

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Held on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016, 10am, at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea

## Present

Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Phill Thomass (Life Members)  
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)  
Todd McClay (MP for Rotorua)  
Dave Donaldson, Mark Gould (RDC Councillors)  
Tai Eru Morehu, Neill Oppatt (BOPRC Councillor)  
Ian McLean (Chair of the Rotoma Rotoiti Sewerage Steering Committee)  
Geoff Palmer, Leo Meharry, John Dyer, Phill Thomass (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)  
John Green, QSM (LakesWater Quality Society)  
Hilary Prior (Chair), John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, Peter Burton, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, Claire Miller (LRCA Committee Members)

Approximately 65 people in total were present at the meeting

## Apologies:

Don Stotter (LRCA Committee), Tania Tapsell-Bennett (RDC Councillor) Rob Kent (RDC Councillor and Community Board), Lyall Thurston (BOPRC Councillor), Julie & Malcolm Macdonald, Ann & Robin Sinclair, Brian & Faye Stamp, John & Sue LaRoche

## Welcome

Tai Eru Morehu provided a Karakia for the meeting.  
Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Hilary mentioned the unfortunate death this year of Guy Nelson, one of the Committee Members, and expressed sympathy for his family.

## Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting

Mark Gould proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Buzz Rathbone. Accepted by the meeting.

## Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

## Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson's report is given on the front page of the latest Newsletter, and all members should have received a copy.

## **Financial Report**

Peter Burton presented the audited accounts for the year. Bob Armstrong proposed the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by John Green and approved by the meeting. Thanks to Graham and Steph Prior who acted as auditors and who are prepared to carry out this role again in the next year.

## **Election of the Chair**

Hilary stood down as Chair and Jim Stanton took the chair temporarily. He thanked Hilary for all her time and commitment given to LRCA during the year. Jim nominated Hilary for Chair, and was seconded by Nick Miller. No further nominations were received and Hilary was elected by acclamation.

## **Election of Officers**

Peter Burton has resigned as Treasurer as he and Coralie are moving from the District. Hilary wished to thank both Peter and Coralie for the work that they had done. Don Stotter has indicated he is willing to stand as Treasurer. John Green nominated him, seconded by Don Atkinson.

The other current Committee members - John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, Claire Miller, Nick Miller, Jim Stanton, Phill Thomass were nominated *en bloc* by Paul Prior, seconded by Keith Smith. All were approved.

## **Presentations:**

### **Te Taru White, Deputy Chair of Federation of Maori Authorities. 'What is Iwi thinking for the future?'**

Te Taru spoke about the local iwi views for the future concerning Lake Rotoiti and the surrounding area. He works with local iwi on incorporation and trusts issues, and development in consideration of the context of the local environment. Iwi own 25% of the land in the Rotorua catchment, and wish to work to uplift the social and economic status of their people, having a long-term investment in the area and the relationship with the land and lakes. Te Arawa will consider lakebed issues and lake structures in the future and will engage with the community to gain further clarity, but have other priorities to consider at the moment. The lakes are highly important to local iwi and Te Arawa will not do anything to the detriment of the community at large.

### **Ian McLean, Chair, Rotoma-Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme Committee**

Ian spoke on the Eastern Rotoiti and Rotoma Sewerage scheme and the progress made on working out the issues faced. He thanked the Mayor and Councillors for coming to the meeting today, and for taking part in the democratic process and community consultation. These sewerage schemes are needed to relieve public health issues and protect lake water quality. The alternative option provided for (Onsite Effluent Treatment) is almost as expensive for individual households as the scheme but has fewer benefits. The agreed compromise that has been reached following local community feedback is a combined option based on a local Membrane Bioreactor Treatment Plant somewhere

in the area, followed by land treatment. Grinder pumps are proposed for Rotoma properties, and a trial of individual Biolytic tanks, which give partial treatment, for Rotoiti properties. These feed to the Membrane Bioreactor treatment plant for further processing. This proposal has some resilience over using a very long pipeline back to the central treatment plant and avoids additional loading on the Rotorua plant. Indicative costings for the various options considered are within 10% of each other, and contain a 30% contingency. The cost to households would be considerable and so both RDC and BOPRC have been approached for subsidies.

Thanks was given to Doug Leeder (Chair, BOPRC) for supporting an extra subsidy of \$4m in the draft Regional Long Term Plan. The capital cost to households after all subsidies would be \$18,000 for Rotoma and \$16,000 for Rotoiti, and with the extra subsidy, which has not yet been approved, this would reduce to just under \$12,000, spread equally between both areas. This can be paid over 25 years by being added to rates payments. This cost is much the same cost as the Okareka scheme cost, but the Okareka residents tend to have much higher incomes. The cost is also much the same as OSET plants, which cost on average about \$14,000 but may be more. The payment is currently divided as follows: Ministry of Health subsidy of \$4.5m, Ministry for the Environment subsidy of \$10.2m, BOPRC subsidy of \$4.6m + a proposed extra \$4.0m, RDC rates \$1.1m, and individual households to pay \$7.3m. Annual operating costs will be approximately \$381 per year, the same as other areas of the District.

Both councils met and made decisions in December – RDC accepted the Steering Group's recommended option and BOPRC included the additional subsidy in their draft Regional Long Term Plan. Both decisions are subject to the Long Term Plan process and Ian encourages the community to put feedback in to the plans when they come up for consultation. Ian thanked both Councils for their leadership in this and also to the Lakes Community Board members and the Iwi leaders who have all made this happen.

Hilary would like to acknowledge and thank all the work Ian has put in not only on this but over many years, and the committee wishes him to accept the position of Life Member of the Association.

Question: what are Biolytic units and what would the purpose of the trial be? Ian clarified that Biolytic units are tanks with filtration units inside which will operate much the same as grinder pumps but will provide some treatment at the same time. There is organic material including worms which digest the organic matter. They have been used in various locations but have not been used in a combination like this before. The Biolytic tank will sit in the same place as a grinder pump would on the property, and is slightly bigger but not much. The trial is intended to determine whether it is safe to go ahead with them in an integrated system. The biolytic tanks have some intolerances, such as use of strong bleaches.

Geoff Turner asked whether the Biolytic units are the same as were originally proposed by Dr Kepa Morgan? Yes, the units are similar, but don't have the extra components which were originally proposed – they will feed into the reticulated system instead.

Geoff asked how long the trial at Rotoiti will operate for, and what will the rest of the community do in the meantime? Ian said that all the rest of the scheme can go ahead as planned, as the trial will not make any difference to the implementation of the rest of the system. The engineers want to see the trial started as soon as possible so they can have the decision made. Mayor Chadwick said that the trial is planned to last at least two years and its success will be evaluated by RDC. She would like to thank Willie Emery as this proposal originally came from a small hapu and Willie considered its application for the whole scheme. Thanks to Ian, and Warren Webber and Dave Donaldson for all

being at the meetings. RDC are wanting to avoid costs such as having to go back to the Environment Court again. Dave Donaldson said that if the Biolytic units are successful then the operating costs will be the same as for the rest of the district with different systems – there will be no difference in the cost charged. Question: does the community have to await approval through the Long Term Plan before implementation starts? Yes, the Long Term Plan is due to be approved mid-year. RDC has to do more detailed costings and gain Resource Consent for the scheme in the meantime.

Nick Miller commented that there is still one settlement on Rotoiti – Tumoana Point - which is not included in the map shown for the scheme, and he had understood they were to be included in the scheme. Ian replied that Andy Bell has said that the provision of sewerage will be considered for Tumoana Point, but it is still to be determined which scheme it would be attached to, as also for the two bay settlements in Lake Rotoehu. Phill Thomass said that this scheme is much more simplified than the original scheme proposed at the public meetings, and suggested people contact him if anyone has any concerns and questions regarding the details. Biolytic units work much the same as a grinder pump for the actual households involved, and all maintenance is done either by RDC staff or through contractors, householders don't have to worry.

Question: How do the tiger worms in the units survive if the houses are only holiday homes and used irregularly? Ian said that if householders are away for a very long time then something like a pumpkin or suchlike put into the unit would enable worms to survive for a long time. However, all maintenance would be the responsibility of RDC. The location for the trial has not been determined yet – a group or cluster of homes would be chosen by agreement within the Rotoiti area. Ian also expressed his thanks for the honour of being made a Life Member and thanked to Hilary for all her support for this work.

#### **Derek Nolan, specialist in Environmental and Resource Management Law**

Derek Nolan gave an update on the Lakes Structures issues. Thanks to RDC and BOPRC Council members for coming to the community meetings and listening to the views of the community. There are two distinct regimes governing lakes structures which need to be differentiated: Resource Consent which governs the environmental approvals, and the ownership of the lake environment.

Regarding the Resource Management Act: RDC has responsibility for everything above the lake surface and BOPRC has responsibility for anything below the surface. RDC has delegated their authority to BOPRC who issue consents on behalf of RDC. Last year the RDC District Plan came up for review. All existing structures as well as new structures have had to come up for re-consent, and all are due within a couple of years. This involves a great deal of cost and also uncertainty as to whether they would be approved. It appears to residents to be unnecessary to get consents for existing structures where effects will not change, and feedback from the community was that existing structures should not have to get consents under the RMA. Following this demonstration of community feeling RDC has provided Permitted Activity status for all of the current lake structures. This is still in the appeal period but we hope that no other parties put in an appeal against this decision. Residents still have to meet standards for this status such as maintaining structures. For additions or new structures residents will still need a consent. Historically these have been classed as Discretionary Activities which look at all aspects and possible effects when being consented and generally cost much the same for consent as for construction. LRCA have asked that new or extended structures be set as Restricted Discretionary Activities which restrains the aspects which have to be considered, and RDC have provided this status for new structures. RDC has classified all the lakes as Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes right up to the lake-edge which would have made any re-consenting of existing or new structures extremely difficult to achieve. Following feedback from

communities, RDC have now pushed the edge of this designation to 50m out from the foreshore into the lake near settlement areas. LRCA have asked that it be 200m from the shore but this was not approved. However this will not be appealed either.

BOPRC has responsibility for anything that affects the lakebed. For existing structures there would not be likely to be any new effects so re-consenting would not be sensible, so LRCA will ask BOPRC to mirror RDC's decision in their next regional plan and redefine their criteria for the evaluation of structures. Some residents may still have to get renewal of the consent for the part of their structures which are in the lakebed in the meantime.

Ownership of the lakebed is a separate issue. Those who build new structures not in the same location will have to pay for a lease from Te Arawa and LINZ acting for the Crown and will have to pay a rent based on the area of the structure. The cost will be fairly expensive – around \$1400 per year plus GST. Another question is around existing structures, as currently nobody pays a rental for these structures. This will be between the Crown and Te Arawa to sort out.

Questions: John Green asked whether the Te Arawa Lakes Act in 2006 protects against any future costs or claims if residents have any current structures at that date? Derek said yes, but there are different views about that which still have to be explored.

Bob Armstrong asked whether there is any update on the Flood Levels which were on the original documents? Derek replied that the original flood-lines on the documents required all areas inside that to get Discretionary Activity permission for building any structures on land. This flood-line has been removed due to the feedback given and the controlled lake levels of Lake Rotoiti. RDC has taken the flood-line out of the plan but not all references to it have been taken out, given BOPRC requirements. LRCA will need to follow this up and report back in the newsletter.

Don Atkinson said that he had recently applied for re-consenting of his lake structure at a cost of \$390 and got it approved with no problems, although only to 2020 but there was discussion as to whether this should be a 35-year term instead at next renewal.

Mayor Chadwick said that RDC and BOPRC are looking at how they can work together more efficiently, without amalgamation, and whether they can look at only one agency dealing with such things without amalgamating councils.

Nick Miller commented that at one of the meetings regarding lake structures there were four planners present but none of them had a boat or knowledge of lake structures, and asked that such decisions be made by people who are familiar with the situations they are making recommendations about.

John Dyer said that Clause 33 of the Te Arawa Lake Settlement Act said there will be no additional cost, and that it was also reported in Hansard that this would be a full and final settlement, and asked whether this was being changed in the rentals? Mayor Chadwick replied that no, this is not happening, but that things do change. If changes in water ownership happened then this would have to be taken into consideration. This would have to be dealt with by statute, rather than at a lower level, but she cannot give any guarantee beyond the full and final settlement statement.

## **General Business**

### **Okere Arm Wall**

Nick Miller said that we have been informed that the Wall is suffering from severe corrosion. It has had a beneficial effect on the water quality of Lake Rotoiti over the last few years. RDC warned at the

start that there might be five iterations of the Wall needed and that they should each last about 50 years. Given current statements, this one is not likely to last that long. The waters of Lake Rotoiti and Rotorua are very aggressive and attack metals very quickly. Early discussions on the wall emphasised the need for suitable building materials. Hilary said that she held a meeting with Andy Bruere earlier and put forward suggestions around this from the community. Andy will respond after the break and is aware of the issue. Consents on the Wall are coming up shortly and work will need to be done to ensure their renewal. Andy feels at this stage that if nothing is done then the Wall should last for another 20 years, but has no scientific analysis to base this on at this point.

### **Weed Spraying**

Geoff Turner asked whether there was any update on weed spraying at Rotoiti? Hilary commented that the weed problem is a result of the work on water quality, and that there will be a symposium on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March hosted by LWQS on the two topics of Lake Weed and Wallabies. BOPRC's budget for weed spraying is not sufficient for the size of the current issue and we need to look at future options to see what can be done. We don't want any harvested weed to stay in the catchment due to the nitrogen content, but require resource consents to remove it from the catchment.

### **West Rotoiti Care Group**

Jan Wilkins heads the West Rotoiti Care Group, and wishes the Lakes Community Board to come and look at the Okere Falls area as it is a mess. The area has had Sigma Consultants out to evaluate it and is owned by Transit NZ.

### **Reflux**

Michael Gill raised the issue of the reflux that goes around the Wall, and said there has been an occurrence since December and is currently ongoing. Warren provided some slides around this issue. The agreed operational envelope for the lake management shows what is agreed and the actual measurements taken. Peaks relating to rainfall cannot usually be predicted by the management. The Gates consent requires more water to flow out of Lake Rotoiti than flows in from the Ohau Channel, and if this happens there should not be any reflux. Low lake levels occurred in early December and BOPRC closed the gates to raise the level while still keeping the outflow greater than the inflow. In late December a potential reflux situation occurred as the outflow and inflow were very close. It has been estimated by David Hamilton that when the TLI of the two lakes is close then a reflux situation should not have any great effect. There has been a call to put an extra monitoring buoy in place but this is somewhat complicated and at the moment this cost cannot be justified.

### **Sealing of road to Mourea Urupa**

Mary Stanton spoke on behalf of local iwi and Te Takinga Marae. She put in a submission to RDC requesting RDC assistance in sealing the 1km gravel road to the Mourea urupa, which has 24 acres of land and a high intake population and gets a lot of use and traffic with the frequent funerals.

### **Hon Todd McClay**

Todd gave thanks to Hilary and the LRCA committee for all the work that has been put in over the year. Since there are not as many people here as last year it means that people are feeling better about issues. Thanks also to Ian McLean for his work on the Steering Committee and getting progress with this issue to the point that we might not lose our funding subsidy from the Ministry of Health.

### **Her Worship the Mayor, Steve Chadwick**

Steve also gave congratulations to Hilary and the new executive, as well as thanks to Doug Leeder, as RDC is looking at a new relationship with BOPRC where the two councils are working together to find solutions for efficiencies. Thanks also to Arapeta Tahana for working with RDC on a partnership model.

The Meeting closed at 12.00 pm.