

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HOROWHENUA LAKE DOMAIN BOARD HELD IN THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 126-148 OXFORD STREET, LEVIN, ON MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 10.35 AM

PRESENT

Mr R Kemper	(Chair, Department of Conservation)
Mr R Warrington	(Board Member, Iwi Representative)
Dr J Procter	(Board Member, Iwi Representative)
Cr V Kaye-Simmons	(Board Member, Horowhenua District Council)
Mr M Wiremu-Matakatea	(Board Member, Iwi Representative)
Mayor Bernie Wanden	(Council Appointee, to be confirmed)
Cr Robert Ketu	(Council Appointee, to be confirmed)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs C Visser	(Department of Conservation)
Mr J Paulin	(HDC, Financial Accountant)
Mrs K J Corkill	(Meeting Secretary)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were fifteen members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting. From the media, George Heagney ("Manawatū Standard").

1. WELCOME AND KARAKIA

The meeting commenced with a karakia (Mr Wiremu-Matakatea) and the Chair welcomed the recent Council appointees, Mayor Wanden and Cr Ketu, with their appointments requiring to be confirmed by the Minister.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was recorded for Cr Tukapua, who would continue as a Member until the Minister approved the new appointments.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS

Mrs Anne Hunt spoke in relation to the Domain buildings, noting that a decision was still awaited from the Court with regard to the status of the Lake Trustees. The Court of Appeal decision was also awaited. She gave an explanation as to why the buildings at the Domain could no longer be leased. She further commented on the Board iwi membership and the Lake being closed off to the public.

Mr Philip Taueki explained why he was closing the gate to the Domain, which included the fact that it was private property and also because the Board had declined to give him a key for access. He suggested a new governance group for the Lake was required because of the number of organisations involved, with none having the mandate to do anything. The Waitangi Tribunal had made a recommendation, which was being ignored by the Crown. He queried the lack of a Reserve Management Plan for the Domain as the Board was supposed to be protecting the waters for public use. He also said the buildings were not fit for purpose as they had no toilets and were not insured and raised the algal bloom which was already starting to smell and was only going to get worse. It was a public health risk and the Board should be getting the air analysed.

Mr Charles Rudd expressed his concern that various issues raised during past public speaking rights had been ignored by the Board, providing examples from the minutes of previous meetings and Monitoring Reports as to his contention. With regard to Lake signage, he queried the use of the Kotuku as it was a visitor to the Lake, suggesting the cormorant (Kawau) or bittern (Matuku) as alternatives. He further raised the issue of the gate, access and allocation of keys and what he saw as personalities affecting the operation of the Board.

Concerns expressed by Mrs Vivienne Bold included: the lack of community happenings at the Domain apart from the Waitangi Day activities; the pollution via run off, stormwater and the toilets at the Domain that she maintained was entering the Lake; the location of the Dog Club at the Domain particularly as the signage said no dogs were allowed; the provision of a key to access the Domain for some groups and not to others; the length of time some members had been on the Board; the increase in the district's population, including refugees, which could add to the Lake's problems in terms of pollution.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 6 MAY 2019

Moved: Kaye-Simmons Seconded: Warrington

“THAT the Minutes of the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board meeting held on 6 May 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. MONITORING REPORT

Item 35 Resignation of Board Member and Appointment of a Replacement
This would be discussed under General Business.

Item 47 Draft Pest Management Plan
This had not progressed because of the Health & Safety issues.

Item 50 Lake Signage
Cr Kaye-Simmons said she would follow up the signage at the Lake with Horizons and also follow up on the Reserve Management Plan.

Item 51 Options for Installation of Bollards
Mr Kemper said that confirmation was awaited on the Lake Trustee appointments, with Mr Warrington advising that there been no change with the Court decision still pending.

Item 54 Providing a Walkway through the Shrubbery
Cr Kaye-Simmons said it appeared that work had started with the cleaning up of some of the dead trees but she would follow that up.

7. APPROVAL GRANTED

Kotuku Sea Scouts, Levin

The Chair had provided prior approval for a rowing and sailing event for five Wellington District Sea Scout Groups to be held on Sunday 10 November 2019. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the event did not proceed.

NOTED

With the Chair's leave, further items were added for the Board's approval:

Waitangi Day – Thursday, 6 February 2020 – 7.00 am – 5.00 pm

Noting that this event had been held at the Lake for the past 8-9 years and it had grown each year, Cr Kaye-Simons requested the Board's approval to again run the Waitangi Day commemoration at the Domain, advising that this request was on behalf of the Waitangi Day Committee.

With Members expressing support, it was:

Moved: Procter Seconded: Warrington

THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board approves the use of Muaūpoko Park for the 2020 Waitangi Day commemoration from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm on 6 February 2020.

CARRIED

Three Litter Clean Ups – to take place in 2020 – dates yet to be determined

Outlining the diverse range of people and groups from the community, including young Muaūpoko members, who were happy to go down and keep the area healthier and safer, Cr Kaye-Simmons noted that the three litter clean-ups done during 2019 had seen 625kgs of litter removed from what was a small area.

Moved: Procter Seconded: Wiremu-Matakatea

THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board approves the litter clean ups at Muaūpoko Park for the 2020.

CARRIED

Horowhenua Obedience Dog Training Club (HODTC) – Term Dates and Calendar of Events for 2020 for approval

Moved: Warrington Seconded: Procter

THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board approves the Horowhenua Obedience Dog Training Club Term Dates and Calendar Events for 2020:

Term Dates for 2020

<u>Enrolment</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Graduation</u>
January 22	January 29	March 18
March 25	April 1	May 20
May 27	June 3	July 22
August 5	August 12	September 30
October 7	October 14	December 2
Break Up: December 9		

Tuesdays – Agility
Wednesdays – Obedience
Thursday – Young Handlers Class
Sunday am – Introductory Class, CGC

<u>Event Dates</u>	
	22/23 February
	8 March
	28/29 March
	10 May
	25/26 July
	5/6 September.

CARRIED

A letter received from the HODTC was also tabled. It was suggested that someone from the Domain Board or Council have discussions with the Club in relation to the matters raised.

8. FINANCE

Mr Paulin presented two matters for the Board's consideration, the papers for which had been circulated:

(i) Draft Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019

These were unaudited and were for information only. Of note was that the Board had made a small surplus of approximately \$8,000 for the year. Page 2, which was the Statement of Financial Position, showed the Board had a reasonable bank balance and a few fixed assets, but no creditors to speak of. Page 3 showed the cash flow for the year.

Mr Paulin said there was nothing in the accounts that should cause any concern.

The accounts were currently with the Auditors and when audited would be brought back to the Board for adoption.

(ii) Draft Budget for the year ending 30 June 2020

The draft budget was discussed, with it queried whether there was going to be provision in the budget for the maintenance of the septic tank. Mr Paulin said he would clarify with Parks & Property whether the septic tank maintenance was in their budget. If so, it would not be part of the Board's costs.

Also suggested was the Board making a contribution to the Waitangi Day event, as had been done by other organisations such as HDC, MTA and the Lake Trust. What was an appropriate contribution was discussed, particularly in light of other possible expenses such as an election.

Moved: Procter

Seconded: Wiremu-Matakatea

THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board contributes \$1,000.00 towards the 2020 Waitangi Day commemoration.

CARRIED

Moved: Warrington

Seconded: Kaye-Simmons

THAT the Horowhenua Lake Domain Board receives the draft Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows and approves the budget for the year ending 30 June 2020 with the inclusion of the contribution to the 2020 Waitangi Day commemoration.

CARRIED

9. GENERAL

(i) Muaūpoko Māori Tribe Domain Board Members

Mr Kemper reported that the matters relating to the nature and extent of the Tribe's jurisdiction was currently in Court which was making it difficult in determining how they might provide for representation. Discussions had been held with the Tribal Authority and whilst the preferred mechanism would be to run an election within the Tribe, that still needed to be determined. He understood that Te Arawhiti had been approached to address, as a matter of urgency, the reconstituting mechanism for determining the way the Board might work. That urgency was declined so that would not be occurring in the near future. In the meantime, the Board would continue to work with the Muaūpoko Tribal Authority as to the best way forward. As discussed previously, the cost of an election would likely be \$20-30,000.

It would be speculation to say, if an election was run, that the Minister would accept the resulting recommendations. The issue with the past process was that there were twelve on the list provided to the Minister, with the legislation providing for the Minister to appoint four; it was not her role to decide who those four would be. However, it was up to the Muaūpoko Māori Tribe to determine the mechanism by which they came up with the four recommendations to go to the Minister. That was why, after various conversations, an independently run election appeared to be the best option. A company called Electionz.Com had been suggested as it had been used by other tribal authorities and Council had used them as well.

(ii) Sailing and Rowing Club Buildings – current and future use

It was reported that since the last Domain Board meeting there had been communication with the Lake Trust, the owner of the buildings. It had been confirmed that the Trust had not authorised occupation so some context was required as to what was happening in the buildings and whether or not they were currently being occupied. If they were, they were being occupied without the support of the Lake Trust or the express permission of the Domain Board.

If that was the case, it was up to the Board to go the next steps as the nominated owners of those buildings, on whose behalf they were administrated, did not want them occupied. The Board had a responsibility now to progress the owners' wishes.

(iii) Public Toilets – Muaūpoko Park

As was reported in the Agenda, Council's Parks and Property department had confirmed that after a recent query about the servicing and state of the toilets, a local firm had been engaged to visit the site and confirm where the septic tank was and that it was operating correctly. The contracted firm had confirmed that there was an underground septic tank located on the southern side of the toilet block and it was further confirmed that the system was operating correctly (meaning the tank was not full). There is no issue with the tank overflowing or of it not operating correctly. It had not been possible to confirm prior to today's meeting that it had been emptied; however, it would be done shortly and it would be done annually. It was further noted that when organisations such as the Dog Club had events at the Domain they organised Portaloos, which was done for Waitangi Day as well, so when there were any events happening there were additional facilities available.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 3 February 2020.

Summing up, Mr Kemper expressed that the Board's role was not an easy one as it operated in a fraught and difficult legislative framework. He said he looked forward to a new year and hoped 2020 would bring a new era to the Board, with a raise in the level of mutual commitment and co-operation from all involved.

The meeting closed at 11.40 pm with a karakia (Mr Wiremu-Matakatea).

CONFIRMED this _____ day of _____ 2020

Chairperson