- The proposed system was designed to trap migrating tuna ahead of the dam intake pipes without causing injury or fatality;
- Would require socialising the concept with Iwi and Trustpower, development of a plan, detailed specifications and costings, which would rely on gaining support from Trustpower and the Forum.
- Highlighted more concerning issues with tuna passage at Aniwhenua Dam, which Mr Kerrison was prepared to work with others to address.

In response to questions:

- The proposal had been endorsed by American experts;
- Electricity generation would have to cease during installation of the proposed system.

Members' Comments:

- Acknowledged the proposal and issues raised regarding Aniwhenua Dam.
- Supported the proposal and further discussion to be taken under Agenda item 9.1.

4 **Acceptance of Late Items**

Nil

5 **General Business**

- 1) Plight of Galatea Farmers

6 **Confidential Business to be Transferred into the Open**

Nil

7 **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

8 Previous Minutes

8.1 Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes - 08 June 2018

Correction

Agenda page 19, Minute item 7.3, fourth bullet point – amend “Maggie Papakura” to “Guide Maggie Makereti Papakura”.

Matter Arising

Agenda page 19, Minute item 7.3, second paragraph – regarding consideration of future trials, members were informed of a research project study that was being undertaken in New Zealand on whitebait entering into a range of fish passage, which may provide learnings for the Forum’s work.

Staff Follow-up Action:

It was requested that the whitebait study be investigated and information reported back to the Forum.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes of 8 June 2018, as a true and correct record with the foregoing correction.

Winters/Rangiaho
CARRIED

9 Reports

9.1 Rangitāiki Integrated Catchment Programme Annual Work Plan Results 2017-2018 and Annual Work Programme 2018/2019

Eastern Catchments Manager Simon Stokes and Taupō District Council Strategic Relationship Manager Dominic Bowden highlighted points from the annual work programme.

Key points:

- The Rangitāiki Catchment Programme was in its third year of delivery, with much of the current focus on repair and restoration as a result of the 2017 April cyclones.
- In regard to Taupō District Council’s key projects:
 - The Taupo District 2050 urban growth strategy draft document was out for consultation until 14 September 2018, with no growth areas identified within the upper Rangitāiki catchment;
 - The Taupo District Plan review would look at land use with an initial report open for feedback in November 2018 followed by a strategic approach to commence in May 2019;

- Roading and footpath maintenance was being undertaken, with no work planned within the Rangitāiki catchment;
- The Biodiversity Strategy to establish indigenous biodiversity targets was due to commence later in 2018.

In response to Questions:

- Regarding maintenance of Aniwaniwa Reserve, Southern Generation had received some funding to carryout maintenance in the reserve area;
- River scheme management stopped below Aniwhenua Dam and restarted after Kopuriki Road, Galatea;
- Regarding the proposal and issues raised by Mr Bill Kerrison in the Public Forum, Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Steering Group and the Tuna Forum were working with Matahina and Aniwhenua Dam owners to progress issues and find a solution for fish passage over the hydro dams, with analysis completed on fish passage sites;
- The Forum had the ability to hold constructive conversations with Trustpower;
- The 2018/2019 Work Plan had been approved by Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Whakatāne District Council;
- Status of the management of Edgecumbe and Ratahi reserves was not listed in the 2017-2018 Work Plan. Ownership of red stickered reserve land still remained with the Regional Council, however would be resolved in due course with the Rangitāiki Community Board and Whakatane District Council;
- Future inclusion of Iwi work programmes in the Work Plan was acknowledged and noted.

Staff Follow-up Action:

- Invite Mr Bill Kerrison to discuss tuna passage issues with Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Steering Group and the Tuna Forum.
- Provide advice to the Forum on the resolution of Proposed Change 3 appeal point in regard to existing and new fish passage structures.
- Provide an update on Aniwaniwa Reserve maintenance and management.

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki Integrated Catchment Programme Annual Work Plan Results 2017-2018 and Annual Work Programme 2018/2019.**
- 2 Endorses the Rangitāiki Integrated Catchment Programme Annual Work Plan 2018/2019.**

**Love/Marr
CARRIED**

Change to Order of Business

With the leave of the Forum, the Chair advised that consideration of General Business would be taken next on the agenda.

10 Consideration of General Business

10.1 Plight of Galatea Farmers

An issue was raised concerning several farms that were underwater downstream of Aniwhenua Dam, causing significant impacts on the economic, health and wellbeing of the affected farmers. Frustration was noted towards the dam owner's disregard of the overall cumulative and negative effects associated with the dam. Consideration was sought on potential for the Forum to advocate for the affected individuals via communication with the dam owners and potential avenues to have the dam's resource consent reviewed.

Advice noted:

- Continual flooding and gravel build-up from the Whirinaki River and Te Urewera had caused inability for the farmers to utilise their flooded land since April 2016;
- Responsibility for the dam and the reserve rested with Southern Generation, Nova Energy and Whakatāne District Council respectively;
- Conditions of Aniwhenua Dam's resource consent did not require flood mitigation;
- Regional Council had been in discussions since 2017 to seek an engineering solution for Kopuriki Road, which to this point had been unsuccessful;
- Regarding the Forum's purpose and the appropriate vehicle to progress the matter, it was suggested that advocating for the interests of the affected individuals would gain the respect and trust of the community, while achieving the Forum's purpose.

Members' Comments:

- Sought detailed information on the issues identifying short and long-term solutions to be reported back to the Forum.
- Asked for consideration of dredging impacts on Ngāti Haka/Patuheuheu hapū, associated civil defence activity and Iwi further downstream;
- Noted a consent application to remove gravel from the island channel below Aniwhenua Dam had been rejected by Ngāti Haka/Patuheuheu hapū;
- Considered a rates relief for affected farmers should be explored;
- Requested a report from the Rivers & Drainage team on short and long-term engineering solutions associated with Aniwhenua Dam and affected farmland; with inclusion of a response for how Regional Council can advocate for affected farmers;
- Supported the facilitation of a high level meeting with affected stakeholder representatives, Nova Energy and Southern Generation management (and Trustpower if appropriate).

11 Public Excluded Section

Resolved

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
10.1 Public Excluded Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes - 08 June 2018	To maintain legal professional privilege.	Disclosing the information may constitute contempt of Court.

Marr/Winters
CARRIED

12 Confidential Business Transferred into the Open

Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Notes the only business transacted in public excluded was to confirm the Public Excluded Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes of 8 June 2018. In accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, no reason for withholding this information from the public exists.

Winters/Love
CARRIED

The meeting closed at 11:43 am.

CONFIRMED:

Maramena Vercoe, Chairperson
Rangitāiki River Forum