

**Meeting Minutes**                      **Lake Tarawera Working Party**

**Venue**                                      BOPRC Office, Arawa Street, Rotorua

**Date and Time**                        **4th August 2015 5.30-7.30pm**

**Chair**                                        Andy Bruere

**Apologies**                                Terry Beckett, Ann McSweeney, Barnet Vercoe, Roko Mihiniui,

<b>Present</b>	Catherine Ford	Farmer
	John Ford (JF)	Farmer
	Matt Osborne	Eastern Region Fish and Game
	Andy Woolhouse	EMTS Ltd for Bay of Plenty Regional Council
	Tiipene Marr	Toi Moana and BOP Regional Councillor
	Gavin Park	Onuku and Rerewhakaaitu 1A2B Trust
	Chris Clarke	Te Mana o Ngati Rangitihui Trust
	Trish Fordyce (TF)	Timberlands Ltd
	Geoff Palmer (GP)	Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assn
	Leilani Ngawhika	Te Arawa Lakes Trust
	Chris Sutton (CS)	Project Rerewhakaaitu
	Libby Fletcher (LF)	Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assn
	Bob Parker (BP)	Project Rerewhakaaitu
	Neil Oppatt (NO)	BOP Regional Councillor
	Warren Webber	Lakes Water Quality Society
	Paul Scholes (PS)	BOPRC Environmental Scientist
	Andy Bruere (AB)	BOPRC Lakes Operations Manager
	Karen Parcell (KP)	BOPRC Senior Policy Analyst (Nat Res Policy)

**Purpose**

To review and discuss submissions received on the 'Draft' Tarawera Lakes Restoration Plan'. A summary of these submissions and outcomes from this Working party meeting will be presented by Karen to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group in either October or December. A summary of submissions was provided to attendees (Copy attached). Issues were discussed by Action point (with some deviation)

**Main Themes**

- 50 Submissions received
- 57 in support (ranging from outright support to conditional support)
- 2 in opposition (sewage reticulation)

There was a natural split between urban and rural feedback - the farmers are concerned with agricultural actions while those in the community gave feedback on the sewage reticulation.

## **Urban Sewage Reticulation Action 1**

The sewage reticulation steering group will be facilitated by Rotorua Lakes Council.

- CS Sewage discharge and water take should not occur in the same location - it creates health issues.
- JF Reticulation will increase property values, so owners should contribute
- AB This will be a subject for discussion with the Sewage Steering Group
- LF Other lakes received subsidies for sewage reticulation, why not Tarawera? Rate payers are paying the highest rates in the district but don't get many of the benefits that town dwellers receive
- AB/NO Different subsidies have been available for different lakes in the past but there are no apparent subsidies for Tarawera at this time. There is currently no provision in the RLC or BOPRC 10 year plans, but these are reviewed every three years.
- KP The Action Plan doesn't contain fine detail, this will be addressed by the Sewage Steering Group.
- LP Most people take water from roof but some draw lake water and filter, both can create adverse effects. The residents would like water reticulation but this is outside the scope of this group.
- GP When installed, has sewage reticulation improved lake water quality?
- AB Waikato University are modelling effects of implemented changes. If sewage reticulation had not been implemented, would water quality have declined?
- AB All agree that sewage reticulation is needed. Treatment is now about nutrient management as well as waste removal.
- JP What is the cost/kg P removal from sewage reticulation compared to other methods?
- NP We should get cost comparisons between options  
One proviso of the \$72m government funding was that sewage will be reticulated

## **Agriculture - Whole Catchment Actions 2 and 4**

We don't know what effect will be on farmers until Nutrient Management Plans (NMP). have been completed.

CS/BP Summarised the experience of Project Rerewhakaaitu farmers. They all have NMPs. It took a long time to get buy-in from all farmers. All individual farm data supplied to Bob Longhurst who ran data through Overseer (including the environmental component). Plans are confidential. Their plans concentrated on effect on Lake Rerewhakaaitu, but farmers are aware this there is effect on Lake Tarawera as well.

- BP Suggests getting one agency to do all the NMPs to ensure consistency.
- JF NMPs should not be made public
- NO Where do NMPs fit into the catchment nutrient load?  
Prof David Hamilton preparing a model.
- AB NMPs raise awareness among farmers and highlight where there are issues

- CS Farmers are all aware that NMPs are needed and will happen but they need science to be able to make decisions. Overseer isn't great but it's the only tool readily available.
- JF It's a marginal tool but is not an appropriate basis for regulation
- TF Concerned if Overseer is used for regulation.
- AB There are other tools but overseer is useful to measure on site change rather than comparison between farms.
- NO Councils are working with Overseer to try to refine and improve accuracy. Private landowners are being asked to pay, we need to ensure an equitable split with farmers.
- AB Rerewhakaaitu is a good example of voluntary mechanisms working, but there is a risk that the good could be undone by unregulated incomers not buying in to the environmental programme. Similarly there is no point in having sewage reticulation if it is lost by land management stupidity.
- TF CNI Holdings (lwi landowners) are major landholders within the catchment holding Class I- VIII lands. There have been no discussions with CNI. Concerns that they will not be able to change land-use (currently forestry) on some of the better quality land.
- JF Farmers need to know what's needed and have NMPs in place before discussing timeframes.

## **Agriculture - Outer Catchment Action 4**

- TF Concerned about the consultation timeframes within the outer catchment as the ground water data will not be available until December 15.
- BP/CS/JF Want the scientific data as soon as it becomes available and have it explained in an easily understandable way.
- AB Will get David Hamilton to meet the farmers
- AB There should be a new Action Point '6' Commitment by BOPRC to keeping people informed of the science in an easily understood format containing technical and non-technical summaries

## **Nutrient Capping Action 5B**

Voluntary vs Rules?. Voluntary gives no certainty to landowners.

- BP What does capping mean?
- KP This hasn't been sported yet
- AB A paper has been presented to council by Gemma Moleta. There are unlikely to be benchmarks, but it could prevent change of land-use.
- NO It will be a cap, How it will be implemented depends on public consultation, it may benchmark to current levels, but there is a question of equity. EG a low level emitter can change a high level emitter can continue.
- TF Forestry land currently includes Classes I-III and they can't convert, but existing farms on Class IV -V land will be able to intensify, which isn't a desired outcome. In the Upper Waikato, 1/3 of issue is from land conversion, 2/3 from intensification.
- NO Warren Webber has correlated land use with LUC in the Rotorua. 80% of dairying is on IV-VI with little on II and III.
- TF Suggest consultation undertaken with CNI Holdings. If they cant convert it will lower the land value - which is good for the current renters as rent based on land values.

## Other Action

PS Summary of current monitoring;

- Last summer Rotorua stratified for one month and became anoxic (it usually only stratifies for a few days at a time).
- Tarawera had an algal bloom due to the settled weather. High P in spring lead to algal bloom. After bloom P remains in lake (sediment). When the lake becomes anoxic P is released from the sediment. Tarawera doesn't normally loose bottom water oxygen.
- Three summers of dry conditions causes more flushing of P when rain occurs. Luckily the winters were not very wet.
- New TLI update due in 1 month
- Alum dosing is not a suitable treatment for P in Tarawera. Its a deep lake and also there is likely to be more public opposition that for Rotorua.

## General Comments

There are areas of uncertainty. These will be reviewed when the groundwater data is available. Science needs to be validated

GP Will septic tanks still be maintained if the reticulation process is going to take a long time?

AB That's for the sewage group to determine

BP Need to relook at the timelines for actions? What are the linkages with this group and ; Rerewhakaaitu Group, Strategy Group etc? Prepare a diagram to show linkages.

NO We want an inclusive consultation process. Are there others who should be included? e.g. Inner and outer catchment farms?