

Aquatic Pests Technical Advisory Group

Minutes for Wednesday 19 November 2009

Environment Bay of Plenty Office – Rotorua 1.30 pm

Present: Richard Mallinson, Jenny Clarke, Ian Phillips (left 3.00 pm), Matt Bloxham, Greg Corbett, Rob French (left 2.55 pm), Hamish Lass, Clinton Neilson (Environment Bay of Plenty); Johlene Kelly (left 4.15 pm), Becky Lander (left 4.15 pm) (Department of Conservation); Matt Osborne (Fish & Game); Paul Champion (NIWA); Sharon Deluca (left 4.15 pm), (Boffa Miskell); Hera Smith (TALT); Brendan Hicks (left 2.55 pm, UoW); Steve Smith (Biosecurity NZ)

Chair: Richard Mallinson

Scribe: Jenny Clarke

Item	Details	Action	Responsibility / Timeframe
1. Apologies and introductions	Roku Mihinui (TALT), Andy Bruere, Tim Senior, John Mather (EBOP); Matt Fanning (LINZ), Jan Webster (LINZ), Tim McKenzie (Boffa Miskell)		
2. Matters arising from previous minutes	<p>Go through previous minutes of 19 August 2009</p> <p>Action points report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow-up on Endothall consent process (Richard) – Will need a consent at some stage for Rotorua lakes under Rule 16. Will do this summer 2. Forward Lake Benmore Endothall consent conditions to Richard (Matt F) – completed 3. Circulate updated weeds incursion spreadsheet in November (Richard) – in progress 4. Follow-up on forwarding Koi operation cost details to Greg (Johlene/Beccy) – completed 5. Update on DOC pest fish response plan (Johlene/Beccy) – completed 6. Follow-up: Check with RDC on resource consents for using carparks near waterways for commercial activities (Richard) – completed, no resource consents are required 7. Follow-up: Check with TALT on conditions of consents for using lakes (Richard) – 	<p>1. Obtain consent for use of Endothal on Rotorua lakes</p> <p>2. Circulate updated weeds incursion spreadsheet in November</p>	<p>Richard</p> <p>Richard</p>

	<p>Discussed with Hera, this may need to followed up at later stage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. n/a 9. Follow-up: Speak to RDC regarding possibility of formulating a by-law or other measures for restricting boat launch sites (Richard) – Discussed with RDC, have approval from Transit NZ to put up the signs (specifically at lake Rotomā) 10. Check funding availability for Rotanone application and advise Greg (Johlene) – Greg is following this up with Robyn Skelton 11. Discuss pest fish funding for DOC at national level (John M) – This will be discussed at Biosecurity co-ordination meeting on Dec 8 12. Follow-up on the need for a pest fish contact in DOC Whakatane (Johlene/Beccy) – There is a contact in Opotiki 13. Circulate Biosecurity NZ Check Clean Dry DVD's to local groups (Richard) – in progress 14. n/a 15. n/a 16. Meet regarding Aquatic pest Awareness Programme prior to start of trout season (Johlene/Richard and Matt O) – completed 17. Meet with Alex G regarding communications for the summer advocacy programme (Richard/Johlene) – Richard has drafted a programme (similar to previous years) and will forward to Alex 18. Organise date for continuation of weed fragmentation trials (Matt B/Richard) – in progress (regarding weed cordon) 19. Arrange dive inspection of impact of net on September trout release (Matt O/Richard) – Matt didn't find any trout inside net during a dive 20. Contact Sandfords manager and invite to visit weeds cordon (Hamish) – Has been invited, may organise a field trip for directors of Sandfords. Greg suggested that enough notice be given for EBOP councillors to also attend. 21. Forward iwi contacts details to Paul (Matt B) – Hera will give details to Paul 22. Forward Water Quality Lakes Assn. details to Sharon (Richard) – completed 23. Discuss compliance for breaching pest activities (Johlene, Matt O, Greg, John M) – 	<p>3. Organise date for continuation of weed fragmentation trials</p> <p>4. Organise field trip for Sandfords directors and co-ordinate with EBOP councillors</p>	<p>(Matt B / Richard)</p> <p>Hamish</p>
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	<p>RPMS is work in progress, update given by Greg, 52 submissions have been received.</p> <p>24. Add "Perch" to RPMS list (John M) – submission has been put into RPMS. (Brendan H informed that EW have perch on their RPMS)</p> <p>25. Follow-up restricting access to Rotoma launching sites with Andy (Richard) – in progress, also refer signage (action point 9)</p>		
3. Aquatic Weed Surveillance Review	<p>Paul Champion gave an update of his review of the effectiveness of EBOP monitoring and surveillance programme. This will be circulated in report form.</p> <p>NIWA monitor LakeSPI; this is condition monitoring, not a substitute for surveillance monitoring</p> <p>Recommendation – Trap weed fragments in Lake Ōkāreka as a prevention strategy Survey questions – could also ask where (eg. which lake) people had come from Independent review of scientific programmes</p>	5. Circulate completed Aquatic Weed Surveillance Review report	Richard
4. Pest Fish/Turtles	<p>Brendan Hicks of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, spoke to his Powerpoint presentation "Koi carp in the Waikato region – update on Research initiatives", which summarised his research initiatives on pest fish ecology and control in the Waikato region. This research is part of the wider FRST- funded programme on biodiversity restoration in lakes, otherwise known as LERNZ (Lake Ecosystem Restoration New Zealand - see www.lernz.co.nz). The programme brings together research into pest fish and harmful algal blooms, providing tools for end users such as DOC, Fish and Game NZ, and Regional Councils.</p> <p>Turtle report (update by Johlene) to see whether turtles are a potential risk to the Rotorua area – there have been historic sightings of turtles (the popular pet "Common red slider") in the Rotorua lake area since the 1980's. Turtles prefer warmer temperatures, so there is a potential risk from geothermal areas. Temperature will determine sex (higher proportion of females in the clutch with higher temperatures). Greg C mentioned that Donna Watchman had done some work and that the turtles were protected by the Wildlife Act</p> <p>Pest Fish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johlene following up on the possibility of isotope analysis of Okawa Bay catfish remains with Otago university – will update at next meeting • Pest fish sampling – review of work undertaken – four lakes to be sampled once in December • To work in with EBOP during their weed surveillance – EBOP to also look for pest fish evidence 	<p>6. Provide update on possible turtle invasion risk in geothermal area</p> <p>7. Find out if turtles are protected by the Wildlife Act and other info from Donna Watchman</p>	<p>Johlene</p> <p>Johlene</p>

	DOC pest fish update given by Becky. Tauranga Area Office has a Rotenone handler from Motueka looking and lodging the consent application. Will see how the consent process goes and if not successful will drain the Wharawhara pond this summer and look at further funding options.		
5. CCDAG (Check Clean Dry Advisory Group) formulation and activity	<p>CCDAG meeting was held 20 August. This looked at key performance indicators and set some higher level goals. Widening CCD message to include other aquatic threats. Support is continuing from BiosecurityNZ and BNZ.</p> <p>Update given by Steve Smith on BiosecurityNZ activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises a need to spread the message to a wider audience, so that the message does not become stale and to continue preventing Didymo entering the North Island. ie. Changing behaviours • Advocacy is being funded again in 2009/2010. • Drafting a response options paper. <p>A suggestion was made that CCD is a requirement of consent conditions for events (particular where lake closures are involved) not just information given out.</p> <p>A question was asked about the use of copper solution for didymo control; it was informed that it is not cost effective for most water bodies.</p>	<p>8. Circulate CCDAG newsletter</p> <p>9. Look at consent conditions for lake closures and incorporate an aquatic pest plan</p>	<p>Richard</p> <p>Richard</p>
6. '09 programme of aquatic weed monitoring/ spraying	<p>There was a discussion on pre and post treatment monitoring of weedbeds recommended in Paul's NIWA report.</p> <p>It was agreed that there needs to be a protocol for assessment, to show transparency. Further discussion is needed to see what EBOP's role is and what is required by LINZ for their contract. It was suggested to have a further meeting, with representatives of: EBOP (including Stephen Lamb), DOC, NIWA, LINZ, Boffa Miskell and TALT – a tentative date, 26 January 2010, was set.</p>	10. Co-ordinate APTAG discussion of role of EBOP, DOC, NIWA and LINZ in pre and post treatment monitoring of weedbeds	Richard
7. '09/10 Aquatic Pest Awareness Programme	Update given by Hamish.		

8. Weed cordon – 2009 programme	Update given by Hamish. The making of new weed cordons is progressing well.	11. Obtain consent for new weeds cordons	Hamish
9. General business	<p>A suggestion was made to revisit the Terms of Reference and go through original APTAG “founding document”, as there are new members in the group.</p> <p>Paul brought in an aquatic weed sample, “Mexican waterlilly”, this is a plant banned for sale in NZ. This sample was found in a pond in the Rotorua government gardens. It was noted that there are probably other banned plants around the Rotorua government and other gardens.</p>	<p>12. Look at TOR in next meeting. Circulate original advisory group document</p> <p>13. Approach RDC in regard to removing Mexican waterlilly from government gardens</p>	<p>Richard</p> <p>Richard</p>
Next Meeting	25 February 2010, 1:30 pm at the Rotorua Office of Environment Bay of Plenty Chair: Richard		

Meeting finished at 4.30 pm