

## Minutes for Land Technical Advisory Group, 29 February 2016

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Bay of Plenty Regional Council – Te Wai Ariki, 1125 Arawa St, Rotorua, 9:30am

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**Chair:** Dave Clark

**Covener:** Andy Bruere

**Present:**

- **Independent Advisors:** Greg Lambert
- **Ag First:** Phil Journeaux
- **Landcare:** Suzie Greenhalgh
- **Scion:** Tim Payn
- **AgResearch:** Neels Botha
- **BOPRC:** Marcus Bloor, Anna Grayling, Alastair MacCormick, Rosemary Cross
- **Others:** Simon Park, Lee Matheson (Perrin Ag), Te Taru White (Incentives Board), Stuart Morrison (Farmer), Tilly Hasselman (BOPRC)

**Action Summary:**

1. Tilly Hasselman to check that all documents from 6 May 2015 meeting action list are available online.
2. Simon Park to draft Land TAG modus operandi.
3. Anna Grayling to provide John Manhire's report for circulation to Land TAG members
4. Marcus Bloor to circulate a spreadsheet with different priorities to Land TAG for comment on current, planned or available research.
5. Simon Park to speak to Overseer working group to see if someone can speak to Land TAG about reference file method.
6. Tilly Hasselman to send "Methodology for creation of NDA reference files and stocking rate table" report to Land TAG.
7. Andy Bruere to circulate report on natural and anthropogenic sources of P. What about the report from McDowell?
8. Marcus Bloor to look at P loss on Mamaku podzols for next Land TAG meeting.

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**Item 1: Welcome, apologies and minutes/actions from 6 May 2015**

**Apologies:** Gina Mohi, David Houlbrooke, Simon Stokes, Rob Donald, Roger Waugh & Graeme Doole.

**Follow up on Action Items from previous Minutes:**

**Item 10:** Simon Park/Andy Bruere/ Marcus Bloor: to work with Tim Payn on fleshing out integrating forestry into pastoral landscapes and case studies.

- Currently creating an "easy read" synthesis of technical document. This will be discussed at the next Land TAG meeting

**Item 13, 14:** Andy Bruere to contact Roland Stenger to speak to LTAG on attenuation and to find out what the Waikato is doing around attenuation

- Currently trying to get ROTAN up and running to see what it says about attenuation.
- Discussion had around the complexities and problems with assessing attenuation.
- Research into attenuation is a high priority for BOPRC's Science Research Programme.
- 5 yearly Science Reviews will help address attenuation uncertainty for Lake Rotorua.

**Land TAG indicated support for research into better understanding the uncertainty and complexities around attenuation.**

**Item 16:** Land TAG to identify ways the Advice and Support team can ask questions of Land TAG.

- This is being dealt with on a case by case basis.
- Responses to the Collective's questions is a good resource that can be used in the future.

ACTION: Tilly to check that all documents from 6 May 2015 meeting action list are available online.
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**Item 2: Clarifying LTAG's role: Policy context, policy advice needs and LTAG's modus operandi**

1. Stephen Lamb gave a presentation outlining the policy history, Integrated Framework and how we have got to where we are today. His presentation included a brief update on allocation and trading. The following were recognised as ongoing policy needs:

- OVERSEER – consistency over time, reference files and calibration opportunities.
- Attenuation – more knowledge in this area (ROTAN).
- Phosphorus Management – this is an ongoing challenge to the rules.
- Economic future – barriers to a future low nitrogen rural economy.

2. Simon Park initiated a discussion about Land TAG's modus operandi and how we can be using Land TAG to its full extent.

- Are there some key things from Land TAG that could go to Council or Strategy Group about the way they see research should be directed?
- Possibility that Land TAG name may need to change to accommodate the broad expanse of issues addressed and discussed.
- Land TAG will be constrained in giving unanimous endorsements of reports/proposals due to potential difference in opinions and/or only a few members possessing relevant expertise.

**Land TAG indicated support for Simon Park to summarise the discussion and come forward with modus operandi suggestions.**

ACTION: Simon to draft Land TAG modus operandi.
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**Item 3: Challenges in modelling the economic impacts of land use change and on-farm mitigations (Lake Rotorua and other examples), plus discussion on how BOPRC can address these challenges.**

Suzie Greenhalgh gave an overview of Economic Modelling and identified the areas of challenge as the models themselves, delivery results and institutional capacity to support economic modelling. It was recognised that we need much simpler models to help bridge the gap between the modeller and landowner. Suzie noted wide regional council interest in such models and [model frameworks](#).

Unfortunately Graeme Doole was unavailable to address his [report](#) but his notes were discussed.

**Land TAG indicated support for the following:**

- Need to start work on economic modelling much earlier in the process.
- Need to get input data buy-in to minimise subsequent disputes.
- The time and effort devoted to economic research and modelling is usually way less significant than that devoted to science research, and often at a late stage of the process.
- Economic reports need to be simplified in order for non-experts to understand.
- Look into the possibility of creating a library of alternative land uses for landowners.

**ACTION:** Anna Grayling to provide John Manhire's report for circulation to Land TAG members.

#### **Item 4: Science Plan Priorities for the Rotorua Lakes programme**

Marcus Bloor gave a brief description of the process involved with creating the priorities which are all now captured in the Science Plan.

**ACTION:** Marcus to circulate a spreadsheet with different priorities to Land TAG for comment on current, planned or available research..

#### **Item 5: Review of the OVERSEER reference file method**

Lee Matheson's report was circulated to Land TAG prior to meeting.

Land TAG made no comment on this report, just points of clarification, and noted the external OVERSEER guidance project is in the process of developing advice on this matter (due June 2016).

**ACTION:** Simon Park to speak to OVERSEER guidance working group about considering the reference file method, and getting someone from the project team to speak to Land TAG about the issue.

#### **Item 6: Updated on-farm impacts of new rules**

Feedback on Lee's report was positive, highlighting that it was well presented and simple to read.

**ACTION:** Tilly to send "Methodology for creation of NDA reference files and stocking rate table" report to Land TAG.

#### **Item 7: Building farmer collaboration on low N loss initiatives**

Te Taru White presented a summary of the Incentives Board progress to date and deals that are currently taking place. The current deals are with those that have chosen to approach the Incentives Board as the board is not currently actively seeking N sellers. Te Taru noted the problems around attenuation and communication on this, especially as the Board's target is 100 tonnes in-lake.

The Incentives Board is confident they will secure their initial 8 tonnes target by 30 June 2016.

#### **Item 8: High Rainfall OVERSEER calibration**

Stewart Ledgard gave an update (via VC) on the project with work proposed to start by the beginning of April, for two dairy trials on a podzol soil and pumice soil.

- Farms haven't been selected yet but need to target properties with at least 2000mm rainfall.
- Two new high rainfall calibration points (rather than one point from a single trial) from this study on the OVERSEER N loss calibration curve will be highly beneficial. This logic applies even though the two soils may have similar drainage characteristics.
- Sampling devices will remain in ground for 36 months.

**Land TAG expressed their support for the high rainfall OVERSEER calibration project and acknowledged its priority in the land research gaps.**

#### **Item 9: Updates/briefs**

1. Process for response to farmer science questions

- These have been sent to the Collective – not a final version. Planning a follow up meeting in next month or so.

## **2. Latest TLI results and summer algal blooms**

- Some shoreline areas reached orange alert levels which indicates more regularly monitoring is needed.
- Lake has been at TLI target due to alum dosing, not catchment mitigation.
- Expectation is that over time we will be reducing our reliance on alum – currently trying to get science delivered on this topic.

ACTION: Send <a href="#">link to ecotoxicology report</a> to Land TAG members
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## **3. Rotorua soils info/improving S-map**

- S-map is a critical input into OVERSEER and therefore the accuracy of it is crucial.
- We have complete S-map coverage in the BOP.
- Some underlying soil physics data within S-map may not be as accurate as initially thought – Landcare has been approached to help address this issue.

## **4. Learnings from the Rotorua Advice and Support service**

- Rosemary gave a brief update on the Advice and Support process.
- 60 landowners have registered for Advice and Support
- There have been a number of operational learnings as the process is refined.
- OVERSEER change from version 6.2.0 to 6.2.1 prevented the drystock reference file from running, and hence issuing provisional NDAs. This issue has now been resolved.
- BOPRC will have a better idea of the lessons learnt in a few months.

## **5. NuBaLM forestry model**

- Tim Payn gave us an update on the NuBaLM forestry model.
- Used for plantation forestry and based on a set of long-term trials.
- Looking to make smaller models which link in with other models e.g. OVERSEER.
- Needs to be very easy to use, transparent and publishable.
- It is possible that NuBaLM could predict N losses in the next 2-3 years for a range of forest crop and management regimes.

## **6. Attenuation and ROTAN update**

- Details on this were covered off at the beginning of the meeting.

## **7. University of Waikato project looking at P sources; looking at P loss on Mamaku podzols**

- Community is asking for more research to be put into Phosphorus.
- We have very high natural P levels in the Rotorua Catchment which emerges in springs/streams. Therefore it will be challenging to achieve sufficient on-farm mitigation to meet the low in-lake P levels currently controlled by alum.

ACTION: 1. Andy to circulate report on natural and anthropogenic sources of P.
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2. Marcus to look at P loss on Mamaku podzols for next Land TAG meeting.
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## **Item 10: Actions, 2016 LTAG meetings**

- Possibility of slimming the agenda down at next meeting to allow for more discussion. Possible work shopping of key agenda items.
- Discussion needed around how we get more voluntary compliance with nutrient limits.

- Will arrange Land TAG meetings for the year so members can plan around them. Suggested dates:
  1. Thursday 26 May
  2. Thursday 18 August
  3. Thursday 17 November

Meeting Closed: 4.30pm