

Aquatic Pests Technical Advisory Group

Minutes for Tuesday 17 March, 2009

Environment Bay of Plenty Office – Rotorua 1.35 pm

Present: Richard Mallinson, Jenny Clarke, Greg Corbett (left 2.15 pm), Ian Phillips (left 3.30 pm), Andy Bruere (attended 3.00 – 3.45pm), Hamish Lass (away approx 2.50 – 3.10 pm) (Environment Bay of Plenty, EBOP), Johlene Kelly (left 4:00 pm, Department of Conservation, DOC), Matt Osbourne (Fish & Game), John Mather (left 1:40 pm), Matt Fanning, Jan Webster, David Morgan (LINZ)

Apologies: Refer agenda Item 1

Chair: Richard Mallinson

Scribe: Jenny Clarke

Meeting Notes

| Item | Details | Action | Responsibility / Timeframe |
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| 1. Apologies | Rebecca Lander, Sarah Crump (DOC); Garry Page (Rotorua District Council, RDC); Hera Smith (Te Arawa Lakes Trust); Matt Bloxham (EBOP) | | |
| 2. Matters arising from previous minutes | <p>Go through previous minutes of 21 October 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback on wider distribution of Pollution hotline number discussion (Richard/Rebecca) – completed• Follow-up web information with Tim (Richard) – completed• Follow-up pesticide report with Matt B (Richard) – in progress (Matt away)• Follow-up Lake Rotokakahi gate trustees (Richard) – gate has been installed by trustees• Follow-up Lake Rotomahana exclusion area with John Clayton, NIWA (Matt B/Richard) – decided that this was not viable (resources currently tied up with weed cordons)• Follow-up Aquathol consent process (Richard) – outstanding, has been referred to Rivers & Drainage | 1. Follow-up Aquathol consent process | Richard (feedback next meeting) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise Richard of copies required for distribution of Freshwater Pests DVD (All) – widely distributed via summer students and coastguard; more copies still available, see Richard. Ideas on distribution are welcome. • Advise team of CCDAG group meeting (Richard) – (refer Item 5) • Distribute (email) spreadsheet to team for comments (Richard) – in progress • Follow-up on progress for implementing timeline to kill the koi (Rebecca) – update given by Johlene. Two operations for DOC are pending for next financial year. Kirstin Campbell is following up on incursion sightings. • Discuss future weed cordons with Te Arawa Trust and Fish & Game (Richard/Hamish) – Met with Matt & Rod from Fish & Game. Number of issues to work through. Matt B is preparing a blanket resource consent for all BOP lakes. • Liaise with Andy on possibility of university student for PhD on weed cordons (Richard) – has been discussed with Andy, need to discuss further with Matt B (from scientific value viewpoint). A suggestion was made to have 3rd year Polytechnic student instead. | <p>2. Send copy of Lake Benmore Aquathol consent conditions to Richard once completed</p> <p>3. Circulate weed incursion spreadsheet</p> <p>4. Forward koi operation cost details to Greg</p> <p>5. Complete resource consent for future weed cordons</p> <p>6. Discuss Weeds student with Matt B (Richard)</p> | <p>Graeme Franklyn</p> <p>Richard (end of March)</p> <p>Johlene/ Beccy</p> <p>Hamish/ Matt B</p> |
| <p>3. Catfish Lake Rotoiti (Johlene Kelly)</p> | <p>A large dead catfish was reported washed up in January. Richard/Johlene investigated options as to why it washed up and where from. They netted over 3 nights, inside and outside of bay, (total 64 nets) but no evidence of catfish found. Also did a doorknock (no sightings). A post-mortem is being conducted at Uni of Waikato to see where the fish lived. Another press-release will be prepared once results published.</p> <p>Update on DOC activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have done more advocacy • Undertaking annual pest surveys soon • Weeds harvester in March/April • Positive process to streamline response to pest fish. <p>There was a suggestion by Greg to formalise a response plan. It was informed there is a plan but that it is out of date.</p> <p>Richard informed that EBOP dive-crew training will be held in Lake Taupo during May to gain experience in locating and identifying catfish. Commented that there is a lack of public</p> | <p>7. Circulate results of Uni of Waikato testing on catfish</p> <p>8. Discuss revision of pest fish response plan</p> | <p>Johlene</p> <p>Johlene / Beccy (prior to next summer)</p> |

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| | awareness of catfish | | |
| 4. Results of 08/09 Didymo/Aquatic Pest Awareness Programme | <p>Richard circulated summer 2008/2009 report completed by summer students Tessa Walmsley and Justin Shervell. He advised that results can vary (ie. public awareness) with different student opinions (hard to get comparative analysis between years). Overall the student work is very valuable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A point was made that the media exposure is not as fresh now and some water users have a blasé attitude, eg. kayakers/rafters. • A suggestion was made to meet with rafters and inform of the possibility of closing some waterways if consent conditions not met • Richard to check with Garry Page regarding consent requirements for RDC. Also to check with Te Arawa regarding lakes. • Concern was expressed at the high level of weed on boats/trailers, 6.6% of inspections • There was a discussion on promotional products. • Richard is preparing a report for BNZ | <p>9. Check with RDC on resource consents for using carparks near waterways for commercial activities</p> <p>10. Check with Te Arawa Lakes Trust on conditions of consents for using lakes</p> <p>11. Forward information to Richard on promotional hand sanitisers</p> | <p>Richard</p> <p>Richard</p> <p>Graeme</p> |
| 5. CCDAG (Check Clean Dry Advisory Group) formation and activity | <p>Richard spoke to his powerpoint presentation "Concept presentation Didymo collateral templates & new visual"</p> <p>The presentation focused on expanding the CCD concept to include different aquatic pests</p> | 12. Collate and forward response on "Didymo collateral templates" to CCDAG | Richard |
| 6. '09 programme of aquatic weed monitoring/spraying | <p>Richard explained the background of the recent Hornwort incursion into Okataina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Clayton found some fragments recently when doing research in the area. • This was disappointing as a previous incursion (around the Jetty area) was removed around 1 ½ years ago. • The weedbed has still not been located, but fragments have been spotted over a large area (location aerial photos circulated); difficult to locate in a large lake. • There will be more monitoring and when the weedbed discovered it will be hit with Diquat. • Subsequent management decisions will be made on how to best deal with the incursion. • Made the comment that shoreline monitoring searches are valuable <p>Andy has spoken with RDC on restricting boat access to launch sides other than around</p> | <p>13. Update team of Okataina hortwort infestation progress</p> <p>14. Speak to RDC regarding possibility of formulating a by-law or</p> | <p>Richard</p> <p>Richard (feedback next meeting)</p> |

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| | <p>weed cordon areas. Richard will also speak to RDC regarding possibility of formulating a by-law or other measures.</p> <p>Update by Graeme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised of areas sprayed, including prioritised spraying around boat ramps prior to Christmas. • A comment was made that the boat ramp locations feature highly on incursion spreadsheet. • Upcoming weed control at Kawaha Point on Lake Rotorua has been advertised; this will be targeted from next Wed (25 March). • Will develop a new programme later in the year, some part may be dependent on Okataina results. <p>Hamish informed that monitoring of lakes will take place during late March/ early April, with weed surveys to be held in Rotoiti at end of March</p> | <p>other measures for restricting boat launch sites</p> <p>15. Forward CD with Lakes monitoring information</p> | <p>Hamish</p> |
| 7. Freshwater pests DVD | Refer action point (Item 2) | | |
| 8. Weed cordon – 2009 programme | <p>Update provided by Hamish. Programme development for 2009 is in progress with organising details and budget.</p> <p>A comment was made that the current weed cordon has lasted very well over summer and is creating a good environment to assist native weed re-growth.</p> | | |
| 9. Weed harvesting Rotoehu/Rotoiti | <p>It was informed that there is budget for weed-harvesting in lakes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rotoehu at the Soda Springs area, expected up to 1000 tonnes extraction 2. Rotoiti, a smaller job but potentially more problems (eg. OSH) around a public area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to do more soil testing around current dumping site to check for indicators such as heavy metals. If heavy metals are found, the dumping will be spread over larger area to reduce concentration. • Looking at weed harvesting for one week at Okawa Bay as spraying may release more nutrients into the area. A new dump site is available with PF Olsen out of the catchment. • A question was asked about the use of weed harvesting for bio-fuels. Informed by Andy that there has been some interest but that others are still in the idea stage and may want to do this on a larger scale. May not solve problems around the lakes, particularly as transporting past Rotoma! • Commend made that there is good public buy-in for weed-harvesting, as they can see something happening | <p>16. Report amount of nutrient removed from lake Rotoiti to Andy</p> | <p>Richard</p> |

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| 10. Portable Washdown Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard gave an explanation of the unit and functionality. • Negotiating to set up unit at the old Challenge/Caltex Service station in Te Ngae Road. • Looking at corporate sponsorship. A suggestion was made to invite Caltex to an event to help build the relationship. • A user manual has been prepared • Shared costs and use with DOC | 17. Send invite to Lake Rotorua Recreation Strategy group for demonstration of portable washdown unit | Richard |
| 11. General business | <p>It was informed that an EBOP discussion document will be circulated for the Regional Pest Mgt strategy review. This is going before Council for approval this week and should be available for release later in March. Comments are invited at this stage with formal submissions later.</p> | 18. Put team on list for circulation of Regional Pest Management Strategy discussion document in March/April | John (March) |
| Next Meeting | <p>Tuesday 18 August 2009; 1:30 pm at the Rotorua Office of Environment Bay of Plenty Chair: Richard</p> | | |

Meeting finished at 4.15 pm