

## Minutes

### **AGM MINUTES - LAKES WATER QUALITY SOCIETY INC.**

**10.00 am – 27 January 2020**

Pikiao Rugby League Club Rooms, Mourea

**PRESENT:** Ken Kennedy, Robyn Bridgman, Cynthia Armstrong, Bob Armstrong, Elizabeth Miller, Nick Miller, Steve Chadwick, Richard Noke, Helen Wallace, Grant Wallace, Rod Stace, Marvin Wilkins, Jan Wilkins, David Hamilton, Phill Thomass, Jortin Atkinson, John Mace, Kaye Lillico, Dave Wilson, Dave Donaldson, Fred Hoogveld, Todd McClay, Tamati Coffey, John Lareche, Sue Lareche, Jeanette Robertson, Kathryn Stacey, Robin Sinclair, Ian McLean, Nick Chater, John Gifford Libby Fletcher, Claire Mohan, Marcel van Leeuwen, Don Atkinson, Troy Baisden, Doug Leeder, Louw van Wyk, Margriet Theron, Stuart Corson, Stewart Edward, Geoff Rice, Sam Ressenirode, Mark Oliver, Reynold MacPherson, Colin Jackson Trevor Maxwell Jim Stanton Tania Tapsell, Kevin Winters, Mary Stanton, Fletcher Tabutaeu, Lesley Fitness  
(Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Warren Webber, Jude Webber, Mercia Yates, John Green, Ann Green, Stuart Burns, Chris Moore, Lyall Thurston, Greg Corbett, Andy Bruere, Richard Amary, Christine Amary, Buzz Rathbone, Patsy Rathbone, Sandra Goodwin, Mike Godwin, Jenny Dainty, Groot Dainty, Neil Callaghan, Jennifer Rothwell, Terry Beckett

#### **KARAKIA**

- Ken Kennedy did a Karakia welcoming everyone to the AGM and thanking them for taking the time to come
- He gave remembrance to those that have passed on over the last year
- Also thanked the Pikiao Rugby League Club for letting us hold our AGM in their rooms
- Gave a special welcome to dignitaries, Doug Leader, Steve Chadwick, Dave Donaldson, other Councillors, Todd McClay and Tamati Coffey

#### **MINUTES**

- These were circulated before the meeting and accepted as presented
- Moved Phill Thomass– Seconded Stuart Corson  
Carried

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

Nothing

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- This was circulated by email before the meeting and highlighted issues that the lakes have been facing
- It has been a good year for the Lake Waters Quality Society and the Symposium "Float your Boat Certify" held in November around Biosecurity, Catfish and Lake Tarawera nutrients went very well
- Biosecurity in the lakes has been inadequate but we are gaining recognition for the need to improve protection
- Our other focus has been to raise awareness on Lake Tarawera's deterioration. (Troy Baisden will present later)

- Catfish numbers seem to be suppressed – some are just being washed up dead on the lake edges
  - They have been frozen and sent to NIWA where tests are being done
- Lakes are remarkably good – Lake Rotoehu hasn't had any bloom, maybe due to the recent winds and no run-off occurring. We need to continue working on all the lakes to ensure their ongoing improvement
- Lake Rotorua is still being dosed with Alum - without this we would be in a poor condition.
- Adoption of Plan Change 10 is essential to achieve a sustainable catchment
- The timeline of 2032 for compliance will be a challenge for the Regional Council and Government
- In the Greater Tarawera Catchment we are concerned by - the huge numbers of wallabies foraging and the erosion caused by them

#### *Acknowledgements*

- Warren Webber is a Life member and has done an enormous amount of work as the Deputy Chair
  - His expertise on sorting out the Symposium has been invaluable
- He has done countless meeting and been an effective conciliator Phill Thomass is standing down this year due to an increased workload as he is taking up the role of Chair for the Rotorua Lakes Community Board
- Anne Green who is currently working on getting the Proceedings done for the Symposium
  - She works tirelessly to get these done and they should be finalised soon, the professional quality of the proceeding is appreciated by all
  - Proceedings are a key document used by decision makers to support actions and expenditure
- Ian McLean was responsible for taking the Action Items during the Symposium and for the wrap-up discussions
  - His notes were sent out with the Presidents Report before the meeting
- Acknowledge those that have assisted in organising the lunch after the AGM - your input is greatly appreciated

Moved that his report be accepted Don Atkinson – Seconded Bob Armstrong

Carried

- While Bob seconded the Chairman's Report he also proposed a motion as follows:  
*That the meeting expresses its sincere gratitude for the outstanding service given to the Society over many many years by the retiring Chair Don Atkinson*

Moved Bob Armstrong - Carried

#### **FINANCES**

The Financial Report was audited by G.B. Prior and was handed out at the meeting

- Subscriptions are up slightly – seemed to take a while for these to be done on-line
- Small decrease on the Movement of Equity
- Not many other changes – MYOB costs a lot so will be changing to Cloud – this makes it easier for the Auditor to access as well

Moved Marcel van Leeuwen– Seconded John Gifford

Carried

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Present Chair Don Atkinson is standing down so there was a call for nominations for a new Chairman
- Don Atkinson nominated John Gifford – Seconded by Phill Thomass
- No other nominations were put forward so John accepted and took over as the Chair for the rest of the meeting

John gave a short bio of himself:

- He came from Auckland to Rotorua 35 years ago

- He values the opportunity to be able to live by the lakes and enjoys the recreation opportunities these provide
- John remembered the lakes from many years back and enjoyed being part of working in the lakes checking conditions so has a good understanding of them
- Worked for Ministry of Works, Kinleith (NZFP); Forest Research Institute (Renewable Energy/Climate change). Verda (Adding value to radiata)
  - Now working in his own consultancy business on renewable energy and alternative land use
- He hopes to continue the good work of the Chairs before him - his challenge is to do this with a strong connection to the lakeside communities
- He acknowledged Don and Dianne for their great work and thanked them for the last four years

Secretary – Lesley Fitness was nominated by John Gifford; seconded by Elizabeth Miller

Treasurer – Marcel van Leeuwen will continue his role as the Treasurer

Committee – Stewart Edward, Colin Jackson, Paul Hammond, Libby Fletcher, Stuart Corson, Richard Noke, Ken Kennedy, Jennifer Rothwell, Mark Oliver

All these positions were accepted and carried by the members

## **INTRODUCTION BY GUESTS**

*Doug Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council*

- We need to bite the bullet and buy up land-use
- If we aren't getting anywhere we need to go to the Government
- Lots of interest on consenting of jetties – this will be covered in a presentation later in the meeting

Steve Chadwick

- Huge sigh of relief that the Lakes Water Quality Society is going well
  - New faces coming in on all Societies this year
- Great to see so many people attending today – it is important to attend and show support
- It is also important to thank the women who support and are behind what is happening
- Keep up your investment in infrastructure, keeping our drinking water clean as well as our lakes and pest control
- Good to have John on-board

*Todd McClay*

- Thanks to Don for his help not only as the Chair of Lakes Water Quality Society but for the years before
- Also want to recognise Warren Webber for the great job he has done in this area
- Ian McLean probably knows more on what needs to be done
- John your skills will be a great help with the Society
- Doug there seems to have been a little bit of progress in the work that you are doing
- Need to know that the taxpayer's money is spent carefully to stop any uncertainty
- Clean and healthy lakes is something we want
- There are challenges with catfish with enjoyment in the lake such as fishing and other activities
- The Government has a role to play with this

*Fletcher Tabutaeru*

- Came to the meeting to engage and say thank you to the Lakes Water Quality Society for the work that has been done
- He is here to listen and if anyone wants to ask questions after the meeting please don't hesitate to talk to him

*Tamati Coffey*

- Thank you for the invitation to attend and to Don for the good work that he has done
- Need investment in the lakes so hope we can have more conversations to make sure our lakes are safe for visitors and locals

- Went out catfishing – this is a brilliant programme and the good work needs to continue
  - The children were very enthusiastic

*Claire Mohan*

- Congratulations to Don and the Lakes Water Quality Society for the great work that is happening with the lakes
- We are committed that we will give strong support to the lakes
- If you have any queries please don't hesitate to catch up with Clare after the meeting

*Fiona McTavish – CEO, BOP Regional Council*

- Will be giving a presentation on lake structures with Chris Ingles talking about Biosecurity
- She acknowledged the work that Don has done and said that we wouldn't have the lakes if we didn't have the Lakes Water Quality Society
- Acknowledged Warren for all the work that he has done over the years
- Looking forward to working with John in the future

*Chris Inglis*

- Acknowledged the work of Lakes Water Quality Society and congratulated John for becoming the new Chair – also acknowledged Don and Warren who have worked very well with him – they used to have regular meetings for catch-ups
- There is a lot going on with young people getting involved in catching the catfish – this has been a huge success for William Anaru

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Biosecurity Update – Chris Ingle*

Catfish

- Several people went on the field trip and had talks with NIWA which gave us a good idea of where they were going – doing biocontrol feasibility investigations
- There is a decrease compared to previous years

Endothall

- Three small-scale trials were carried out in May 2019 targeting hornwort and lagrosiphon – more trials are needed

Boat and Trailer Inspection

- Good news that boat ramp inspections will go ahead
- Boats will be inspected before they go into the water to make sure nothing nasty goes into the water
- Staff will have the ability to hand out tickets to those that are offending
- Regional Plan for Pest Management will continue

Questions were taken:

Richard Noke: What are the results of the boat/trailers inspected so far?

- A. So far 200 inspections have taken place with one trailer having weed on it – this time the owner only got a stern warning
- Boaties have given a very positive feedback re the inspections

Nick Miller: You see a lot of boats on the side of the road for a long time – when these go into the lake do they need to be checked?

- A. If they are only using the boat on one lake you shouldn't be harassed

Phill Thomass: William is using dogs to sniff out for catfish – any comment on this?

- A. Haven't heard this before but think if it is being used by William it should be okay

Ian McLean: Doug and Fiona have achieved a huge amount of success over the years - We have been a bit complacent about Biosecurity

Two examples are:

- When catfish were observed at first nobody continued to check to see if they were increasing
  - Wallabies have spread from one area to the next over the years
- A. Significantly more resources are being put in place
- It is very hard getting rid of the catfish – need the community to get more involved

- Public have had enough so we need to change how we are working – putting more resources into this so this should help

#### *Comments*

Doug Leeder: Agreed with Ian that years ago when we saw the problem start we should have solved it straight away – today it takes a lot longer to get started on solutions

- Need to get out and do some night shooting to get rid of the wallabies – they are out of control

Steve Chadwick: In Rotorua 126 wallabies were spotted - we need to get control working together

- Monica Quirke is now the Wallaby Controller for the Rotorua Lakes area so contact her if you have any queries

Waikato University Research Update – Troy Baisden

Troy presentation included:

- What is the Right Science – The future is different from the past
- Ingredients for Success – knowledge, engagement, strategy
- Dissolved oxygen dynamics, Trophic Level Index. Water Clarity overtime, Algal biomass overtime, Estimating TP reduction
- He thanked his team that have been involved in this research

#### *Question*

Stuart Corson – If you were one of us what would you worry about?

A. Protecting Biosecurity – doing the right things (way forward is keep doing the right things)

Stuart Corson

- Thanked the speakers for their presentations and urged everyone to carry on doing the work that they are presently doing to make further improvements

Phill Thomass:

- Confirmed he has taken on the role of Chair for the Lakes Community Board so has stepped down from Lakes Water Quality Society Committee
- Jennifer Rothwell has joined LWQS as his replacement

John Gifford:

- Thanked the speakers and everyone who attended the meeting – Lake Water Quality Society will only be as good as the membership
- Dealing with fourteen lakes and many organisations who need to work together so hopefully we will continue the process of restoring the Rotorua lakes.
- John is happy for anyone who has queries to contact him at any time

Ken Kennedy did the Karakia to close the meeting and grace for lunch

Meeting closed 12.10 pm