

Aquatic Pests Co-ordination Group

Minutes for Wednesday 7 September 2011

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Office – Rotorua 1.40 pm

Present: Hera Smith left 3.00pm (TALT); Greg Corbett, left 2.45pm Hamish Lass, Nick McRae (Bay of Plenty Regional Council); Matt Osborne (Fish & Game); Paul Champion (NIWA);, Marcus Girvan, Sharon De Luca, Left 3.30pm Stephanie Jeffries left 3.30pm (Boffa Miskell); Garry Page (RDC); Matt Fanning (LINZ)

Chair: Richard Mallinson

Scribe:

| Item | Details | Action | Responsibility / Timeframe |
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| 1. Apologies & introductions | Matt Bloxham, John Mather, Ian Phillips (BOPRC), Shane Grayling (DOC), | | |
| 2. Matters arising from previous minutes | Go through previous minutes of 29 th of March Action points report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members report comments on Draft TOR by 15 April and to be finalised by mutual agreement (via email) ALL – Completed2. Collate “Aquatic Pest Co-ordination Group” report for July 2012 meeting –On-going | | |

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| <p>3. Aquatic Weed Control for Amenity Purposes on Rotorua Lakes (APR report)</p> | <p>Greg gave the meeting a brief on this report, which is currently being written up by APR consultants for The Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Commissioning of the report has been a response to calls from the community for further Regional Council commitment to carry out aquatic weed control for amenity purposes.</p> <p>The report has been divided into three stages the first which has been completed reviews the history, distribution and legislative framework behind aquatic weed control while analysing the location of weed beds and implications for recreational use. The second involving consultation with key stakeholders is now in draft. The third stage involves an assessment of priorities, control mechanisms and the key roles of organisations involved.</p> <p>APRs report will assess the need for amenity control and will help BOPRC's decision making in regard to future involvement and funding mechanisms of control for amenity purposes.</p> | <p>1.Copies of APRs Reports to be circulated to the group</p> | <p>Richard</p> |
| <p>4. Terms of reference for APTAG</p> | <p>Hera suggested changes be incorporated into the terms of reference including some redefinition of assessment of objectives, these will be incorporated into the TOR</p> | | |
| <p>5. Aquatic weed spraying and monitoring programme 2011/2012</p> | <p>Marcus ran through LINZ Rotorua Lake sites proposed for treatment over the 2011/12 season. Comment was made from the group regarding the rationale behind treating each site, the timing of control in relation to the species present, whether more than one annual treatment would be desirable and whether the benefits of controlling each site were for amenity or biosecurity purposes. A total of 81.6 ha of spraying are currently programmed to be carried out. Marcus pointed out that although LINZ has had budget cuts, the Rotorua Lakes budget has come through relatively well.</p> | | |
| <p>6. Weed cordon programme 2011</p> | <p>Hamish gave the meeting a brief on the weed cordon programme progress.</p> <p>A cordon has been constructed and is about to be installed into Lake Otamangakau (South of Lake Taupō) Lake Otamangakau, is a Hornwort free lake, located in the Horizons Regional Council area, installation of the cordon is a joint project between Horizons, Genesis Energy and DOC with technical input from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.</p> <p>A cordon has been placed in Ōtautū Bay lake Rotoehu, this cordon has been installed to prevent Hornwort from moving onto the boatramp; the close proximity of the this ramp to Hornwort free lake Rotomā made the installation of this cordon a high priority.</p> <p>A cordon is currently under construction for Lake Ōkāreka, a large amount of public consultation has taken place through the process and public views regarding the design have been considered and taken on board.</p> | | |

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| <p>7. Summer awareness programme</p> | <p>The Bay of Plenty Regional council have advertised for 2 Aquatic Pest Advocacy assistants for the summer period. DOC will also be deploying a pest advocate over summer. Biosecurity New Zealand have again committed to helping with funding through the Check Clean Dry campaign. Summer advocates will be distributing material and information to educate the public of the threats that didymo and other freshwater pests pose.</p> <p>The start of the trout fishing season (1st of October) falls on a Saturday, Eastern Region Fish and Game and BOPRC will have a large number of staff out at boat ramps around the district advising on aquatic pest issues.</p> <p>Eastern Region Fish and Game will be holding an open day at the Ngongotahā hatchery on the Friday prior to opening , Matt and Richard will liaise to ensure aquatic pest information is available</p> | | |
| <p>8. Hornwort Incursion – Ōkātina</p> | <p>Hamish gave an update regarding the Hornwort incursion into Lake Ōkātina. Good results have been achieved on areas previously treated with diquat.</p> <p>Hornwort monitoring will be carried out over March/April when any Hornwort plants that are present within the lake will have emerged above the lagarosiphon beds. The extent of the spraying response required will depend on the number and size (if any) of sites found, the parameters for a halt in incursion response that have been set in the incursion response plan will also need to be considered if sites and strandings found are above these levels the incursion response may need to be reassessed.</p> | | |

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| <p>9. General Business</p> | <p>Pond Survey; Nick McRae a contractor working for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has completed a pond survey of properties through the Lake Rotoiti catchment. The potential for pest fish and aquatic pest plant species to be spread through ornamental ponds has been recognised, this survey is a response to this threat. Within the Rotoiti catchment over 841 properties were visited and 39 were found to have ornamental ponds. Nicks work carries on from previous surveys carried out by Stephanie Jefferies (Rotomā, Rotoehu) and Clint Neilson (Okareka). To date no pest species that have not been present in the main lake of the catchment(s) have been found.</p> <p>Aquathol/Diquat consent; NIWA have been engaged to prepare an Aquathol toxicity information poster to use for public consultation as part of the consent application process. Further public meetings will be held as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Regional Pest Management Plan; This plan has been formally adopted by council copies are available on line at the regional councils website.</p> | | |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>28 February 2012 1.30 pm at the Rotorua Office of Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chair: Richard</p> | | |

Meeting finished at 4.30pm