

Minutes for Lake Rotorua Catchment Stakeholders Advisory Group, 22 October 2012

Rotorua District Council – Committee Room 2

1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua, 9:10 a.m. start

Chair: Tanira Kingi

Present:

- Māori Trustee: Arapeta Tahana
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Lana Ngawhika (left 11:55am)
- LWQS: Ian McLean, Warren Webber
- RDC: Cr Karen Hunt
- Māori landowners:
- Collective reps: Joanna Carr, Stuart Morrison, Wendy Roe, Gisele Schweizer (away 10:00 – 11:15 am)
- Small block holders: Karl Weaver
- BOPRC: Cr Neil Oppatt, plus staff: Anna Grayling, Sarah Omundsen, Jenny Clarke (Minutes Secretary), Lisa Power, Warwick Murray (left 11:55am), Greg Corbett (10:50 – 11:30am), Fiona Wood (10:50 – 11:30am), John Douglas (10:50 – 11:30am), Richard Mallinson (10:50 – 11:30am)
- Others: Simon Park, Headway Ltd & StAG secretariat; Leo Meharry (RLCB, left 11:05am); John Fenwick (Waerenga Inc.); Te Taru White (Pukahukiwi Kaokaoroa)

Action summary

1. Liaise with Tanira to arrange hui specific to Te Arawa landowners as a follow-up to similar August hui (Anna)
2. Amend rules work plan by adding a timeline, track % task complete and insert incentive work plan actions (Sarah/Lisa)
3. Seek views of Lee Matheson on options, circulate a revised dairy support sector discussion document (with Lee's views incorporated) for StAG discussion (Sarah, following details from subcommittee)
4. Invite Lee to next StAG to answer questions as the group decide on the preferred option (Sarah)
5. Circulate Comms and Engagement plan for rules and incentives and consider alignment with key decisions required (Anna)
6. StAG members forward any science questions to Anna to pass on to Lakes TAG
7. Organise forum for scientists to discuss lake science with farmers and others (Warwick's team)
8. Circulate TLI/N/P data analysis report co-authored by David Hamilton and Tom Stephens, associated with 2012 RPS mediation (Sarah)
9. Contact Iwi members regarding ongoing representation at StAG meetings (Tanira)

Item 1: Karakia and welcome

- Arapeta Tahana
 - Lana Ngawhika will be the new TALT representative, replacing Terry Tapsell
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Item 2: Apologies

- Colin Maunder, Don Atkinson, Gisele Schweizer (part of meeting)
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Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting (23 September 2013)

Discussion on minutes:

- **Review of action points**, ensure these are listed at start of future StAG minutes
- **Update on recent landowner public meetings** (including last night at Ngongotahā Hall). Key issues include: effectiveness of communications, lack of policy awareness amongst some farmers, notably drystock; costs of future farm plans and consents; what “viable” farms means
- **Science progress and communication** (as raised at Ngongotaha meeting) – a public science forum to be held before end of year; undertaking given by BOPRC, supported by Tanira; needs to address TLI improvement, N Vs P debate, basis for current N policy path; provision for new science to change policy path; one-to-one engagement needed; despite science uncertainty, “do nothing” is not an option.
 - See agenda item #9 for further discussion points
- Members agreed to share contact lists (e.g. Te Arawa Primary Sector Group, BOPRC contacts), if required, to help hui organisers reach all stakeholders, as there was a lack of attendees at recently organised hui

ACTION: Arrange follow-up hui, specific to Te Arawa landowners (Anna, liaising with Tanira)

Motion: Accept minutes of main StAG meeting 23 September 2013 as accurate

Moved Karen/ seconded Gisele / CARRIED

Item 4: General business items to add

- No items of General business
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Item 5: BOPRC draft rules work plan and timing of StAG input (Sarah Omundsen)

Discussion on work plan table “Key pieces of work required to deliver draft rules for Council decision in March 2014”

- Sarah will report back each meeting regarding work plan process
- Greg Corbett’s team is working on a Farm Nutrient Plan template using existing plans i.e. DairyNZ’s Sustainable Milk Plan and B&LNZ’s Land and Environment Plan

- Update on analysis for developing NDA range – Simon has contacted DairyNZ and B&LNZ, substantive follow up required

ACTION: Amend rules work plan by adding a timeline and track % task complete (Sarah/Lisa)

Item 6: Land use sector definitions

- a. Dairy and drystock definitions (Sarah Omundsen)
 - Discussion on paper “Reference sheet: Dairy and drystock “sector” areas
 - Definitions are based on the ROTAN work
 - ‘Dairy’ does not include dairy support; ‘Drystock’ does not include forest
- b. Possible dairy support sector NDA (Sarah Omundsen)
 - See discussion paper “Consideration of a dairy support NDA”
 - “Status quo”: dairy NDA = 35, drystock (inc. dairy support) = 13
 - Possible introduction of a third sector “dairy support” NDA @ 18kgN/ha
 - Drystock (excluding dairy support) NDA drops from 13 to 12 kgN
 - Dairy NDA unchanged at 35
- c. Alternative dairy support NDA mechanism (Warren Webber)
 - Discussion on presentation “Sector definition & Rule NDAs. The ‘Straw Men’”
 - Suggests that ‘dairy support’ be treated as ‘drystock’, to avoid inequality and unnecessary complexity
 - Flexibility via NDA support allowance (@ 3kgN/ha) that shifts with stock, discourage import of dairy support from outside catchment
- d. Base year options for defining land use – a key issue
 - Defer discussion to StAG subcommittee

Further discussion on 3 allocation options re dairy support (facilitated by Sarah)

- Costs of administration of the approaches
- If dairy support restricted to local stock, the income will go down
- Viability of the different systems? Is more modelling required? Catchment profile lacking. Knowledge of drystock systems is light, dairy support almost nil.
- Does the ‘shifting NDA’ option work under the RMA?
- Allocation scheme needs to retain proportionality of reduction effort
- Need clarity on dairy support definition: calves, heifers, winter grazing of cows...
- Equity question: difference between dairy support @18 and bull beef @12?
- Drystock at NDA of 13 difficult, let alone 12
- Dedicated drystock farmers should not be penalised and not regarded as “on the way out”

- Consider new intermediate sector that captures dairy support and intensive drystock, perhaps 5000 ha?
- Small holdings < 40ha should be included
- Major monitoring challenge – but true for all allocation options
- Views of an ag consultant sought to look at the practicalities of the different options

ACTION: Seek views of Lee Matheson on options; circulate a revised dairy support sector discussion document (with Lee's views incorporated) for StAG discussion (Sarah, following details from subcommittee)

ACTION: Invite Lee to next StAG to answer questions as the group decide on the preferred option (Sarah)

Item 7: Incentives work plan and Scheme Framework (Anna Grayling)

Update given by Anna

- What required for a high level schedule?
- Workshop on 13 November 2013 to appoint a project team
- APR contracted to present potential framework / procedures
- Implementation plan sections
- Draft spend profile for \$40M
- Key risks / issues

ACTION: Circulate Comms and engagement plan for rules and incentives – considering alignment with key decisions required (Anna)

Item 8: Draft gorse implementation

Presentation (Appendix 1) and update given by Greg Corbett on a prospective gorse implementation plan

- using incentives to change land use and permanently suppress mature gorse
- Council direction is to target permanent land use change from gorse to trees
- processes to be clear, transparent, fair and efficient
- needs to be responsive and adaptive to change
- proposed delivery of plan to be led by BOPRC Council staff, but with some funding available for landowners to obtain independent advice
- Site-specific property plans
- Will proactively approach large gorse owners first, others can still approach Council
- Discussion on neighbouring gorse boundary issues
- Facts and figures are in OPUS report, this will be put up on StAG website

- StAG generally in favour of this project and would like regular progress updates

Item 9: Science programme and communication (Stuart Morrison)

- Agreed that scientific communication is essential, but developing a communications plan is outside the terms of ToR; these issues covered in BOPRC's broader lakes comms plan
- Scientific outputs are used to shape policy, but also needs to be effectively communicated to stakeholders e.g. Why has the lake improved
- It is acknowledged that the science is not exact, but it is important that various findings are brought to the group, establish and emphasise common ground (science consensus); also acknowledge differences and/or areas of uncertainty
- DairyNZ also collating farm data, recent mitigation efforts
- Lakes science plan being developed now, give more structure, prioritisation
- Discussion of possible Land TAG – consensus that this function should be combined with the Water TAG to maintain links between disciplines, avoid isolation
- Agreed to invite David Hamilton and other scientists to StAG meeting, once report completed (probably early 2014)
- Still need to have interim meeting with farmers to pass on scientific information, explain policy-science-feedback process

TLI and N/P issues to be clarified in Prof David Hamilton's latest modelling work – his report is due shortly and would inform promised science forum

ACTION: StAG members forward any science questions to Anna to pass on

ACTION: Warwick's team report back on "Why has the lake improved?" and other key lake science issues via a suitable forum for farmers and others

ACTION: Circulate TLI/N/P data analysis report co-authored by David Hamilton and Tom Stephens, associated with 2012 RPS mediation (Sarah)

Item 10: General business

- John Fenwick expressed concern that Iwi representatives are not attending each meeting; this is a lost opportunity. It was agreed that this should be addressed.

ACTION: Contact Iwi members regarding ongoing representation at StAG meetings (Tanira)

Meeting closed 12:10 pm

Upcoming meetings:

5 November: Subcommittee (10-12), tbc
18 November: StAG (1-4) + Subcommittee (4-5)
3 December: Subcommittee (10-12), tbc
17 December: StAG (9-12) + Subcommittee (12.30-2)

Appendix

Excerpt from Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee 17 September 2013

(see http://www.boprc.govt.nz/media/306831/20130917_strategy-policyandplanningcommittee17september2013.pdf)

MOTION:

Moved: Councillor Oppatt **Seconded:** Councillor Thurston

That the recommendations be accepted with Approach One, with a note that staff will work proactively with farmers, both individually and collectively to support them in meeting the nutrient reductions required for the Lake Rotorua catchment.

The motion was **PUT** and **CARRIED**.

Resolved

That the Strategy, Policy and Planning Committee under its delegated authority:

1. Receives the report, Framework for allocation and incentives in the Lake Rotorua catchment.
2. Confirms the preferred framework for allocating nitrogen to land use activities in the Lake Rotorua catchment is Approach One: an integrated framework that will achieve the required nitrogen reductions through a programme of nitrogen discharge allowances, incentives and gorse conversion
3. Notes that staff will work proactively with farmers, both individually and collectively to support them in meeting the nutrient reductions required for the Lake Rotorua catchment.
4. Notes that this report will be presented to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group for endorsement at their next meeting.
5. Confirms that the decision is within the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's strategic planning framework (Council's Ten Year Plan, and planning documents and processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993, Land Transport Management Act 2003, Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002).

**Oppatt/Thurston
CARRIED**