

**WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD  
TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI**

**MINUTES OF THE 131ST MEETING OF THE BOARD  
HELD AT TE RAPA BASE, 5 NORTHWAY STREET, ON 20 MAY 2014,  
COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.**

***Board Members Present***

Mark Brough (Chairperson), Arthur Hinds, Dell Hood, Andra Neely, Kevin Robinson and David Taipari

***In Attendance***

New Board members commencing 1 July 2014

Joyce Birdsall

Fiona Gower

Alan Cockle

Nicki Douglas, Conservation Partnerships Director, Northern North Island (arrived 11am)

Paul Hardy, Conservation Partnerships Ranger, Hamilton

John Rich, Conservation Partnerships Ranger, Thames

Dion Patterson, Conservation Service Manager, Te Rapa Base

Elisa Karwowski., Waikato Conservation Board Support Officer

**1 Karakia and Welcome**

David Taipari provided a karakia and Mark declared the meeting open at 10:00am

There was a quick around the table with everybody present providing some information about themselves. New members joining us in July provided the following introductions:

**Joyce Birdsall:** lives in Tairua in the Coromandel and involved in various local environmental projects. Involved in the local St John's and am retired.

**Fiona Gower:** lives on a sheep and cattle farm south of Port Waikato. Work and children keep me busy, on the local Community Board and National Rural Woman's Board. Am a keen whitebaiter, fisherman, tramper, camper etc

**Alan Cockle:** has spent 18 years in governance roles ranging from various marae trustee roles to Maori land trust corporations. Conservation involvement consists of being a trustee of Te Ana Ureure, (Maniapoto's Cave) at Hangatika and working on a project, as part of the co-management of the Waipa River, to clear the Wairere stream of willows. Also run Alan Cockle and Associates which is a Maori land research and trust administration business.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from the following:

Kate Wilkinson

Gaylene Roberts

Megan Campbell

Brigitte Meier

Gemma White

Tahi Rangiawha

**The Waikato Conservation Board resolved** the apologies as listed be received and sustained

Hinds / Robinson / carried

### 1.3 Confirmation of Agenda

The Chair outlined the agenda with two late items tabled: a report on the Community Conservation Partnership Fund and a review of the Waikato Conservation Board meeting schedule to be added to General Business. The members agreed that agenda items could be discussed out of order as required. The agenda had been circulated to attendees and was taken as read.

**The Waikato Conservation Board resolved** the agenda be confirmed.

Hinds / Robinson / carried

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The following corrections were requested:

- 2.2.1 amend Mar to Nov meeting
- 9.6 amend the last sentence to “...*this will probably be a botulism outbreak and is normally seasonal*”
- 7. Amend S&A to SNA
- Remove Nicki from attendance as she was unable to attend in the end
- Dell requested a list of abbreviations at the beginning

**The Waikato Conservation Board resolved** the public minutes of the 12 November 2013 meeting be confirmed subject to the requested corrections

Hood / Hinds / carried

## 2.2 Matters Arising

### 2.2.1 Conservation Board Review

Arthur provided a summary of the Conservation Board Chairs’ meeting with the Conservation Board Review panel earlier in the year. Chairs met beforehand for two hours to discuss issues and to prepare for meeting the Review panel. Arthur asked the question whether Boards felt they were being utilised which caused much discussion. Four Boards felt they were being under-utilised, Waikato being one of them. The Chairs then met with the Review Panel chaired by Nicky Wagner. A number of recommendations have come out of the Review which Arthur supports. These can be read in the Board Review Report (link provided earlier) and will be part of our induction in July and actioned on an ongoing basis. Mark queried, is the thinking, “if there is recreation there is business?” – Yes, long term aim is to link this. There was discussion around the conflicting values DOC now has to balance ie recreation focus versus conservation values being lost and then between conflicting recreation activities.

Some points raised by Board Chairs was the feeling by some of not being adequately reimbursed, South Island Boards frustrated at the lack of ability to work with DOC and ill feeling directed at Taupo and Waikato Conservation Boards for supporting the concept of the Game Animal Council (GAC). Following the Review, Lou Sanson, Director General, Dept of Conservation (DOC) advised DOC to utilise the skills and knowledge of Board members.

Nicky joined the meeting at 10:50am

**2.2.2 Lake Taupo Water Quality presentation:** Elisa still trying to access from Graeme Fleming. Arthur advised he had been sent a hardcopy from Graeme.

**Action: Elisa to source a copy from Arthur**

**2.2.3 Update on issue of farmed goats on PCL:** Due to Gemma’s absence, this was not able to be provided

- 2.2.4 Update on Cathedral Cove Integrated Management Plan meeting of 7 Apr 14:** see Director's report
- 2.2.5 Update on Waikawau Bay Community meeting held on 12 Apr 14:** see Director's report
- 2.2.6 Update on Kohia application:**  
An update was provided via Permissions staff to concerns expressed by the Board at the March meeting. These concerns and responses are as follows;
- **Fees being prohibitive to the general public** – Kohia's response was they needed to see a return on the money being invested in this venture and the proposed fees were in line with other camps and holiday parks around the country. DOC is unable to control fees charged by a concessionaire.
  - **The cabins being returned in the same condition as prior to being leased** – a maintenance schedule outlining Kohia's responsibilities will be drawn up after discussion between Kohia and the local DOC office (Te Kuiti). This will include monitoring methods, timeframes and time spent by DOC monitoring will be charged to the concessionaire. Photos will be taken to record the condition of the cabins before and upon return to the Department.
  - **Kohia expectation for DOC to continue to remove rubbish (Te Kuiti office raised same concern)** – there is an existing water supply which will continue to be provided by DOC. DOC will reserve the right to charge for this service and will depend on actual eventual usage. There will be no other costs incurred by the Department in regards to this concessionaire including rubbish disposal. Current status of application is that it has been approved in principle by Acting Conservation Partnerships Manager, King Country/Taupo, Jono Maxwell, and is currently being publically notified (40 days). Final sign off will be by Central North Island, Partnerships Director, David Speirs. Revenue received by DOC is to be 25% of revenue received by Kohia which is received and managed by National Office. This is the activity fee DOC charges a concessionaire which is separate from the initial processing fee.
- 2.2.7 Matters arising**
- Update on Great Mercury Island Pest Eradication:** Peter Corson provided an update of the operation – currently de-stocking the island, bait has arrived in Auckland and awaiting barging to GMI, happy with public support being expressed, another round of local publicity over the next two weeks and operating to budget. It is hoped there will be the opportunity for one or two Board members to get over to the island during the second baiting in August.
- Sea Change talk:** Arthur commented Gemma had advised in the March meeting she was going to ask Emily O'Donnell, WRC Relationship Manager to talk about Sea Change project at our next meeting; however she finishes her role with WRC in July.
- Maniapoto District Bat Study by PHD student:** Dell requested this be kept on the radar and the report be provided to the Board once published.
- Iwi Consultation:** The Chair raised the issue of DOC sometimes consulting with the wrong person when it came to consulting with Iwi. He knew of some examples in his area (lower Waikato) where concession applications have come back due to consultation being with the wrong people. Is it possible DOC could obtain a list of the designated contacts for iwi consultation and how would DOC get this?
- David** advised contact in Hauraki was through the Hauraki Maori Trust Board. The list is identified by the legislation under the Hauraki Maori Trust Board. Representatives are elected by a process and confirmed by the Governor General. This was already in place with DOC and not sure why there have been deviations such as in the Broken Hills mining concession. Paul advised Gemma White holds the list of iwi contacts for Hauraki.

**Alan** advised Maniapoto have the Maniapoto Trust Board and from there the Regional Management Committees. Alan suggested DOC could attach a link to Maori Land online on the DOC website. Alan can provide a list of contacts for the Maniapoto district.

**David** clarified there is essentially a two tier situation for potential concessionaires to think about; an Iwi Authority representing its tribal interests and then Maori private landowners who should be contacted direct as with non-Maori landowners when applicable.

### **3.1 Department of Conservation Northern North Island Region Services & Partnerships Report to the Board.**

#### **Directors report:**

Nicki began by explaining, given our new structure a new reporting approach is being trialled around Partnerships and Service whereby one will link into the other as appropriate with the aim not to double up on information. In addition, the report covers the wider region ie Northland and Waikato to link synergies and see common issues at management or governance level. Any feedback on the format and content is welcome.

Our current focus is working with existing partners, to deepen the relationship by exploring additional opportunities that may not have been looked at previously. The Conservation Board is a good example of this – we have an existing relationship with a formal body and we are saying “How can we work with this relationship, across the wider community to get greater gains for conservation?”

Key partners we are working with are Iwi in the context of Treaty Settlement implementation. While we work on delivering on statutory obligations from settlements, we can also ask “What are the opportunities for working with tangata whenua at place, to grow conservation and achieve a wider set of Outcomes for both conservation and iwi. In response to a query from Mark, Nicki clarified DOC works with the Office of Treaty Settlements and is part of an All of Government (AoG) approach to settlements. DOC is brought into the settlement discussion when the framework has been developed in respect of what the aspirations for Iwi are and how cultural redress can be realised through Public Conservation Land (PCL).

In Tahi’s absence, Nicki provided an update of Waikato Treaty Settlements;

- Ngati Raukawa, this settlement has come into legislation. Currently waiting for our Treaty Negotiation team to brief us on what the Raukawa Treaty Settlement Implementation Plan might look like and also engage with Ngati Raukawa directly in terms of what their aspirations and expectations of the Implementation look like at an operational level
- Ngati Haua and Ngati Koroki Kahukura; both deeds have had a first reading in the House with settlements set to come into legislation before election time
- Hauraki Collective has come to a Deed. Individual negotiations are taking place with the twelve members of the Collective and understand the timeframe is to aim for June. Looking to see what cultural redress will look like approximately mid June.
- Alan added Ngati Maniapoto is currently going through the hearing stage. Information from the respective areas around Maniapoto is being compiled into a report before moving onto next stages.

*Dion commented there are systems and audit processes currently being developed in Wellington to ensure once settlements are signed and delivered on the ground, we are collectively meeting our obligations – something we struggle with on both sides.*

A Board member queried the lack of mention in the Waikato Report, of the Waikato River Authority being a part of the Partnerships programme particular in terms of the Lower Waikato Flood control scheme.

*Nicki apologised for the omission and said recently the Waikato River Authority had formed a Waikato River Leadership Group and the dept had been invited to have a seat on this group. In terms of the relationship with Waikato Tainui, there has been a joint Business Plan developed to plan over the next three to five years how we see initiatives from the River Accord, implemented on the ground between DOC and Waikato Tainui. DOC will take this to the table of the Waikato River Leadership Group.*

*When asked how this will feed back to the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) who has the overall responsibility, Nicki responded by explaining that there is an active conversation with WRC going on at the leadership level where DOC has suggested a longer period for collaboration around options. As one of the stakeholders and partners, the Department is advocating for a conversation with all of the members and my understanding is this is agreed across that group ie Waikato Tainui, Fish & Game, DOC etc. Nicki added, once this process goes into a formal consenting process, she would ask what supportive role could the Conservation Board play as representatives of the wider community views and a balance to the zone committee voice. This could be done formally or informally depending on the options at the time. Nicki will keep an eye on any formal options should they arise.*

The Chair asked Nicki whether she felt DOC had had much influence with NZTA in RMA matters. Nicki responded when dealing with other organisations, DOC finds the conservation aspect is undervalued. For example, DOC will look at the accumulative effects on bats over a number of projects whereas NZTA will look at the impact on a project by project basis. Nicky is working with NZTA to build the relationship and to have conversations earlier about the really valuable things; to look at these values over the whole programme and then how we might manage these inside each project. This was successful during the Huntly section.

#### **Waikato District (Dion/Paul)**

Dion provided an update on the Pirongia 1080 operation due to occur with pre-feed planned for July and a toxin drop in August. This is a collaborative operation between DOC and WRC with DOC treating 14,000 ha of PCL and WRC treating 40,000 ha of adjacent scrub and farmland. Vector Control Services from Canterbury won the tender for the project and so far working very well. All consent applications are in. The water catchment is one of the key issues being managed since it supplies Te Awamutu Township. Strategies to manage this issue are to have an exclusion zone of ground application set back from the water's edge and a water testing regime of four to six clear tests before Te Awamutu water supply reinstated.

The Chair commented, a 1080 operation might happen in one locale, then three years later, an adjoining location will be treated, with some gains being lost by re-infestation in the meantime. Farmers are saying they would prefer to wait and do the whole lot at once. Dion agreed with this comment saying part of the success of Pirongia has been the collaboration with WRC which has reduced re-infestation (either way) meaning treatment has moved from a four/five year cycle to a seven year cycle. One Board member said his concern is more focussed on the accuracy of application i.e going where it should be and in the right amount. Nicki acknowledge in the past it hasn't been ideal; all agreed technology, hindsight and better science has improved on this but management is key.

Nicki requested Board members advise of any issues or negative feedback within their local communities to Brigitte Meier or Dion Patterson so they can address these.

The Chair summed up his point of preferring larger 1080 operations less often which was supported by all.

At this stage there was a discussion amongst the Board on individual stances and views and how this may relate in community discussion.

Paul provided the following summary;

- **Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust:** DOC is looking to have a more strategic approach to supporting MEIT rather than primarily a financial one and to work alongside the trustees and other partners e.g. Waipa District Council, Waikato Regional Council. In addition to the funding, the Department has been looking to support MEIT by providing technical expertise in the areas of education programmes, tourism, volunteers etc to help them get in a position of success and generating their own funding.
- **Department of Corrections (DoC):** A new Memorandum of Understanding is being signed between DOC and DoC. Corrections are keen to own an ecosystem. This is building on an existing programme that has been happening in individual districts up till now. This has benefits for both organisations.
- **Field Days 11 – 14 June 2014:** Focus on “Battle for our Birds” programme and for displays to be more interactive. This will involve monitors with an application being specifically developed that has birds dealing to rats, ferrets, stoats etc. If successful, this will be rolled out nationally. The Chair suggested this could be a good opportunity for the Board to be involved.

### Hauraki/Coromandel District (Gemma)

John Rich provided the following summary:

- **Cathedral Cove:** there have been three workshop hui so far to discuss and resolve the main issues of visitor numbers and traffic parking. Last summer a “Park and Ride” scheme, instigated and driven by the community worked well and is one of the key options being looked at for a long term solution. Responding to a query, John advised the majority of the 150,000 visitors visit during the peak time of Dec – Jan; there can be 5000 a day! This does not include visitors coming via water. Trends indicate the numbers will increase as well as visits outside the peak times. John said that what is key is ‘satisfaction is equal to importance’ i.e how important is xyz and how satisfied were you with xyz. Partnerships staff will start measuring this with on the ground surveys. John talked about some of the other options being considered and the immediate to long-term goals.

John has been liaising with the Council for an inter-agency approach to concessions run out of Hahei beach with the aim being to link conditions of the concessions.

At this stage, a Board member queried what responsibility the dept has in regards to private land being accessed via already established tracks or when looking at creating new tracks. Nicki agreed DOC needs to acknowledge this is a risk; good signage and communication is its first responsibility. Knowing when and where it occurs is also key to putting in tools to manage this at place.

- **New Chums Beach:** DOC recently received a request to support the preservation of the beach. Currently the subdivision is on hold with the local council, pending a request for further information. DOC only administers small parcels of land at either end of the beach with most of it being privately owned or in Council ownership. DOC’s response is this is not our role but will be submitting comment to mitigate the effects of the subdivision.
- **Waikawau Bay:** John provided an update of a multi agency community meeting held at Waikawau Bay on the 12 April. At the meeting, locals asked what the implications are from Treaty Settlements for this area. *This is an unknown at this stage until settlements are further progressed.* Other discussion was in regard to campground management with some locals wanting to keep the campground rustic and pristine i.e 1970’s style. However while DOC can do this to a point, they also must adhere to the campground standards as per the Health Act. The Regional Council was in attendance and addressed some issues around floods and water ways. A Board member was able to provide some

feedback from the community. *There was a feeling the meeting was a lot more positive but still about “What DOC is doing and what do you think?” and less about “This is what we’d like to do, how can we involve the community?”* John acknowledged this.

- Goats on PCL: John was unable to provide an update on this issue which was discussed in the March meeting. He will forward information for this separately.

#### 4. Conservation Management Strategy

- 4.1 Waikato CMS – resolving comments made by the NZCA. There was some confusion as to this part of the process which was clarified. What was required now was for the Board to meet and provide full responses to NZCA’s comments as only initial response had been provided up till now.

**Action:** *Elisa to use the online Doodle Poll programme to organise a meeting June / July timeframe to complete this part of the process.*

\*Alan Cockle departed at 2pm

#### 5. Concessions

Report provided with agenda papers

The Chair asked Paul to explain the criteria for a concession to be publicly notified? *Tends to be related to term ie over 10yrs or whether there are any major environmental effects*

**Oliver Concession update:** this application was withdrawn and a new concession application submitted for a lesser impact quad bike track and is currently pending. Taking in the comments from the Conservation Board provided for the original application and advice from the local office ie Te Kuiti office that they support the application, it is likely this concession will be approved.

The Board, after discussing some of the listed concession applications, requested from DOC, more information on this report in the future.

**Action:** *Elisa to ensure adequate information is provided in the Concession report provided in agenda papers.*

#### 6. Resource Management Issues

Report provided with agenda papers.

**Wallace Corporation Water take and discharge consent:** in response to a query, it was confirmed the water is treated prior to discharging. Waikato Regional Council completes the testing.

**Waikato Regional Council – Lower Waikato–Waipa Flood Scheme:** there was some discussion in regards to this consent application. Andra provided the history of this scheme created in response to flooding and the effect of this on many livelihoods. Is a very complicated piece of engineering.

The consent is for the continued operation of the flood gates although there is discussion as to what exactly is in scope.

**Action:** *Elisa to source an update on this resource consent and further information as to what is in scope.*

#### 7. Correspondence

Schedules of inwards and outwards correspondence were circulated with the agenda.

##### Outwards Items

Nil outwards correspondence for this period

##### Inwards Items

Provided in agenda papers and taken as read

**Resolved: That the inwards correspondence be accepted and approved.**

Hood / Hinds / carried

## **8. Advocacy Matters**

**8.1 Maungatautari:** The General Manager, Malcolm Anderson has resigned. The group were disappointed not to get the funding they had expected from DOC (Community Conservation Partnerships Fund); applied for 300k and received 60k. Costs \$1.2 – 1.9 million to run per year. Arthur's role as a Conservation Board trustee on the MEIT Board finishes at the end of May and will put in his resignation.

### **8.2 National Wetland Trust:**

A review completed of the National Wetland Trust's ambition to have a National Wetland Centre at Lake Rotopiko resulted in the advice that this would not be a wise use of resources. A range of options/tools to was suggested as an alternative, to achieve awareness. The Trust is currently considering these.

### **8.3 Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve:**

Nothing of note.

**8.4 Farm Environment Awards:** Waikato Farm Environment Awards 2014 were bestowed on Sharon and Mike Barton who farm within the Taupo catchment. The farm is subject to the nitrogen cap and is doing very well. The farm and the Barton's were being promoted as a foretaste of farming into the future and a positive after the anger and grief when the strict environmental legislation to protect the health of the lake was introduced

## **9. Liaison with Other Boards/Organisations**

**9.1 NZ Conservation Authority (Arthur):** Confirmed minutes for February 2014 meeting received, no issues or comment from Board.

**9.2 Tongariro/Taupo Board (Mark):** no recent minutes received

**9.3 East Coast Bay of Plenty Board (Dell):** no recent minutes received

**9.4 Auckland Board (Sally):** Minutes received only late yesterday and were tabled to members.

**9.5 Taranaki / Whanganui Board (Mark):** No recent minutes received.

**9.6 Fish and Game Council (Mark):** Mark made the comment he was not sure of Fish & Games' future. In the past the council was a lot more proactive, creating nesting boxes etc but seem only to collect levies now. Arthur commented if it wasn't for the pressure of Fish & Game on those that pollute the water, we would be a lot worse off.

**9.7 Forest and Bird (Mark):** No issues or comment from Board.

**9.8 Hauraki Gulf Forum (David):** Next meeting is on the 9 June 2014 and it is hoped the draft State of the Gulf report will be presented. The forum is involved in the Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari, a marine spatial plan, designed to safeguard the Hauraki Gulf. This is a partnership led by mana whenua and central and local government. The annual conference is proposed for August where Tangata Whenua representatives will be confirmed for this next term. The Chair queried the status of the proposed fish farm in the Hauraki Gulf. David advised there is space allocated but there is nervousness around the financial risk of being the first but feels it will eventually occur.

- 9.9 TCDC/Kauri 2000 (Sally):** No report, Sally absent.
- 9.10 QEII National Trust (Dell):** No response received from correspondence sent
- 9.11 Waikato Tainui (Katie):** No report. Gaylene's term has finished and Katie was absent due to previous commitments
- 9.12 Waikato Regional Council (Kevin):** Nothing to report
- 9.13 Federated Farmers NZ (Kevin):** Some issues Federated Farmers are having with Fish & Game previously discussed

**10. General Business**

**Waikato Conservation Board general meeting schedule:** after discussion it was proposed where possible, the Board meets on every third Tuesday of the third month ie 25 August (delayed 1 week due to event), 18 Nov 14, 17 Feb 15.

\*Andra Neely departed at 3pm. As this was to be her last meeting, she was presented with flowers and a gift as a token of thanks for her time on the Board. Arthur added his thanks for her contribution during her term and expressed his disappointment she was not returned.

**Community Conservation Partnerships Fund:** This is a combination of the previous Biodiversity Fund and Advice and Condition Fund and covers the Northern North Island not including Auckland. Arthur was involved in this recent process and provided a summary. Arthur advised a phenomenal number of applications were received; \$60 million worth of applications applied for \$6 million worth of funding. Robust process with 10 people on the panel, using a measuring criteria and score sheet. This is then sent to Wellington for the final decision on the successful applicants.

**10.1 Induction process for new Board – timing and forum**

A date was set for an Induction hui for new and current Board members for the 30 July 2014 which will be held at Hopuhopu

**10.2 Concession triggers:** there was discussion on whether the Board wanted to adopt a set of triggers for the Department. Final decision was for the report that is sent out to Waikato Tainui be forwarded to Elisa who will include with agenda papers

**10.3 Review of WCB strategy and guidelines for implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act:** this will be reviewed once the new Board is instated.

**11. Closure**

David provided a poroporoaaki; Mark thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3:10pm

Signed as CONFIRMED:



Mark Brough (Chairperson)

Confirmation Date: 18 November 2014