

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HOROWHENUA LAKE DOMAIN BOARD HELD IN THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 126-148 OXFORD STREET, LEVIN, ON MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2016, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

Mr A McKenzie	(Chair, Department of Conservation)
Mayor B J Duffy	(Board Member, Horowhenua District Council)
Cr V Kaye-Simmons	(Board Member, Horowhenua District Council)
Cr A D Rush	(Board Member, Horowhenua District Council)
Mr R Warrington	(Board Member, Iwi Representative)
Dr J Procter	(Board Member, Iwi Representative)
Mr M Wiremu-Matakatea	(Board Member, Iwi Representative) (from 10.25 am)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr J Paulin	(Finance Manager, Horowhenua District Council)
Mrs K J Corkill	(Meeting Secretary)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were 4 members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND KARAKIA

The meeting commenced with a karakia (Mr Charles Rudd).

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Anne Hunt, in her comments, noted that purple loosestrife was thriving despite the spraying that was occurring, appeals had been lodged against all the Lake resource consents, and made some assertions as to lake use and the status of various parties, and the possible ramifications of ongoing enquiries and legal issues.

The basis and validity of her comments was questioned by Mayor Duffy, Cr Rush and Dr Procter, with Mrs Hunt saying she could provide documents to support her comments, but did not believe she needed to.

Mr Charles Rudd suggested a 'solution' to matters raised the previous minutes with regard to photographs being taken of children at the Domain: amend the bylaws to ban all cellphones and video devices and place security guards at parks that were frequented by children: With regard to the resolutions made in relation to the buildings, these conflicted with the oral judgment of the Court that the buildings were the property of the Maori owners and someone could not be trespassed from a building from which they were an owner. That matter, and any lease agreement, needed to be looked at properly as an owner could not be trespassed from their own land.

In response to a comment from Cr Rush that there was clear case law that the Trust represented the beneficial owners and individual owners did not have any special ownership rights, Mr Rudd said before the Trust could make any determination it should go back and engage with the owners. It should not be making dictatorial decisions.

Dr Procter also noted that in terms of Mrs Mason's complaint to the Board, the Board would be remiss if it did not consider that and follow it up with the Police, particularly as the Board should be providing a safe environment.

- clearly it was the Minister who made the decision;
- if the Department of Conservation or the Board received any further nominations, they would be forwarded to the Minister;
- the Board would continue to operate until a new Board was appointed. There would not be a hiatus as there had been in the early 2000s;
- also, with the Treaty of Waitangi hearings progressing, a case could be made to the Minister that the current Board should continue to operate until that process was finished and a new governance structure was in place.

With regard to the email received, Mayor Duffy queried whether it was from Hokio A or the Hokio Trust as there were two separate organisations. It would be helpful to have clarity also whether the email was from an individual or via a resolution from an organisation. He would struggle to understand how to respond to a communication from an organisation that did not come via a formal resolution.

Mr McKenzie said he was not quite sure which organisation it was, but it had come from Vivienne Taueki. However, with regard to nominations, the Act merely indicated that they should come from the Muaūpoko Maori Tribe. With the lack of a clear process it was difficult.

Mr Wiremu-Matakatea joined the meeting (10.25 am).

Mr Wiremu-Matakatea noted that when he had initially been appointed to the Board, recommendations had come from the Lake Trustees, but things had got more difficult over time.

Item 38 Moonlight Drumming on Muaūpoko Park

Mr Warrington said there had been a couple of events, with a small turnout.

Item 39 Horowhenua Clean Up Projects - Resource Consent Applications

Mayor Duffy advised that there had been one appeal, from the Hokio A Trust and he queried its validity as he did not believe the Trust had met and that there was a resolution on its books. He said it was ridiculous that one vocal person who professed to want the Lake cleaned up was holding up the process.

Item 40 Repair and Fit New Security to Rowing and Sailing Club

Mayor Duffy reported this work had been done and there was a work programme planned for the Rowing Club building over the next month, which was very promising.

7. APPROVALS REQUESTED

Moved: Rush

Seconded: Procter

“THAT the following approvals be granted:

Horowhenua Obedience Dog Training Club.

Term Dates for 2016.

13 January - 9 March

16 March – 11 May

18 May – 13 July

27 July – 21 September

5 October – 30 November

Agility runs each Tuesday from 12 January

Event dates for 2016 - Obedience and Agility.

25 January

20 & 21 February (the region is using the grounds)

27 & 28 February

6 March (Central Shetland Sheepdog club is using the grounds)

23 & 24 April
16 & 17 July
30 July
17 & 18 September

Waitangi Day Celebrations – Muaūpoko Tribal Authority

8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Entertainment, stalls, food, health / wellbeing checks, ta moko, children's activities, sports games.

CARRIED

8. FINANCE

Mr Paulin reported:

- there had been no change in the financial position;
- the audited Accounts had now been received;
- with regard to the clean-up of trees, etc, at the Domain, he understood that cost was being met by HDC.

9. GENERAL

(a) Bird Management

The Chair commented that he had visited the Lake a fortnight ago and the considerable amount of bird faeces there was 'not nice'.

Council's Property & Parks Manager, Arthur Nelson, reported on the discussions he had had with the Chair about bird management opportunities. Clearly, the main issue was Canada geese. He had also been in discussions with Fish & Game about getting an integrated programme to deal with the problem.

Noel Procter had also mentioned the Paradise Duck and numbers had been kept since 2005 when there had been 202; there were now 504.

Historically bird control at the Domain had been with bore rifles.

Mr Nelson outlined some of the options being considered for bird management such as rocks on the shoreline to discourage nesting, egg pricking, etc. That would require detailing nesting and roosting sites. Whilst there were a number of options to control populations, by far the most effective was coordinated hunting. Fish & Game were open to that suggestion and currently there was an outline of a proposal which he hoped to progress further and also to produce a long term integrated management regime going forward.

Mayor Duffy stressed his keenness to have something done sooner rather than later and he queried when was the best time to undertake a cull. He understood in previous years the geese had been shot with their carcasses going to local iwi.

Mr Nelson said January/February when the birds moulted was the best time for culling, but he was not sure whether the Lake was a moulting site, with the moulting site and roosting site not necessarily being the same.

In terms of the ultimate responsibility for such bird management, Mr Nelson said he was not sure what Horizons' perspective on the matter was. One issue was the amount of private land around the Lake and those land owners needed to be included in any integrated approach. Fish & Game was happy to coordinate with private owners.

After further discussion on the options, both short and long term, with Mr McKenzie also suggesting the Board should put in a submission to the Regional Pest Management Strategy, it was:

Moved: Procter

Seconded: Kaye-Simmons

"THAT in the short term Horowhenua District Council be requested to undertake a cull of geese, etc, at the Horowhenua Lake Domain, with the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board, in conjunction with Horowhenua District Council, to seek a long term bird management solution with Fish & Game which would include private land owners around the Lake."

CARRIED

Moved: Rush

Seconded: Procter

"THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board makes a submission to the Horizons Regional Council's Pest Management Plan and Strategy that Canada geese, White geese and Paradise Ducks be listed as pest species."

CARRIED

(b) Storm Tree Damage

After discussion, further to the work already done, it was agreed that Council should be requested to do an inspection/evaluation of the trees in the Domain. Any wood removed to be left as firewood which would save on removal costs.

Moved: Procter

Seconded: Kaye-Simmons

"THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board requests the Horowhenua District Council to do an inspection of the trees within the Horowhenua Lake Domain and safely manage any damaged stock. Any wood removed to be left as firewood."

It was AGREED that the issue of a shelter belt was not currently of major concern and would be revisited in the future if required.

(c) Bylaw Complaint

As the suggestion of the Chair it was AGREED that this matter would be addressed In Committee.

(d) Lake Condition

As noted in the Agenda, Mr McKenzie reiterated that Amber signs had been posted at the Lake the previous week. There had been a slight breakdown in the system in terms of signage, with such signs usually having been posted earlier in the season.

Dr Procter said the current state of the lake highlighted the need to have the resource consents go through as that would assist in eliminating algal bloom.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

2 May 2016.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Moved: Rush

Seconded: Procter

"THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board pursuant to Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, resolves that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

General Business (c) Bylaw Complaint

