

## **SmartGrowth Leadership Group Workshop**

### ***Freshwater for Life – western Bay perspectives***

**September 29, 2017 – Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Mauao Room**

#### **Present**

##### **Independent Chairperson**

W Wasley

##### **Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

Chairman: D Leeder

Councillors: J Nees, P Thompson, S Crosby,

##### **Tauranga City Council**

Mayor: G Brownless

Councillors: L Baldock, L Brown

##### **Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

Mayor: G Webber

Councillors: M Williams

##### **Tangata Whenua Representatives**

M Tapsell, I Walker, P Ihaka, V Ohia-Gate (alternate for Buddy Mikaere)

##### **Bay of Plenty District Health Board**

R Scott

#### **In Attendance**

##### **SmartGrowth**

B Walsh – SmartGrowth Manager

M Rumble – SmartGrowth Co-ordinator

Shad Rolleston – Tu Pakari Advisor

##### **Tauranga City Council**

C Jones – General Manager Growth and Infrastructure

S Burton – Manager City Waters

##### **Western Bay of Plenty District Council**

M Taris – Chief Executive Officer

K Hill – Utilities Manager

##### **Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

F McTavish – General Manager Strategy

Ian Morton – Science and Strategy Manager

N Poutasi – Water Policy Manager

Clarke Koopu – Maori Policy Advisor

## **Apologies**

Mayor G Webber, for lateness; Cr T Molloy; Cr D Thwaites; Cr J Scrimgeour; B Mikaere

## **Business**

Opening of workshop and welcome: Chair Bill Wasley

Bill welcomed members of the SmartGrowth Leadership Group (SLG), councillors and staff. Bill extended a warm welcome to Verna Ohia-Gate who is the alternate Tangata Whenua member. He also welcomed Ron Scott from the Bay of Plenty District Health Board who now sits on the SLG but who has been unable to attend many of the group's regular meetings due to a clash of meeting time with the DHB board meetings.

Bill also welcomed Ian Morton, Science and Strategy Manager for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and acknowledged the effort and work Ian had put in for the workshop.

### **Round table discussion on burning questions based on current landscape**

- Understand actual legislation requirements

### **Introduction and background – Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BoPRC) Chairman Douglas Leeder & Ian Morton**

Chairman Douglas Leeder gave an overview of water policy work from a national and regional perspective and from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council point of view. Two stage approach 1. Region-wide Quantity Plan Change 2. Water Management Areas (Water quality and quantity)

Measures to consider in terms of swimmability is around E coli levels. Bay of Plenty is currently at 93% swimmability. Minister Smith wants a 90% level across the country but there are some regions, for various reasons, who can't reach this national target. Some regions might need to go well above the 90% to offset the areas that cannot comply. Chairman Leeder gave an overview of modelling and testing.

The focus has fallen on the rural sector in terms of quantity and quality. In the last 12 months, there has been a greater focus on the urban areas. Requirements will get stricter and tougher.

Questions and discussion followed by workshop attendees.

Communication around the swimmability of a certain river/waterway on a given day can be found on the Land, Air, Water Aotearoa website. This data is highly reliable given levels and info on the website is actual figures not modelled ones <https://www.lawa.org.nz/>

The workshop then moved on with Ian Morton, Science and Strategy Manager, Bay of Plenty Regional Council presenting to the committee:

## **Freshwater issues Bay of Plenty**

### Environment

- Increased pressure on resources
- Need to improve some land use practices
- Decline in water quality – specific waterbodies
- Climate change
- Already over allocated in some areas

Over allocation issues: 66 rivers and streams across the western Bay – 62 over allocated. Putting in rules at present to address over allocation issues.

### Community

- Varying expectations
- Treaty/Maori interests
- Changing demographics – urban & rural
- Loss of kai
- Who funds improvements
- Economic growth

### Legislative

- Lack of data
- Legislative timeframes to meet
- Provide more clarity on existing rules
- Costly exercise to deliver

## **National Perspective**

Projects/group diagram covered.

Discussion around consistency and national standards. Appropriate limits.

## **Long Term Plan 2018/28 – How Bay of Plenty Regional Council is positioned**

Ian Morton covered the five objectives and areas of focus:

1. Good decision-making is supported through improving knowledge of our water resources.
2. We listen to our communities and consider their values and priorities in our regional plans.
3. We collaborate with others to maintain and improve our water resource for future generations.
4. We deliver solutions to local problems to improve water quality and manage quantity.
5. We recognise and provide for Te Mana o Te Wai (intrinsic value of water).

## **Local Government NZ (LGNZ) Conference - Presentation – Cr. Stuart Crosby**

Cr. Stuart Crosby gave a national overview of water issues using a presentation he gave at the 2017 LGNZ conference. Stuart was one of three speakers who were asked to speak about the future of water at the conference. Stuart spoke specifically around water quantity and quality in the Bay of Plenty region, particularly the western Bay.

There is also a large piece of work being done in draft format at present by LGNZ around climate change.

## **Science understanding**

What do we know about our freshwater in the Bay of Plenty?

Ian Morton apologised on behalf of Rob Donald who was no longer available to present. Ian gave an overview of the water resource knowledge base and spoke to three separate maps 1. NERMN Monitoring Sites 2. Surface Water Allocation 3. Ground Water Allocation Catchments

## **Swimmability**

In February 2017, Minister Smith announced a national target to make 90% rivers swimmable by 2040, with an interim target of 80% by 2030. Ian noted that this information is based on e coli for rivers and cyanobacteria for lakes only. Swimmability is generally very good within the western Bay area.

A task force was set up to correct any errors in existing maps, identify points source discharges and identify planned mitigations. The team fed back some errors and updated monitoring information and this resulted in BOPRC rivers being 93% swimmable.

Ian covered the key National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management impacts for BOPRC around swimmability.

*The workshop adjourned at 10.45am*

*The workshop resumed at 11.10am*

## **Policy and legislation focus**

Namouta Poutasi, BOPRC Water Policy Manager, presented to the committee. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management says we need to set water quality and quantity limits across the region by 2025. These targets have now been amended to 2030. Namouta gave an overview of the policy components of the Freshwater Futures programme .

Concerns were raised around not metering everybody, only those utilizing over a given quantity of water.

There were also concerns around the level of information available at the moment and ease of access to information. Ian suggested a possible field trip with scientists to see and understand the water work across western Bay better. Bill said this would be a good thing to include in the Eastern Corridor tour by the SmartGrowth Leadership Group early next year (2018).

## **Key Changes to National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)**

Namouta covered the key changes within the NPS-FM and the implications of these changes including swimming targets, Te Mana o Te Wai, science and monitoring, community engagement, economic wellbeing.

This is very much a collaborative approach. Core to this is the Regional Council's responsibility for consultation/engagement with communities on these matters

## **Collaboration Bay of Plenty – Havelock North**

Ian gave an overview of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's role and responsibilities within the Freshwater for Life collaboration including the joint risk assessments overview and next steps.

Kelvin Hill, Utilities Manager, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Steve Burton, Manager City Waters, Tauranga City Council presented to the group on collaborative opportunities and opportunities for improving local government efficiency for the water and wastewater activities.

In 2015 the Bay of Plenty Local Government Futures project was initiated between 9 councils to identify whether there are opportunities to improve core services.

In response to the Local Government Futures Project, the need for a greater collaborative relationship in the Bay of Plenty has been recognised as an opportunity for the water and wastewater functions.

Kelvin and Steve gave an overview of the project. The committee applauded Kelvin and Steve for their forward thinking approach, noting their excellent ideas especially with regard to qualified staff been able to cross over to manage across city and district systems.

## **Presentation – Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) – 3 Waters**

Kelvin and Steve presented to the group on understanding what is being asked for and when in relation to the government's 3 waters DIA project. Kelvin and Steve covered infrastructure provision/implications including affordability issues and timing.

## **Maori Policy Changes – Clarke Koopu/Namouta Poutasi**

Clarke Koopu, BOPRC Maori Policy Advisor and Namouta Poutasi, BOPRC Water Policy Manager, spoke to the committee around national Maori policy changes. Clarke noted it is essential to nurture relationships with Iwi and Tangata Whenua and enhance engagement with Tangata Whenua.

Discussion followed around linking previous good work with new legislation. This is seen as an addition to the relationships already in place.

Tauranga City Council agree with this approach. This has been seen as an appendix to the previous good work and relationships that have been built. It was noted that TCC is happy to share information the other councils.

## **Facilitated discussion session**

Chair Bill Wasley acknowledged Ian and all presenters involved in the workshop and commended them on the package of information presented, thanked them all for assisting the Leadership Group in understanding this complex topic.

Discussion followed in terms of next steps, what the committee needs going forward and understanding legislation requirements.

Cr Stuart Crosby asked if the actions on water in the SmartGrowth Strategy should be reviewed to see they are still relevant considering the current environment and new operating requirements. Bill noted the monitoring framework currently being developed by SmartGrowth for the strategy that would inform a review of strategy actions. It included environmental

indicators and the full report would be available in November. It would be presented to the Leadership Group in December. A review of the Strategy was due in 2019-20.

Some members of the Leadership Group are very interested in the field trip with water scientists. Bill noted the tour based around the Eastern Corridor can incorporate this water/river element.

Land use change was discussed and economic impacts from a water perspective.

Ian was happy to come to any of the partner councils to present the same kind of information given at the workshop

#### Summary – Next steps and actions

1. Ensure a water quality/quantity/water science field trip is included in the SmartGrowth Leadership Group's Eastern Corridor tour in February 2018.
2. Ensure the water actions in the SmartGrowth Strategy 2013 are reviewed following the report on outcome monitoring indicators (December 2018) and the subsequent full strategy review planned for 2019-2020.
3. Council members of the Leadership Group to follow up with their own councils if a presentation of any content from the workshop should be repeated to their full councils e.g. Environment Committee (Tauranga City). Liaise directly with Ian Morton on this to arrange this with their own staff.

**Workshop ended 12.45pm**