

# LWQS 2007 AGM Minutes

## LakesWater Quality Society Incorporated

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday 28 January 2007 at Lake Okareka Community Hall, Lake Okareka

**Karakia:** Tai Eru

### **Welcome:**

The Chair welcomed dignitaries – Professor David Hamilton, Paul Dell , John Kearney and Ian McLean (Life Members), Steve Chadwick , MP, EBOP Chair John Cronin , Cr Bill Cleghorn, Tai Eru , Ian Noble, Robin Ford, Neil Oppatt, Jim Pringle, (EBOP Councillors), Sally Brock , Geoff Palmer , Richard Wilson (Local Ratepayer Chairs) Jim Howland (Environment Waikato), Mike McVicar, Cliff Lee, Russell Judd (RDC), Rt Hon. Paul East, and a further seventy five members recorded as present.

### **Apologies:**

Glenys Searancke, Andrew von Dadelszen, Charles Te Kowhai, Brian Riesterer, Elizabeth Miller, Bob and Cynthia Armstrong, Dr Vivienne Cassie Cooper, Simon Moore , Hilary Prior, Lyn and Alister Spence, Nigel Brock, Lindsay Brighouse, John Scholar, Mary Stanton, Fay Stamp. *JohnGreen/PhillThomass*

### **Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:**

**It was moved that the minutes be taken as read.** Accepted – *Green/BrentleighBond*

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

### **Chairman's Annual Report**

The report had been circulated so was not read but the Chairman emphasised some points. It had been a busy year and he felt that progress had been made with the commitment of the main parties to a Memorandum of Understanding and the Ohau Channel construction. However it was now time for the "hard yards", difficult decisions and commitment by everybody to change, RDC to provide more flexibility for land use options, and for EBOP to toughen up their policies for nutrient discharges from land use.

The Chair thanked the committee for their hard work with special thanks to Lyn East for her help for the Symposium and Ann Greenon the Proceedings. He announced the resignation of Nick and Elizabeth Miller after many years of committed involvement. Ian McLean stated that they had played a vital role in the 1990s in maintaining the Society, Nick providing the scientific base and Elizabeth fifteen years of meticulous secretarial work. He believes that the Lakes owe a lot to them.

**It was moved that this meeting request the executive committee to make Nick and Elizabeth Life Members.** Accepted – Ian McLean/Phill Thomass

**It was moved that the Chairman's Report be accepted.** John Green/Ian McLean

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer presented the report. Thanks were given to the Treasurer for his tireless hard work.

**It was moved that the financial report for the year ended 31 March 2006 be approved, and that Jim Tavendale be re-appointed as auditor.**

Accepted – Brentleigh Bond/Don Atkinson

**Notice of Motion:**

The Treasurer reported that to maintain its charitable status, the Society will need to register with the new Charities Commission in 2007 and this requires a number of minor changes to our Constitution, including the balance date being moved to 30<sup>th</sup> September each year.

**It was moved that the alteration to the rules of Lakes Water Quality Society Inc. be approved.** Accepted – Brentleigh Bond/Sally Brock

**Election of Officers:**

Chairman John Green

Treasurer Brentleigh Bond

Secretary Ann Green

Committee Don Atkinson

Sally Brock (LRCA)

Marcel van Leeuwen (LORA)

Ian McLean

Brian Stamp

Warren Webber

Phill Thomass

Graham Shirley (L. Rotoma Action Group)

Ron Marsden

Tai Eru

David Packman (LTRA)

**It was moved that the above nominees be accepted as the committee.**

Approved-*John Green/Sandra Goodwin*

**Speaker – Paul Dell:**

Paul gave an update on current issues of the Lakes. Since the RMA Act 1919 there had been no new policy statement from Government until 2006 when they introduced a Sustainable Water Plan of Action which was driven by Waikato, Rotorua and Canterbury Councils, based on a holistic approach of sustainable management, development and economic transformation working with the community. Action Plans were introduced and included the wider framework of social, cultural and economic factors.

Phoslock applications at Okareka have appeared to work well with slight change in product on second application. The original concern re the fish shows no further evidence of decline. Last application will be in March this year.

He stressed the importance of increasing marginal vegetation for bird habitats and to act as filters for the land, while balancing it for boat movement.

The Lakes research has now moved into the international field through the Lakes Management Chair at Waikato University with a good number of students coming from overseas. This means that the research is being driven by global experience which is very positive for the Lakes. A Technical Advisory Group has been setup to give relevance to this international research for the Lakes. After long absence, the Government last year put money into research on Sustainable Land Use of soil. 70% of GDP is in 15% of the top soil. The Dairy Industry is also now putting in stringent targets and showing leadership and funding research.

Modelling is being done on the most efficient methods of aircraft spreading of fertiliser. Further research is being done on the sediment dynamics of the Lakes and will be a big issue in the future and \$10 million has been targeted for research programmes. Trials are continuing on Osept systems. The Groundwater evaluation work will be integrated in to the work being done on land use change. Numerous other research projects are being undertaken with RLLT, EBOP and management projects by local farmers.

However there are huge social and economic barriers to change and the community need to share a common vision of the future sustainable options, taking ownership and bringing about solutions. The research is bringing in tools to help make economic decisions and providing the best information to help make the change but it will all take time.

**General Business:**

**Steve Chadwick:** Congratulated LWQS on the work they had done this year. She acknowledged the leadership being taken by EBOP, RDC and Te Arawa

and working well together. The many programmes being undertaken by volunteers are also making a difference. She stressed that the support of Central Government was vital and they had agreed to the MOU and expected to sign it by March 2007. She expected it would go to Cabinet early in the New Year. The original \$200 million sewerage subsidy had been immediately over subscribed and it was being reassessed in the budget planning process.

**John Cronin:** He was "blown away" by the tremendous support of community groups in the area. He was concerned about the MOU delays and said it was essential to have Government support for restoration work for the Lakes to go forward. There would be no rate increase in the 2007 Annual Plan. EBOP were moving their headquarters from Whakatane to Tauranga and doing a revitalisation of the Council. He concluded by saying that he was always in awe of Paul Dell's dedication to the work of management and restoration of the Lakes and there was a new person starting to help share his load, working out of EBOP Rotorua.

**Paul East:** Thanked the committee for its hard work and time and gave best wishes for 2007.

**Rob Trewin, Lake Okareka:** He was concerned that Okareka was linked with all the other lakes in planning land use. He believed that the Crater Lake project was inappropriate for Okareka and that the area should be kept in its pristine state and put in to a Regional or National Park.

**John Green:** He said that before any decisions were made it was important that the community and Councils involved had a vision for the future of the whole Lakes district.

**Rob Trewin:** He said that if there was no immediate rush for water quality there should be no rush to urbanise the area.

**Ian McLean:** He believed that "No Rush" is not true. We have been saying that for years and time has run out.

**John Roper, Lake Okareka:** He was concerned that the cost of sewerage was going to be about \$15-30,000 per household for only two and a half tons of Nitrogen, but he felt we should be more worried about the heavy loading of fertilizer on farms.

**Brentleigh Bond:** Any non members were invited to see him after the meeting.

**Nick Miller:** Passed a clip board around for attendance.

**Meeting Closed:** 11.10 a.m.