

Minutes for Lake Rotorua Catchment Stakeholders Advisory Group, 23 September 2013

Rotorua District Council – Committee Room 2

1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua, 1:00 p.m. start

Chair: Tanira Kingi

Present:

- Māori Trustee: Arapeta Tahana
 - Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Roku Mihinui
 - LWQS: Ian McLean
 - RDC: Cr Karen Hunt, plus staff: Liam Dagg, Paul Skinner, Mark Rawson,
 - Māori landowners: Tina Ngatai (NWTL), Hera Naera (also Collective)
 - Collective reps: Joanna Carr, Stuart Morrison, Wendy Roe, Gisele Schweizer (arrived 1:13 pm)
 - Small block holders: Karl Weaver
 - BOPRC: Cr Neil Oppatt (arrived 1:20 pm), plus staff: Anna Grayling, Sarah Omundsen, Karen Parcell, Gloria Zamora, Stephen Lamb
 - Others: Warren Webber (StAG secretariat), Christine Walker
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Item 1: Karakia and welcome

- Karakia by Arapeta Tahana, welcome by Tanira Kingi
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Item 2: Apologies

- Don Atkinson, Hera Smith, Holly Parson, Simon Park
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Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting (from 13 August 2013)

Amendments to previous minutes:

On page 3, bullet point 6; "... some think that the 38 kg / ha for farmers should be set higher."

MOTION: Accept amended minutes of main StAG meeting 13 August as accurate

MOVED: Karen Hunt / seconded Arapeta Tahana / CARRIED

Item 4: Request for General Business items

- Update on Innovation Challenge (Anna Grayling)

Item 5: 'StAG Position Paper – Allocations and Incentives'. Endorsement of final paper, endorse changes.

Amendments:

- Page 5, 1a in brackets 35 (milking platform), 13k (effective area) in brackets
 - Concerns raised that constraining the 35 allocation to milking platform will have bigger impacts than anticipated
 - Some confusion around the “area” that dairy and drystock relate to
 - Request that StAG needs clarification on where the figures come from and what they mean.
 - Once StAG gets the clarification on the figures, the Allocations and Incentives paper could be amended and approved at Council if required
- Page 5, 1b
 - Every farm over “40 hectares in size”
 - Benchmark goes to the landowner, even if has been subdivided but part of a larger farm.
- Pages 5 and 6, Pt 2 - Incentives Programme (100 tN)
 - builds in more flexibility

[ACTION: Anna/Sarah to clarify what the 35 and 13 averages relate to in terms of catchment land use area]

<p>MOTION: Endorse final paper (with amendments/clarifications) 'StAG Position Paper – Allocations and Incentives'</p>

<p>MOVED: Stuart Morrison / seconded Tina Ngatai / CARRIED</p>

[ACTION: Circulate Subcommittee meeting Minutes of 27 August and 10 September, for reviewing of action points (Warren Webber)]

Item 6: Strategy, Planning and Policy meeting (SPP), 17 September 2013. Report back on StAG Position paper, and two Staff papers ('Allocations and Incentives' and 'Nitrogen Trading')

Update given by Cr Neil Oppatt

- SPP Council meeting went extremely well, with high praises from Council in regards to the collaborative approach that StAG and Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme have taken.
- StAG will give advice before policy is written, at four different stages...

General comments by other attendees

- Comment made that Regional Council is very supportive of farmers and their plight
- Overall, very positive meeting
- “Where to” from here?

[ACTION: Stuart Morrison email report on farmer’s view to Jenny Clarke, to put on StAG website]

- Comment made that collaboration (i.e. StAG) works
- Paper still needs to be approved by RTALSG on Friday, 27 September
- The first presentation made to council, on behalf of farmers, was made on 19 October 2011; we’ve come a long way in two years. There is a lot of interest in how well we are doing nationally.
- Comment made that farmers are concerned with the cost of Resource Consents.
 - Request that Council look at a more efficient and effective way of issuing resource consents for this programme of work
 - Costs of consents
 - It may be beneficial to look how costs of consents was handled in Taupō
 - Consent monitoring historically is the expense of the landowner, we need to look at a better model

[ACTION: BOPRC implementation project to investigate streamlining the resource consent process. Will begin March 2014]

- Farm Nutrient Plans template needs to be done by February
- When writing the rules.
 - Rules need to be easy
 - Need to really analyse what is required
 - need to consider the costs of implementing and monitoring
 - Go for option that is the least cost to monitor

Item 7: ‘Draft Incentive Scheme Framework Paper, July 2013’

Update given by Anna Grayling and Karen Parcell

- Need feedback to come
- Karen Parcell-

AIM SLIDE

- Request that the line needs to be clarified
 - Above the line - means what?
 - Below the line - means what?
- Question; can funds be used to start and grow business?
- Change: Put asterisk (*) saying “subject to review at agreement of parties”

APPROACH SLIDE

- Question; where does money come for administration?
 - Informed that Council is working with MfE on getting clarification

[ACTION]

1. First point on slide- Full stop after 'decisions made'. Delete remainder of sentence
2. Fourth point- not sure on using existing system agreed add "where appropriate"

- Auction of Nitrogen? What is the money being spent on? Be careful how you present it, wording is important
 - Tangible
 - Reduction of Nitrogen
- The crown is currently interested to see if there is value for money, not just money being spent because the budget is there.
- Comment on the need to clarify specifics in the scheme. i.e. not paying for for infrastructure, however, if structure leaches nitrogen, could purchase nitrogen
 - Farmers will need a Nutrient Management Plan :
 - Which specifies how farmer will get to line
 - Identify farm systems in place before the line

PRINCIPLES OF FUNDING ALLOCATION (Page. 6 #1)

- What is the Nitrogen reduction per dollar?
- Equity is not being taken into account.
- Need to avoid neighbours undercutting each other for sale of nitrogen.
- Whatever solution is, we will need to explain and make clear to the Crown that money was spent in the best way possible.
- Nitrogen from milking platform different from nitrogen from other parts of land that is valued differently.

[ACTION]

1. Change wording to "We will pay a fair value for nitrogen"
2. Change to Maximising benefits, minimising negatives
3. Add to principles definition: Options not weighted or in any particular order

- Exclusions, Page 7

[ACTION: Remove #2, let's discuss at the design phase]

- Conditions of Funding pg. 7 #5
 - Need to acknowledge that science changes.
 - Between now and before it goes to cabinet, will items be changed if needed?

Motion: StAG's position is that \$45 million excludes administration costs

Moved Arapeta Tahana / seconded Wendy Roe/ CARRIED

Item 8: Small Block Data. (Presentation - Sarah Omundsen)

Update given by Sarah Omundsen

- Survey done by APR, supported by BOPRC and RDC data
- Slides
 - Important to remember the data is only indicative at this stage, we are working through issues with trying to combine RDC and BOPRC data as they don't always align
 - Comment made that the message that needs to be sent is "even though you're small, you are part of the equation and should be part of the solution."
 - Sharing the fund and share the burden.
 - A potential issue identified is that small properties have a low awareness about nutrient management and are potentially unwilling to engage
 - StAG needs to decide what size farm we go down to?
 - When deciding how do we monitor?
 - We need a rule for small holdings which lease land out that are running dairy cows on vulnerable land at the worst time of year.
- Next step: BOPRC staff needs to analyse what it means and what are our options going forward and then come back to StAG.

Item 9: Rules Programme Work plan – including consideration of sector definition for policy on allocations and incentives (Sarah Omundsen)

Update given by Sarah Omundsen- (work plan will be circulated by email)

- Handout on Table of work yet to be done.
- StAG has a number of decisions to make
- Delegate to subcommittee to put a project team together to get decisions made.
- Progress report at next meeting as to how to proceed.

Item 10: General business

- a) Report from RTALSG Meeting
 - RTALSG meeting on Friday, 28 September 2013
 - StAG subcommittee will come up with what/who will be presented.
- b) Update on proposed Gorse Programme (Anna Grayling)
 - John Douglas and Greg Corbett- presenting tomorrow, update next week.
 - LUC contest brochure draft to look at.

- c) Expert Panel report – incentives
 - Report to be tabled at next meeting
- d) Any benefit to having a Land TAG? (Tanira Kingi)
 - Anna Grayling - science meeting this week to address.
 - StAG position is that it is needed
 - Sarah Omundsen to come back outline with TOR for TAG

[ACTION] StAG get an update on the Iwi consultation]

- e) Rural Professional Seminar

- would it be beneficial for StAG representatives to attend to answer questions?

[ACTION] Request from farmers and Te Arawa landowners for updates by StAG]

- f) Update on software customisation for Lake Rotorua Catchment (e.g. OVERSEER)
 - BOPRC still putting together contract
 - Overseer validation and calibration - has national implications for rainfall

Meeting closed 4:17 pm

Upcoming meeting confirmations:

2 October: Subcommittee	5 November: Subcommittee
22 October: StAG + Subcommittee	18 November: StAG + Subcommittee
29 October: Subcommittee	17 December: StAG + Subcommittee