

## **Minutes for Lake Rotorua Catchment Stakeholders Advisory Group, 11 March 2014**

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**Rotorua District Council – Committee Room 2**

**1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua, 9:00 am start**

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**Chair:** Tanira Kingi

**Present:**

- Te Arawa Lakes Trust: Roku Mihinui
- Collective Reps: Wendy Roe, Joanna Carr, Tony Cairns, Neil Heather and Gisele Schweizer
- LWQS: Don Atkinson, Warren Webber
- RDC: Cr Karen Hunt, Paulina Wilhelm
- Te Arawa Land Reps: Te Taru White, Neville Nepia, John Fenwick
- Māori Trustee: Cr Arapeta Tahana
- Small block holders: Karl Weaver
- BOPRC: Cr Neil Oppatt, plus staff: Anna Grayling, Sarah Omundsen, Sandra Barns, Stephen Lamb & Warwick Murray
- Others: Christine Paterson (Collective), Simon Park (StAG Secretariat), Gloria Zamora

**Action summary**

1. Anna Grayling: Invite Grow Rotorua to next StAG meeting.
2. BOPRC Incentives Team: Combine responses on preferred purposes of \$5.5m.
3. Sarah Omundsen: Present a regulatory template for next StAG.
4. Simon Park/Gloria Zamora: Circulate link on FLRC presentations.
5. Sarah Omundsen/Gloria Zamora: Find paper trail on numbers and recirculate to StAG then link to website.
6. Andy Bruere/Simon Park: Present draft ToR for Land TAG and member selection process.
7. StAG: begin collecting questions, issues, and priorities to give to Land TAG.
8. Sarah Omundsen: Collective needs clarification timelines for rules, plan notification, FNPs and resource consents.
9. Te Taru White: Summary of 2 day FOMA facilitated conference on Biological Farming. Send link to website.

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**Item 1: Karakia and Welcome**

Secretariat Simon Park welcomed StAG members and attendees to the meeting.

Neville Nepia opened the meeting with a karakia.

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**Item 2: Apologies**

1. For lateness, Tanira Kingi

2. For absence, Stuart Morrison, Hera Naera, & Gywn Morgan
3. The Secretariat welcomed Sandra Barns new Planner/Economist for BOPRC & Stephen Lamb to the meeting. Both are additional resources for the Incentives BOPRC group.

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**Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting (11 February 2014)**

1. Comment was made to note that pg. 6 of the minutes regarding Stuart Morrison's comments on Achieving TLI targets were made on behalf of the Farmer's Collective and not StAG as a whole.

**Motion: Move minutes of 11 February 2014 as true and accurate**

**Nepia/Fenwick, CARRIED**

Discussion on previous Action points:

1. Incentives: on agenda for today
2. Comms: Revised pamphlet is being reviewed by StAG representatives and will have feedback to Gloria Zamora by 14 March 2014. Tanira Kingi will add final comments by 17 March 2014.
3. Land TAG: on agenda for today
4. Purpose of the \$5.5m: on agenda for today
5. Hard copies of agenda, minutes, and reports printed and at front of room

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**Item 4: General business items to add**

1. Biological Conference update: Cr Karen Hunt

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**Item 5: Incentives Entity Update- Warwick Murray**

1. Govt officials and Minister currently considering what will the money be spent on
2. Best case scenario: Cabinet decision by end of March.
3. Government concern on paying farmers "not to farm" or to be doing things they should already be doing.
4. Question: Are there any decisions that haven't been made by StAG that if made would influence the decision?
  - a. Answer: \$5.5m preferences may help address some concerns.

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**Item 6: Purpose of \$5.5 Million (Workshop) - Anna Grayling/Stephen Lamb**

1. What is the best use of the \$5.5m to assist landowners?
  - a. Above the line (NDA) support
  - b. Scope- relationship to \$40 million
  - c. Potential uses
  - d. Delivery by who
2. Crown may have a different view from what StAG prefers
3. Allocations between categories

## 4. StAG feedback summarised as follows:

Item	Votes
1. Obtaining expert advice and support to develop Farm Nutrient Plans (\$2000-\$7000 per property)	11/13
2. Resource Consent application costs (\$1000 per property)	12/13
3. On-farm mitigation costs to reach NDA	11/13
4. Research: Identifying viable alternative land uses which are low nitrogen leaching	4/13
5. Trials: Demonstrating alternative crops and horticulture uses in the catchment	1/13
6. Funding business planning around land use change	6/13
<b>Additional Comments:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maori farmers want to look at alternatives but many don't have the ability to fund investigations.</li> <li>2. Farmer concern that research can be a bottom less pit.</li> <li>3. Allocate portions of the money to specifics.</li> <li>4. Opting for trials is dangerous as trials could take a lot of time.</li> <li>5. We pay as much as we can individually to give farmers what they need to do change.</li> <li>6. Maori have begun to engage within own people and land blocks that are situated in catchment.</li> <li>7. Maori just want help to know what the options are. Designed to help farmers to stay in farming and reach targets.</li> <li>8. #'s 4 &amp; 5 should be based on case by case scenarios.</li> <li>9. Is there a database of all the research that has been completed?</li> <li>10. #'s 1 &amp; 6 should be merged- new name? Land and Resource Assessment.</li> <li>11. Will staff time to issue resource consents be wrapped into policy?</li> </ol>	

## 5. Grow Rotorua discussion:

- a. Grow Rotorua is currently research land use change (LUC) options
  - b. **Question:** Is Grow Rotorua is doing this independent of farmers?
    - i. **Answer:** Discussions between Grow Rotorua and many different groups including Maori Landowners at this time (e.g. this morning).
  - c. Preference of StAG that they be included in discussions on LUC as it affects the farmers.
  - d. **ACTION:** Invite Grow Rotorua to attend next StAG meeting.
6. **Question:** Do we want outside consultants to help look at business cases for alternative uses such as Grow Rotorua?

- a. Currently two separate mitigation categories – farm mitigation & land use change – with many farmers looking at land use change options
  - b. \$5.5m is a fraction of what it's going to cost
  - c. Concern money will be spent without clear outputs.
  - d. Collective's position: figures were put to farmers, NDAs of 13/35 with \$5.5 million attached to meeting those NDAs.
7. Next Steps:
- a. Combine today's responses to see what pattern emerges
  - b. Use information to continue building incentives package and inform scope of incentives scheme
  - c. Project planning for implementation
  - d. Await response from Crown

### Item 7: Farm Nutrient Plan (FNP) Process - Tanira Kingi

1. Discussion on the December 2015 date for having FNPs and was it a rule – part of the answer around this was that it was part of the agreement made by StAG
2. **QUESTION:** Will FNPs be done by December 2015?
  - a. **ANSWER:** FNPs by 2015 was part of the Collective proposal and then the StAG position paper endorsed by BOPRC in September 2013. 2015 is a goal. It may need to be a staged delivery on FNPs
3. **QUESTION:** How does it link in with existing Beef & Dairy farm plan systems?
  - a. There currently are two processes
    - i. Jon Paterson currently working with Dairy NZ & Beef & Lamb on dashboard which is an overarching "face-page" for reporting progress
    - ii. Separate part to work on is the regulatory side
  - b. We will continue to work toward 2015 deadline

**ACTION:** Regulatory template for next StAG

4. Many councils are currently dealing with the same issue.

**ACTION:** Circulate link from on "dashboard" paper by John Paterson (and DairyNZ, Beef & Lamb) plus other FLRC papers (Simon Park)

5. **QUESTION:** Should we change date if we are not going to have these by 2015?
  - a. **ANSWER:** No, we continue to work toward that date
6. Concern from farmers that the timeframes are tight and not realistic.
7. Farmers would like hard dates to work with. FNPs may need to be staged and clarity needed on which FNPs are created first.

### Item 8: Rules Update- Sarah Omundsen

1. Report to RTALSG next week
2. Lots of research and analysis on this.
3. Question around wording of document on top of pg. 2..."StAG and staff agreed"- Request that Council is sure that stuff isn't printed before it has actually happened.
  - a. We need to be specific on numbers. Decision to be made on sizes & kilos.
  - b. Staff need to use different words such as: considering, discussing, etc.

4. **QUESTION:** Where did 10kgN/ha permitted threshold come from
  - a. **ANSWER:** Came out of StAG discussion on what ranges might look like i.e. 10-20kgN/ha/yr suggested drystock range. Also linked to Rule 11A and comparable to Lake Taupo's permitted threshold of 8kgN/ha/yr

**ACTION:** Find paper trail on numbers and recirculate to StAG then link to website.

#### Item 9: Land Technical Advisory Group Update- Simon Park/Andy Bruere

1. Water Quality TAG has had great success, so logical to consider comparable land science/economics advice group
2. December 2013 direction from RTALSG to look at options for a Land TAG
3. February 2014 StAG and staff request to consider regional Land TAG
4. Suggested scope of Land TAG
  - a. Will focus on 12 Rotorua lakes
  - b. Will evolve into regional TAG
  - c. Urgent Rotorua catchment demand for land science and economics advice
  - d. RTALSG reporting and mandate, simpler and faster
  - e. Will be aligned with WQTAG
  - f. Purpose: provide expert science and economics advice on land use and nutrient management
5. Functions
  - a. Advise on Rotorua rules and incentives
    - i. Review draft rule
    - ii. Assess potential solutions
    - iii. ID gaps and priorities in land science, economics & extension, including guiding project work
    - iv. Criteria for incentive fund, plus technical advice to entity
  - b. Inform BOPRC/RTALSG on current NZ science, funding
6. Draft Land TAG composition
  - a. Reputable leader with 8-10 members covering skill sets on:
 

Farm systems, Nutrient dynamics, Farm economics, Catchment economics, Environmental mgt systems, Forestry systems, Horticulture, Maturanga Māori, Social Learning, and Rural Extension
  - b. Plus corresponding staff experts/work stream leaders
7. **QUESTION:** Would StAG have direct input?
  - a. **ANSWER:** No, input will be indirect.
8. Land TAG will provide science advice only, it will not have a political agenda

**ACTION:** Present draft ToR and selection process to April StAG meeting

#### Item 10: Comms Update

1. Business case from collective still needed
  1. Collective working on getting website up
  2. **QUESTION:** Who will run information evenings Council or Collective?
2. Communicating alternatives for \$5.5m needs to be discussed and agreed.

3. Recent Maori landowner meeting on how to communicate and engage on gorse.
  4. More work needed to be able to engage well. This includes solution options as that will be the first question farmers ask.
  5. We can start collecting questions, issues, and priorities to give to Land TAG.
  6. Comms needs to take into account there are 3 broad types of farmers: long-term Maori, long-term non-Maori and “shorter term” farmers. Each has different perspectives and this should influence comms priorities and targeting.
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**Item 11: Decision Timeline- Sarah Omundsen**

1. 19 March: Update to RTALSG
2. 25 March: Region Council workshop (Lakes)
3. 10 April: StAG consider impact analysis
4. 22 May: draft rules to StAG
5. 24 June: draft rules to Regional Council
6. July-September: Consultation
7. Oct to December: Respond to feedback
8. 2015: Notification to farmers
  - a. Driver will be to access the funds

**ACTION:** Collective needs clarification on rules, notification, FNPs, RC timelines

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**Item 12: General Business**

1. KH- Biological Farming conference- attended FOMA
  - a. Heard robust and interesting case studies
  - b. **QUESTION:** Where does biological farming fit in?
    - i. **ANSWER:** Ultimately biological farming will be one of the options
  - c. Currently there is one “biological” dairy farm in catchment
    - i. Tanira Kingi is currently working on a proposal for a monitoring on 5 local biological farms - all use Farmax and some are on Overseer.
2. Farmers need information without veil...bottom line numbers to be delivered
3. Add biological farming as a technical issue for Land TAG to advise on.

**ACTION:** Link to summary of 2 day conference FOMA

The meeting was closed with a karakia by Taru White at 12.17pm