



Meeting Minutes Lake Tarawera Working Party (LTWP)

Venue	BOPRC Office, Arawa Street, Rotorua
Date and Time	18 March 2015 5.30-7.30pm
Chair	Karen Parcell
Apologies	Andy Bruere, Andy Woolhouse, Helen Neale, Hariata Ngatai, Ann Mc Sweeney, Greg Manzano, Leilani Ngawhika, Matt Osborne and Andy Garrick

Present	Libby Fletcher	Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assn
	Terry Beckett	Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assn
	Geoff Palmer	Lakes Community Board
	Rangitahi Pene	Tūhourangi Tribal Authority
	Lana Ngawhika	Tūhourangi Tribal Authority
	Chris Clarke	Te Mana o Ngati Rangitahi Trust
	Trish Fordyce	Timberlands Ltd
	John Ford	Farmer
	Grant Keeling	Farmer
	Murray Travers	Farmer
	Clr Dave Donaldson	RLC Councillor
	Andy Bell	RLC Water Solution Director
	Clr Neil Oppatt	BOPRC Councillor
	Terry Long	BORPC Sen Project Implementation Officer
	Karen Parcell	BOPRC Sen Policy Analyst (Nat Res Policy)
	Gemma Moleta	BOPRC Policy Analyst (Water Policy)
	Gloria Zamora	BOPRC Contractor

1 Approval of Minutes

- a. Chairman Karen Parcell welcomed the Tarawera Working Party members and attendees to the meeting.
- b. Minutes from 18 February 2015 were approved.

2 Election of Chairperson for next meeting

- a. Chairman Karen Parcell proposed to the group about having a rotating chair. The chairman for each meeting will be chosen based on subject matter of meeting and chosen at the prior meeting.
- b. Andy Bruere will chair next meeting.

Motion: Rotating chair approved. Parcell/Palmer CARRIED
--

3 Tarawera Lakes Restoration Plan (TLRP) - Planning Processes

- a. Karen Parcell outlined the processes of public consultation and development of the TLRP with proposed timeframes.
 - i. Plan to be completed end of month
 - ii. Plan to put it out/notify to the whole catchment only as a consultation mode.
 - iii. BOPRC would like feedback by end of month

4 Sewage Treatment Working Party

- a. A discussion was held on a key action in action plan, a sewage group. A question was posed to the group as to if the sewage group is a sub-group or if the Tarawera Restoration Working Party will be the group representing the community when reviewing sewage treatment options and outcomes.
- b. It was clarified that there is an addition 60K set aside for iwi consulting.
- c. Andy Bell will work with Libby Fletcher on organizing the sub-group and identifying those who would like to participate.

Recommendation: That sewage group will be a subset of the LTWP.

5 Technical Aspects of Septic Tanks - Terry Long

- a. A presentation was given by Terry Long regarding wastewater disposal issues surrounding the Lake Tarawera catchment. Presentation may found [here](#).
 - i. We have existing septic tanks why can't we keep them?
 - 1. Soil type-
 - a. The soil type has very fine particles which have formed an insoluble matter creating a deeper layer that's impermeable material, speeding the flow of matter into the lake.
 - 2. Site size
 - a. Many sites do not allocate enough space for disposal to accommodate the activity/land use on the properties.
 - 3. Slope and stability-
 - a. The ground is moving rapidly given the layer of plasticity above the organic layer. This can be seen by the leaning utility poles.
 - 4. Old systems
 - a. More than half of the systems in the catchment need to be upgraded and do not meet the 1982 standard.
 - 5. Nutrients
 - a. Reticulation removes all nutrients from the catchment
 - b. Current discharge into soak holes is speeding the nutrients discharging to the lake.
 - b. Discussion Questions
 - i. Is the Rotomahana mud in all of the Rotorua area or just Tarawera?
 - 1. The mud hasn't been encountered anywhere else
 - ii. What's the general feeling in the community?
 - 1. Principally people would do it to fix the lake as they are concerned about the quality of the lake.
 - 2. One thing you can't quantify is the property values i.e. Ōkāreka and Tarawera residents are conscientious about value.

3. Homeowner takes a financial hit with reticulation initially then they realize the value with the added option of reticulation.
 4. Most Tarawera residents get their water from the lake and they are concerned about the health of the lake.
 5. Need to keep in mind that there are many holiday homes rented year round which are adding to the current problem.
- c. OSET plan options
- i. Reticulation
 - ii. AWTS + NR
 - iii. Consent

6 Rotorua Lakes Council Present Technical Options for Sewage Treatment- Andy Bell

- a. These options are a subset of the Lake Tarawera Restoration Plan which works in parallel with the working party.
- b. Not just convincing the users but everyone affected by the discharge point as well.
- c. Milestone programme agenda
 - i. There is a WQTAG and there will be commonality with the Sewage TAG.
 - ii. Detail and formation of sewage scheme may take up to 4 years: 1 year minimum 1 year from consent, 2 years for construction
 - iii. Another issue is that the scheme is currently not in any funding streams
 - iv. Estimated cost is \$12 million
 1. There are around 400 residential houses which will cost near \$35k per property: need to get that figure down to \$12k.
- d. Project Steering Group
 - i. A focus group/steering group needs to be set up with an independent chair to distance the RLC from telling community what they need to have.
 - ii. Group will be advised by Sewage TAG
 - iii. A community solution to community problem
- e. Aspirations/practicalities/constraints
 - i. Need the land/discharge area which is not easy to come by
 - ii. 2 routes currently being looked at.
 - iii. Tarawera Sewerage Scheme 2012 is only a starting point
 1. believes unfair to put the ratepayer groups in charge.
- f. Looking for new consent from BOPRC by 2019 with the same conditions (30tN) which is very strict.

7 Discussion/Other Questions

- a. Good idea in actions of LTRP to separate inner catchment and outer catchment actions.
- b. There is uncertainty now about where Rerewhakaaitu water is flowing, BOPRC is waiting on the research.
- c. Concern was stated surrounding the relationship with Overseer and the farm plans in that OVERSEER® doesn't deal with phosphorous reduction.
- d. Clr Neil Oppatt said that he sees there being a catchment plan rather than an individual farmer plan.

- e. Community would like to see BOPRC address geothermal which are unmanageable which in turn means that residents take a bigger hit.
 - i. Terry Beckett stated that geothermal streams are high in P, early thoughts were that it could be managed by engineering; however, that is not feasible on a mechanical sense at this point. Geothermal inputs are coming subsurface.
 - ii. A farmer stated he would like a cost assigned to P and feel the nation should largely take the cost of keeping the lake clean not the farmers. Unless that happens they can't see land use change being done.
 - 1. Currently land use change cost in the Rotorua catchment is shared with the government, ratepayers, and landowners.
 - iii. Group would like more information around the P, where it is coming from and why.
- f. What's percentage of streams are already fenced off in catchment?
 - i. BOPRC is unsure.
- g. When will farm environmental plan be available?
 - i. Karen Parcell will find out.
- h. How many farms are there?
 - i. There around 10 pastoral farms in inner catchment and about 100 outer catchment.
- i. Gemma Moleta updated the group on rules development on non-deed lakes
 - i. Draft goes to Council on 1 April 2015.
 - ii. BOPRC will continue manage things as by maintaining a capping rule and conversion type rule that covers land use.
 - iii. BOPRC has not worked out how to deal with intensification.
- j. How do you measure the rules?
 - i. Through modelling

ACTION: Karen Parcell to look at developing rules similar to the sediment rules/vegetation removal to address P.

ACTION: Karen Parcell/Andy Bruere to look at P in geothermal and that residents aren't responsible.

ACTION: Karen Parcell to find out when the farm environmental plan will be available.

8 Date and Agenda Items for next meeting

- a. Next meeting 18 June 2015.