

Aquatic Pests Technical Advisory Group

Minutes for Tuesday 21 October, 2008

Environment Bay of Plenty Office – Rotorua 1.30 pm

Present: Matt Osbourne (Fish & Game), Greg Corbett, Ian Phillips, Prue Bentley, Hamish Lass, David Morgan, Rebecca Lander (DOC), Hera Smith (Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Chris Isherwood, Eric Haycock (RDC), Sarah Crump (DOC), Johlene Kelly (DOC), John Mather (arrived 1:45pm), Mary Bruce (Landward Management)

Apologies: Refer agenda Item 1

Chair: Richard Mallinson

Scribe: Jenny Clarke

Meeting Notes

Item	Details	Action/ Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Apologies	Wendy Mead, Jeanie McInnes, Keri Neilson (Environment Waikato) Tim Senior, John Mather, Matt Bloxham, Rob French (EBOP) Graham Franklin (Landward Management) Gary Page (RDC)		
2. Matters arising from previous minutes	Go through previous minutes of 22 July 2008 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulate completed Aquatic weed report (Graeme) – completed• Discuss Pollution hotline with EBOP team (Richard) – this was discussed, will speak to Rebecca later re. distributing number wider• Place group Didymo information onto www.didymo.net (All) – Nothing placed on web yet, still scoping.• Forming strategic plan on spraying (Richard, Matt B, David Morgan) – completed, presentation of spreadsheet (agenda Item 8)	<p>Discuss wider distribution of Pollution hotline number (Richard / Rebecca)</p> <p>Follow-up web information with Tim (Richard)</p>	<p>Feedback next meeting</p> <p>Feedback next meeting</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with DOC (Tauranga) for management plan updates (Rebecca) – work is progressing. There is a new area manager in Tauranga. • Koi carp pamphlet distribution in Katikati (Rebecca) – pamphlets have been distributed (agenda Item 10) • New pesticide report (Matt B) – deferred as Matt is away • DVD release (Richard) – completed (agenda Item 3) • Washing facility (Richard) – hopefully available for use by mid-Nov (agenda Item 12) • Negotiation with Lake Rotokakahi gate trustees – Richard has followed up with JO Butterworth, also needs to follow-up with other trustees. It was be preferable to have something in place for 1 December, the start of the season. • Exclusion area in Lake Rotomahana – no report available for the follow-up with John Clayton, NIWA. This action is deferred until next meeting as Matt B is away. • Aquathol consent (Richard) – This is with Bruce Crabb for approval, Richard has offered to provide more supporting information if required • Communications programme action plan (Prue) – presentation (agenda Item 12) 	<p>Follow-up pesticide report with Matt B (Richard)</p> <p>Follow-up Lake Rotokakahi gate trustees (Richard)</p> <p>Follow-up Lake Rotomahana exclusion area with John Clayton, NIWA (Matt B/Richard)</p> <p>Follow-up Aquathol consent progress (Richard)</p>	<p>Feedback next meeting</p> <p>Feedback next meeting</p> <p>Feedback next meeting</p> <p>Feedback next meeting</p>
<p>3. Freshwater pests DVD “Premier release”</p>	<p>New Freshwater Pests DVD played with positive feedback</p> <p>As is it relatively cheap to reproduce the DVD’s, it is preferable to distribute widely It was informed by communications that there will be a press release by EBOP This will tie in with the wash facility; hopefully will generate good public buy-in</p>	<p>Advise Richard of # copies required and he will distribute (All)</p>	

4. Didymo co-ordination (Matt, F&G)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last sampling was in early September. Results are still clear, but more pressure is expected over summer. • More user groups: DOC, EBOP and Fish & Game will be sampling across the Bay of Plenty. There is now one sampling kit per waterway – this will speed up the process and prevent cross contamination • Felt soled wader boots now banned for anglers Throughout New Zealand this is very positive. International manufacturers now looking at halting manufacture • An incursion exercise was held in Hawkes Bay during Sept test emergency response. There was positive feedback from this exercise. BNZ interface with regional partners and templates are available for BNZ funding, which reduce the application time to three days. • Encouragement to continue with advocacy and maintaining involvement with the community and events. 		
5. CCDAG group (Richard)	<p>Check, Clean Dry Advisory Group</p> <p>This new group was put forward by Bio-security NZ to replace a previous advisory group run through DOC. It is considered more appropriate to run the programme from Central government.</p> <p>Richard has already nominated himself for this group and suggests that there should be a representative from each organisation (eg. DOC).</p>	<p>Advise team of CCDAG group meeting (Richard)</p>	<p>Feedback next meeting</p>
6. Waikato liaison (Richard)	<p>A discussion was held on Waikato liaison. A suggestion was made to involve Fish & Game.</p>		
7. Small lakes survey (Hamish)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation of the project background was given. It covers 13 lakes, ranging from Matakana Island to Waikato, Rotorua and Kawerau. • Hamish/Matt will start surveying in Dec/Jan survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look at previous monitoring results (if any), Survey native insects, aquatic plants, animals. ○ Look at sites free of exotics. Put intact lakes into monitoring programme for regular surveys (eg. 12 – 18 months). There is a problem with remoteness for some lakes • DOC will be also monitoring some freshwater sites on DOC land. This is a chance to liaise, share notes 		

<p>8. 08 programme of aquatic weed monitoring/ spraying (Richard)</p>	<p>Presentation of a spreadsheet setting out priority sites: “Lakes – Surveillance Priorities”</p> <p>Richard, Dave Morgan, Matt B. Includes five factors: “Risk of pest entry, recreation use, intactness (lake SPI), reduced risk of spread, ability to detect new incursion. – lakes are ranked out of five for each factor, giving a possible 25 total</p> <p>Two spreadsheet tabs: 1. Lakes overall, 2. Sites within individual lakes (Value factors: High risk pest vector point, recreational value, biodiversity value)</p> <p>This spreadsheet will assist with management prioritising and budgeting. The aim is to keep consistency between sites and lakes. There is potential to add more information such as photo links. This can be shared with others and provides a tool for input (including the public).</p> <p>The concept was presented to the lakes quality meeting, who were supportive.</p> <p>Weed Harvesting will be carried out in Okawa Bay Lake Rotoiti, this harvesting will be targeted at removing weed as part of the nutrient management programme for Lake Rotoiti and will also help alleviate issues related to weed strandings</p>	<p>Distribute (email) spreadsheet to team for comments (Richard)</p>	<p>Feedback next meeting</p>
<p>9. Summer awareness programme – 2008/09 promotions plan (Prue)</p>	<p>Ideas include: Radio advertising, newspaper columns, promotion material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar messages to last year, emphasising the “Clean, Check, Dry” message • Important to continue liaison with other agencies 		
<p>10. Koi Carp/ pest fish – update (Rebecca / Johlene)</p>	<p>Eight responses were received from the Katikati mail-out. All responses need prompt investigation, but there are issues with staff capacity. Beccie will work with new biodiversity programme manager Chris Clarke to put together a programme for monitoring.</p> <p>Kauri Point pond: Johlene is currently the only one who has a handlers certificate. Other options are being looked at, with poisoning as a last resort (as it is not target specific):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electric fishing from a boat was found to be not as effective as with other areas (not as useful for large breeding populations), ○ Drain and net or poison ○ Is it worth the sustained effort for a pond that close to the sea 	<p>Follow-up on progress for implementing timeline to kill the koi (Rebecca)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draw on other staff, eg. Nelson, Marl region. <p>A discussion was held on options.</p> <p>Cat fish surveys: These are to be held in Jan/Mar by Johlene and Ian. This is a repeat of previous years' programme. After the March survey, there will be a review of methods. Funding has been for to update advocacy banners. Resource consents are needed (in progress). Ideally will be completed by December.</p> <p>Sally-Anne Danielle has plastic fish available for use during events</p>		
11. Weed cordon – presentation	<p>Presentation by Hamish. A handout of Weed Monitoring results was distributed “File Note – Rotoma Weed Cordon, Ref: 1370 64153”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful programme, now looking at expansion. Budget is available for one per year. • A suggestion was made to involve a university student 	<p>Discuss future weed cordons with Te Awawa Trust and Fish & Game</p> <p>Possibility of university student for PhD on weed cordons. Liaise with Andy</p>	<p>Richard and Hamish</p> <p>Richard</p>
12. Washdown facilities – progress and deployment (Richard)	<p>Photo presentation explaining the new washdown facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work still in progress to have a setup easy to use and transport for using at events. • The pump will be powered by generator 		
13. General business	<p>Summer students for Didymo advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Richard) students 08/09, two students for EBOP; Anna Walmsley and Justine Shervill are due to start on 7 November: • Mature students are chosen for dealing with the public, • DOC will also have a student. • EBOP/DOC will to work together and co-ordinate with lakes events over summer. Also liaise with EW to help cover their freshwater events • Can use promotional products (eg. Sunscreen, key rings) • Display material at key events, eg. National fishing competition 20-23 Nov. <p>(John Mather) Kauri tree disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A disease (<i>Phytophthora taxon agathis</i>) attacking Kauri trees, causing them to rot. • Hundreds of trees have died in the north of North Island. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative programme is now in place, with MAF/BNZ as the co-ordinators. • This focuses on a communications plan and best practice methods. <p>(Sarah Crump) – Educational aquatic pest book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is ready to be published. • The Rotorua museum will display the book along with an exhibition in November <p>Johlene (DOC has new car stickers with Check Clean Dry message)</p>		
Next Meeting	Tuesday 10 March 2009; 1:30 pm at the Rotorua Office of Environment Bay of Plenty Chair: Richard		

Meeting finished at 4.00 pm