

## 2006 AGM Minutes

### LakesWater Quality Society Inc.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 10.00 am Monday 30 January 2006 at Pikiaro Rugby League Rooms, Takinga Street, Mourea.

**Karakia and Welcome:** The Acting Chair, Ron Marsden, welcomed dignitaries Steve Chadwick MP, EBOP Chair John Cronin, Cr Bill Cleghorn, EBOP, Cr Jim Howland EW, Professor David Hamilton, Marc Fauvel, RDC staff, Rt. Hon. Paul East, life member John Keaney, and a further 52 members recorded as present.

**Apologies:** Mayor Kevin Winters, Deputy Mayor Trevor Maxwell, Cr. Bob Martin (RDC), Crs Bryan Riesterer, Neill Oppart, Athol Herbert, Andrew von Dadelszen, Tai Eru, Ian Noble (EnvBOP), Ian McLean, Neil Callaghan, Phill Thomas, Marcel van Leeuwen, Ingrid McKellar, John Mace, Kay Lilico, David Williams, Jim Stanton.  
Brentleigh Bond/Nick Miller. Accepted.

**Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting** (distributed) It was moved that the minutes be taken as read and confirmed.  
Ron Marsden/John Green.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.

**Chairman's Annual Report:** The Acting Chair read extracts from the Chair's distributed report, and moved that it be accepted.  
Ron Marsden/ R Grainger. Agreed.

**Matters arising from the Report:**

Paul Dell pointed out that it should have read that Okareka, not Okataina, had been treated with Phoslock Don Atkinson, responding to a query, said that LWQS hoped to have a better relationship with the farmers outside the Lakes and Lands Trust. Steve Chadwick commented that an interface was needed between land-based and water-based research, and that \$600,000 Govt funding had been allocated. Don replied that FOMA support for the Trust was ongoing, but that other funding was not ongoing and LWQS considered that financial accountability was inadequate.

**Financial Report:** The Treasurer presented the report, noting that GST was now involved. Moved that the financial report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 be approved, and that Jim Tavendale be reappointed as auditor  
Brentleigh Bond/ John Green. Approved.

**Election of Officers:** Ron Marsden stated that the Society had lost a gifted leader with Ian McLean's recent departure to an overseas position.

**Chairman:** John Green elected unopposed.  
Ron Marsden/Don Atkinson

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Miller elected unopposed.  
Ron Marsden. Carried by acclamation

**Treasurer:** Brentleigh Bond elected unopposed.  
Ron Marsden. Carried by acclamation

**Minutes /Symposium Secretary:** Ann Green, unopposed  
Ron Marsden. Carried by acclamation

**Committee:** The present committee except for Ron Bailey who wishes to retire (Don Atkinson, Sally Brock, Ron Marsden, Nick Miller, Phill Thomass) were re-elected en bloc

Further nominations: Warren Webber  
Elizabeth Miller/Jim Howland

Brian Stamp  
Ron Bailey/ Brentleigh Bond

Marcel van Leeuwen (LORA) and David Packman and Jeremy Williams (LTRA) were nominated as representatives.

It was moved that the above nominees be accepted as the committee.  
Elizabeth Miller/Bob Armstrong

Brentleigh thanked Ron Bailey for his valuable input to the committee during his time on it.

### **Official Guests**

Steve Chadwick: MfE has met with Regional and District Council, also FOMA and John Green, to discuss district issues and evaluate priorities. A joint official committee was set up earlier in the year to encourage progress.

Ron Marsden said that the Society had tried to bring together as many viewpoints as possible, for the future benefit of all.

John Cronin: EBOP are committed to fixing the lakes. The 10-year plan includes targeted rates, and EBOP are communicating with other northern regional councils to align environmental plans. John paid tribute to Ian McLean, stating that he had made a magnificent contribution to the lakes.

Don Atkinson asked whether it was one-third of lakes income sought from inside the district, and was told that was correct. He asked for the committed levels of funding and was told one-third each from Central Government, RDC and EBOP, although proportions were under current discussion and could change.

Paul East commented on the closure, for health reasons, of a nationally significant lake for five weeks. He had found responders on the EBOP Hotline seemed poorly briefed, with no detail available. He considered it would be useful if the Society could encourage research in the health risks associated with the causes of lake closure, especially long-term effects.

Paul Dell reported that EBOP monitor algal numbers each week. Analysis takes 3-4 days, and the Medical Officer of Health decides whether a Health Warning is necessary. He informs RDC who put up warning signs if required. Ministry of Health have had reports of rashes and other symptoms. Now the EBOP website is updated weekly and an answerphone has a pre-recorded message on the algal situation. As there can be rapid changes in the situation, a conservative approach is taken. Sometimes there are blooms of very small algae even though the water appears relatively clear. EBOP would support lobbying to the Ministry of Health to research long-term effects.

David Hamilton: The Rotorua lakes are now included in the Global Lake Ecological Network, enhancing our ability to learn about the lakes. Black and red hazard buoys with sensors will send data back to EBOP and the University of Waikato in real time. Studies will look at bloom movement in Rotorua. EBOP funding of \$140,000 has made possible state of the art equipment.

Don Atkinson commented on our good fortune to have such good resources available, and to have Professor David Hamilton, a scientist with an international reputation, working on these lakes. David was thanked with acclamation.

Funding the lake restoration is significant to us all, and it is important to have community involvement. Some actions will take many years to produce positive results. All invited to the Symposium in March.

### **Matters Arising & General Business**

Bond said that he had appreciated working for many years on the Committee with Ian McLean, and he proposed Life Membership for Ian. Mary Stanton was very pleased to support the proposal.  
: That Ian McLean be made a Life Member of the Society.  
Brentleigh Bond/ Mary Stanton. Carried with acclamation.

### **Speakers**

#### **Paul Dell, Lakes Project Manager, Environment Bay of Plenty**

Lessons learnt about the lakes include that rushing into action without research on the effects of what is proposed can lead to more problems, and that as some nutrient sources are reduced, other smaller sources become relatively more important. High-tech sewerage systems are being tested for areas where reticulated lakeside community schemes are not suitable, and for the first time farmers are being asked to cap nutrients. Keeping out aquatic pests will protect water quality as well as give other benefits. The input from Technical Advisory Groups to decision-making is appreciated.

Action Plans, to decide how to get nutrient reduction to a sustainable level for each catchment will begin for the pristine lakes, Tarawera, Rotoma, Tikitapu and Okataina, by meeting with communities and stakeholders.

Plans and research for engineering solutions to reducing nutrients in Rotorua, Rotoiti and Okaro are progressing. Phosphorus-locking treatment was applied to Okareka, and is planned for the coming year. Land-use and land management changes could give long-term benefits, to reduce nitrogen flowing to groundwater.

#### **Nick Miller, Analytical & Environmental Consultants**

"Chemical treatment of lakes": Allophane, zeolite, bentonite, steel slag and limestone are being investigated for use to lock up phosphorus. The aim is to make phosphates insoluble when the lake has no oxygen in the lower levels. Very fine lattice structure gives large active surface area to take up P. Distance of the source (affecting transport costs and availability) and effectiveness vary, and zeolite may also remove nitrogen.

#### **Chris Hendy, Professor of Chemistry, Waikato University**

"The muck at the bottom of the lake: Sediments in contact with oxygenated water react differently from those that at some time are anoxic (without oxygen in the bottom waters). Sediment pore water contains substances including sulphate, manganese and phosphorus that can flow back into the lake water. Other elements are attached to the high amount of surface area in the sediments. If a lake becomes anoxic, the elements in the top sediment layers can be released suddenly into the water, probably leading to runaway blooms. In Rotorua there can be 1m of ooze above the Tarawera eruption sandy layer, and Kaharoa ash from 1314AD about 3 m below that. The phosphorus concentration is highest in the top 2-3 cm, where it can readily be released into the water. The ooze occurs in deeper parts of the lake, at 10-12 m, but not in the shallow areas. Experiments removing the top sediments could show the possible effects of dredging lakes.

**Meeting Closed:** 12.30 pm