



Kaipara te Oranganui

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

Taharoa Domain Governance Committee Agenda

Date: Tuesday 11 August 2020
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall
37 Hokianga Road
Dargaville

Committee members: Councillor Jonathan Larsen (Chair)
Councillor Karen Joyce-Paki
Ric Parore (Te Kuihi)
Sonny Nesbit (Te Roroa)

*For any queries regarding this meeting please contact
the Kaipara District Council on (09) 439 7059*

Tuesday, 11 August, 2020

11:00 am

Conference Room, Northern Wairoa Memorial Hall, Dargaville

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Election of Chair 2020/2021

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Lisa Hong, Governance Advisor

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To elect an Iwi representative as the Committee Chair for the 2020/2021 year.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The role of Chair for the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee alternates between Council and Iwi representatives. For the 2020/2021 year, an Iwi representative is to be elected.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Adopts voting system A **OR** voting system B and agrees that in the event of a tie the candidate elected shall be resolved by lot.

[Once the voting system has been agreed—]

- b) Elects _____ as Chair of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee for the 2020/2021 year.

Context/Horopaki

The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee was first established in 2002 with a rotating Chair elected annually by the Committee. It has been the Committee's practice to alternate between Council and Iwi representatives. This is also included in the current Committee Terms of Reference, which states that the role of Chair 'will rotate between the elected member appointed by the Mayor and Iwi representative to be elected at the first meeting following 01 July'.

The Committee is due for rotation to an Iwi representative to serve as Chair at this meeting, being the first meeting of the Committee after 01 July. Councillor Larsen served as the Chair from November 2019 to now. Previously, Ric Parore served as the Chair for the 2018/2019 year.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

In accordance with the Kaipara District Council Standing Orders 5.6, there are two voting systems that the Committee could adopt for the election of a new Chair. Voting system B is recommended for a committee of this size.

Voting system A:

- a) There is a first round of voting for all candidates.
- b) If no candidate is elected in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded.
- c) If no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and so on. Each time the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.
- d) If, in any round, two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

Voting system B (recommended):

- a) A person is elected if they receive more votes than any other candidate.
- b) There is only one round of voting.

- c) If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

If a resolution by lot is required, the names of two candidates with the same number of votes will be placed in a container and an independent person will draw the lot and declare the result.

Financial implications

There are no changes to the Committee member remuneration or expenses. Meetings will continue to be held within existing budgets allocated in the Annual and Long Term Plans.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

The new Chair will assume their role immediately after the decision, including for the remainder of the meeting on 11 August 2020. Councillor Larsen will resume his role as Chair on 01 July 2021.

Committee meeting 28 May 2020

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Confirms that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 May 2020 are a true and correct record.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Unconfirmed minutes of Taharoa Domain Governance Committee meeting 28 May 2020

**Minutes of the first meeting of the
Taharoa Domain Governance Committee**

Date: 28 May 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:21 p.m.
Location: Conference Room, Northern Wairoa Memorial Hall,
Dargaville

Member Present Councillor Jonathan Larsen (Chair)
Councillor Karen Joyce-Paki
Sonny Nesbit (Te Roroa)
Ric Parore (Te Kuihi)

1. Opening

1.1 Opening karakia

Sonny Nesbit opened the meeting with a karakia.

1.2 Apologies

Nil.

1.3 Confirmation of agenda

Moved: Cr Joyce-Paki

Seconded: Cr Larsen

That the agenda for 28 May 2020 be confirmed.

Carried

1.4 Conflict of interest declaration

Member	Item
Cr Joyce-Paki	Cr Joyce-Paki disclosed that she is an employee of the Department of Conservation.

2. Presentations

2.1 Freshwater Improvement Fund Dune Lakes Project update - Jackie Byrd, Biodiversity Advisor, Northland Regional Council

Jackie Byrd spoke in the public forum.

2.2 Animal and pest control update - Megan Topia, Biosecurity Officer, Northland Regional Council

Megan Topia spoke in the public forum.

2.3 Taharoa Research Partnership proposal - Taoho Patuawa, Te Roroa

Taoho Patuawa spoke in the public forum.

3. Decision

3.1 Taharoa Domain Fish and Game Trout Release May 2020

Moved: Cr Joyce-Paki

Seconded: Cr Larsen

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Approves the release of trout into Lake Taharoa and Lake Waikare in 2020.

A division was called, and voting was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr Larsen	Cr Joyce-Paki
	Nesbit
	Parore

The motion was declared lost.

3.2 Taharoa Domain Work Plan 2020/2021

Moved: Cr Larsen

Seconded: Cr Joyce-Paki

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Approves the 2020/2021 work plan as below, noting that
 - some costs will be externally funded and
 - the total budget available for 2020/2021 year is \$100,000:

Project	Budget
Bollards along road entrance to Lake Waikare	\$15,000
Day visitor toilet Pine Beach (refit of old changing rooms)	\$85,000
Total	\$100,000

- b) Requests the Chief Executive to implement the works as agreed.
- c) Requests the Chief Executive investigate security issues and electronic gate options, and report back to the Committee with the results.

Carried

3.3 Taharoa Domain Forward Works Plan for Long Term Plan 2021-2031

Moved: Cr Larsen

Seconded: Cr Joyce-Paki

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Recommends the works in Attachment B of the report be included in the draft Long Term Plan for Council's consideration, noting that the final decision will be made by Council and depend on the budget available from general rates and external funding.

Carried

4. Information

4.1 Taharoa Domain operations update for August 2019 to March 2020

Moved: Parore

Seconded: Nesbit

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain operations update report for August 2019 to March 2020.

Carried

4.2 Financial report at 31 March 2020

Moved: Nesbit

Seconded: Parore

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the financial report as at 31 March 2020.

Carried

4.3 Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group update

Moved: Cr Larsen

Seconded: Parore

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the report 'Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group update, and its Attachment A.

Carried

5. Closure

5.1 Closing karakia

Iwi Relations Manager Francis Toko closed the meeting with a karakia.

This meeting closed at 4:21 p.m.

Unconfirmed

Financial report at 30 June 2020

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Violeta Kayryakova, Financial Services Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To provide the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee with detailed financial information and to provide an opportunity to discuss strategic directions.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Council management provides the Committee with detailed operational financial reporting.

Key Indicators for year to June 2020 are set out in the tables below:

	Actual	Budget
	30 June 2020	30 June 2020
Revenue total	\$ 517,054	\$ 439,500
Expenditure total	\$ 530,892	\$ 565,016
Capital expenditure	\$ 199,066	\$ 200,000

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the financial report as at 30 June 2020.

Context/Horopaki

This report covers: Kai Iwi lakes (Taharoa Domain) including Pine Beach and Promenade Point campgrounds.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

The total revenue at June 2020 is \$517,054 well ahead of budgeted for the year reflecting the high occupancy rates through the summer season. Due to Covid-19 there were no increase in revenue is the last quarter. Some of the additional income is funds received from NRC as a joint share of costs for the pest plant control and planting plan (\$13,043.48) and the final payment from Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) for the new toilet and Caravan dump station (\$10,500).

Costs:

Costs overall are below budget at year to date June 2020.

- The summer months incur higher refuse disposal costs.
- Salaries costs are now split on 60/40% basis.
- Sundry costs include:
 - 1) Financial costs of \$11,808 – are bank fees and charges (Eftpos of \$112.90 per month and Merchant fees).
 - 2) Communication costs of \$4,313– one off cost of \$433 for new equipment setting, \$336 monthly internet and phone charges.
 - 3) Office administration costs of \$11,982 – includes one off payments: of \$5,872 to AA Tourism for advertising in New Zealand AA Book, \$1,075 to Visual Solution for Taharoa Domain brochures and further cost for media advertisings.
 - 4) Cost of sales – are purchases of ice bags for resale purpose, total of \$6,723.

Capital Expenditure

The projects in the financial year are:

- Improving Kai Iwi facilities in general

New picnic tables	\$1,010
Additional powered sites	\$7,716
Air-conditioning office	\$3,186
Office upgrades	\$4,800
Toilet gates	\$2,018
Playground shade sails	\$19,425
Water meters for Resource consent monitoring	\$4,212
Total	\$42,367

- Public Toilets improvements at Lake Waikare

Toilet and caravan dump station	\$98,707
Total	\$98,707

- Taharoa Domain Reserve management plan

Walking track signage	\$19,946
Signage	\$2,303
Plants	\$10,183
Security cameras	\$2,830
Total	\$35,262

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

This report is for information only and does not trigger legal or delegation implications.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

A	Detailed financial report as at 30 June 2020

Taharoa Domain

Financial Summary Report for the period ended 30 June 2020

	Kai Iwi Camp	Taharoa Domain	Actual 30 June 2020 \$	Budget 30 June 2020 \$
Revenue				
Camping fees	493,510	23,543	517,053	439,500
Other Income	-	-	-	-
Revenue Total	493,510	23,543	517,053	439,500

	Kai Iwi Camp	Taharoa Domain	Actual 30 June 2020 \$	Budget 30 June 2020 \$
Expenditure				
Transport costs	3,605	3,945	7,550	17,859
Resource Consents	-	-	-	838
Grounds maintenance	40,261	130,666	170,927	162,000
Building maintenance	42,979	21,757	64,736	64,500
Professional service	16,708	4,626	21,334	26,414
Advertising and promotion	11,982	1,352	13,334	19,561
Staff salaries and employee costs	135,774	53,424	189,198	202,066
Insurance	788	2,791	3,579	4,381
Power and water costs	8,056	5,230	13,286	12,386
Refuse disposal	22,516	-	22,516	32,500
Sundry	23,137	1,296	24,433	22,511
Expenditure total	305,806	225,087	530,893	565,016

	Kai Iwi Camp	Taharoa Domain	Actual 30 June 2020 \$	Budget 30 June 2020 \$
Capital Expenditure				
10705 Public Toilets - Lake Waikare	10,522	95,202	105,724	-
11055 Kai Iwi Camp Ground Facilities	53,491	-	53,491	100,000
11019 Implement Reserve Management Plan	-	39,851	39,851	100,000
Capital Expenditure	64,013	135,053	199,066	200,000

Taharoa Domain operations update for April 2020 to June 2020

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Hamish Watson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To report the operational update for the Taharoa Domain (Kai Iwi Lakes) for the April 2020 to June 2020 period to keep the Committee well informed.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Below is a summary of activities, operations and maintenance work carried out over the months of April 2020 to June 2020.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain operations update report for April to June 2020.

Context/Horopaki

The Kai Iwi Lakes are among the best-known dune lakes in New Zealand. It is the intent of the Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan (RMP) to enable the Lakes and its surrounds to be enjoyed by all visitors while simultaneously enhancing the area and reducing risks through knowledge and active management.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Health and Safety:

- Staff have engaged Fear-free to do a security review of Taharoa Domain and provide recommendations to Council.
- Domain was closed over COVID-19 Level 4 and Level 3.

General:

- Council received funding through the Te Tai Tokerau Redeployment Package from Central Government, this funding is for maintenance of Reserves, a substantial amount of the funding has been allocated to the Taharoa Domain, staff are working with Te Roroa and a local contractor to implement this work.
- Planting has continued over the past months, with approximately 10,000 natives planted.
- Powered sites are now mapped so when campers are booking they can specify the site they want.
- Northland Regional Council (NRC) Stage 1 of the wilding conifer control is nearly completed, the drill and fill part of the operation is finished with the trees first treated in mid-May beginning to brown off. They are now sweeping back through to pick up any missed trees and then they will start on felling any trees within 20 meters of a track. Plan attached of area treated so far. **Attachment A**

- NRC, KDC and Te Roroa staff are still working on the operational pest plant control plan with the final draft expected August.
- We have seen an increase in camper numbers compared to previous years of this period, this will be due to no overseas travel and an increase in campervan hire domestically.
- Radio controlled sail boats had an event in June, they are hoping to come back in February.
- Upcoming summer bookings are selling fast, with Promenade Point sold out for Christmas, New Year and Anniversary weekend, Pine Beach still has few ono-powered sites available.
- Schools are booking in their annual camps.

Next quarter projects:

- Investigate removing old toilet block at Sandy Bay.
- Bollard installation at Lake Waikare.
- Work to begin on converting the changing rooms at Pine Beach to toilets.
- Ongoing grounds maintenance.

Upcoming Events:

- Sport Northland Kai Iwi Lakes Trail Run event is being held on 04 October 2020, all H&S and Traffic Management Plans (TMP) have been submitted.
- Fish & Game annual trout fishing contest is to be held 03 and 04 October 2020.
- Rabbit control is taking place 10-14 August, this should only take 2 nights but we have allowed 4 nights for weather, they may need to return September if needed.
- A toxin operation is planned October 2020 for possum and rat control.

Policy and planning implications

It is the Park and Recreation Manager's responsibility to ensure all operations are conducted within budget.

Financial implications

The financial budgets are set within the Long Term Plan and respective Annual Plan.

Risks and mitigations

The RMP was developed using a public process and reflects the views of the community and other stakeholders at the time of its development.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Council staff will continue to implement the RMP and agreed forward works plan.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Stage one wilding conifer plan

Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group update

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Mark Schreurs, Policy Analyst

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To update the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee (the Committee) on the work of the Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group (the Working Group).

To seek agreement to provide a written request to the Department of Conservation (DOC) to establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the Dune Lakes Galaxias (DLG); and to invite them to increase their participation in protecting the DLG and restoring the Taharoa Domain.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The Working Group last met on 07 July 2020; notes are in **Attachment A** to this report. At this meeting the Working Group discussed the progress they had made to date with their research projects, which are nearing completion. The Working Group discussed how best to present the findings of their research and concluded that collating the findings of the different research streams into a comprehensive report, was not necessary. Instead, each research project is to be reported on individually and to a high standard.

The Working Group considered the future of their work and the struggle they have had to resource their research projects. It was agreed that the best approach would be to ask DOC to establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the DLG.

This would consist of a panel of leading scientists in the areas of freshwater ecology and non-migratory galaxiids. The Recovery Group would prepare a Recovery Plan for the DLG and advise on management actions. To this end, the Committee could task the Recovery Group to report back within a specified time frame with an advised direction on if trout releases should be continued or discontinued in order to protect DLG.

The Working Group also agreed that the Committee should write to DOC inviting them to participate further in efforts to protect the DLG and to restore the Taharoa Domain. It was considered that this might help to leverage additional funding and resourcing from DOC.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the report 'Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group update, and its Attachment A.
- b) Requests that staff write to Department of Conservation (DOC) to set up a Dune Lakes Galaxias Recovery Group, based on the DOC Threatened Species Recovery Group model, to advise on the Dune Lakes Galaxias recovery and to seek advice from DOC on the steps needed to undertake this; and
- c) Requests staff write to the Department of Conservation inviting them to further assist with the recovery of Dune Lakes Galaxias and the wider restoration of the Taharoa Domain.

Context/Horopaki

The Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain) Reserve Management Plan (the RMP) was adopted in 2016 and included the direction that trout releases will cease in all lakes by 2018 with monitoring of effects on native species. *NB Trout cannot breed in the lakes so regular releases are needed to maintain the population.*

The Northland Fish and Game Council (Fish and Game) had submitted to the Draft RMP opposing this direction. When the RMP was adopted with the above direction, Fish and Game threatened a judicial review to the High Court but asked to meet first to resolve the matter out of court.

Before the meeting was held, a literature review, Gee and Franklin (2017) was completed by NIWA at the request of the Northland Regional Council. It found past studies had failed to identify conclusively if the exclusion of trout from the lakes would result in an increase or decrease in the Galaxias population. The report recommended that the balance that existed between the species in the lakes should not be altered (i.e. it recommended trout releases should continue) until more was known.

A meeting was held on 2 May 2017 between Fish and Game, the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee (the Committee) and their respective legal advisors. The parties agreed to:

- a) do more research into the interactions between fish species in the lakes;
- b) defer ceasing trout releases due to the new information received in the Gee and Franklin (2017) report and provided the Committee was satisfied with the progress of further research; and
- c) to defer taking legal action.

The Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group was subsequently established to oversee this research.

The Working Group includes representation from the Kaipara District Council, Northland Fish and Game Council, Te Roroa, Te Kuihi, Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council. NorthTec also attend the meetings and have been the primary research provider.

According to the terms of reference, the prime purpose of the Working Group is to “*ensure the long term survival and abundance of the Dune Lake Galaxia (DLG) at Taharoa Domain*”.

The Working Group has been meeting since 2017, (typically around three meetings per year depending on requirement).

The Working Group has succeeded in initiating a number of research projects which are overseen collaboratively by the Working Group’s constituent members. These projects have largely been focused on understanding the food web and other interactions between fish species in the lakes.

The Working Group anticipate they will be able to report on the findings from most of their research programmes to the Committee by the end of 2020, and the others in early 2021.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

At the 28 May 2020 meeting of the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee, members of the Committee signalled they were dissatisfied with the progress of the Working Group’s research. Consequently, the motion to grant approval to Fish and Game to proceed with the 2020 annual trout release was lost, with Fish and Game being instructed that they may not release trout in 2020.

In response to this decision, the Working Group at its 07 July 2020 meeting considered firstly, what monitoring can be put in place to ensure that, if this decision negatively impacts the wellbeing of the DLG, this can be identified in time for intervention. This additional monitoring will be undertaken by DOC, building on a review of their monitoring methods as well as previous research by NorthTec.

Secondly, the Working Group considered how they can better achieve a greater understanding of the DLG and its environment. The conclusion they came to is that the lack of resourcing they experience is preventing them from achieving the outcomes desired by the Committee. It was

determined that better outcomes could be achieved if DOC were to establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group (Recovery Group).

A Recovery Group is a working group established by DOC as a way for experts on the species to share knowledge and make informed decisions about the best way to save this precious taonga species. If formed, this group would comprise leading scientists in the fields of freshwater ecology and non-migratory Galaxias conservation.

The Recovery Group would work towards preparation of a Dune Lakes Galaxias Recovery Plan. This plan would include recommended actions to manage this species.

In addition, the Committee would be able to task the Recovery Group to provide a recommendation within a given timeframe, on whether trout releases should be continued or discontinued in order to best protect the DLG.

It should be noted that DOC previously set up a Threatened Species Recovery Group to look at non-migratory galaxiid fishes, including the DLG. This group completed a *New Zealand non-migratory galaxiids fishes recovery plan 2003-13*. This previous work would provide a good foundation for preparing a dedicated DLG recovery plan.

At the Working Group meeting, DOC staff signalled there may be a willingness to form such a Threatened Species Recovery Group if requested by the Committee. They also indicated that the Committee could consider inviting DOC to assist further with efforts to protect the DLG and to restore the wider Taharoa Domain ecosystem. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request staff write to DOC to this effect.

The Working Group finished their meeting after reviewing the full suite of research and monitoring programmes currently underway at the Taharoa Domain and considering if these are sufficient. The Working Group concluded that these programmes were broadly sufficient.

The Working Group also discussed how they will report their findings to the Committee. Previously the Committee considered engaging NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) to collate the findings of the various research streams into a single comprehensive report. The Working Group concluded that this was unnecessary. Instead, a full report will be prepared presenting the findings of each of the individual research programmes.

The meeting notes from the Working Group's 07 July 2020 meeting are included with this report as **Attachment A**.

Options

Option 1: Instruct staff to write to DOC requesting the Department establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the DLG.

Option 2: Status quo – continue to rely on the Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group to provide insights on the management of the DLG.

Option 3: Enhanced status quo – increase resourcing of the Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group to provide insights on the management of the DLG.

Option 4: Instruct staff to write to DOC inviting them to increase their participation in protecting the DLG and restoring the Taharoa Domain environment.

Option 5: Status quo – continue to protect the DLG and restore the Taharoa Domain with the current level of support from DOC.

The recommended options are **1 and 4**. This approach is anticipated to achieve better results through accessing greater resources and expertise from DOC as well as through the benefits of collaboration.

Policy and planning implications

The Working Group is working towards implementing the RMP by contributing to a greater understanding of the Lakes' ecology. This contributes to a number of actions under the RMP.

Inviting DOC to participate further in protecting the DLG and restoring the Domain environment, including requesting that DOC establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the DLG, would further contribute to implementing the RMP.

Financial implications

Inviting DOC to participate further in protecting the DLG and restoring the Domain environment will increase the resources available to this initiative.

If DOC establish a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the Dune Lakes Galaxias it will allow for input of scientific and technical expertise which the Working Group and the Committee are presently unable to afford to purchase.

Risks and mitigations

There is the risk that DOC may decline these requests. In which case, greater resourcing of the Working Group or funding for independent research may be necessary.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

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Next steps/E whaiake nei

Staff are to write to DOC regarding the establishment of a Dune Lakes Galaxias Recovery Group and inviting DOC to further assist with protection of the DLG and restoration of the Taharoa Domain.

A further meeting of the Working Group will be called to discuss DOC's response, the progress that is being made with the Working Group's research and next steps.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	07 July 2020 Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lakes Galaxias Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes

Kai Iwi Lakes Dune Lake Galaxias Working Group

Date : Tuesday 07 July 2020
Time : 11:05 am start, concluded at 1.56pm
Venue : Northern Wairoa War Memorial Hall, Dargaville.

Attendance

Dave West	Department of Conservation
Matthew Calder	Department of Conservation
Andrew Knock	Department of Conservation
Karen Joyce-Paki	Department of Conservation
Snow Tane	Te Roroa
Taoho Patuawa	Te Roroa
Ric Parore	Te Kuihi
Jim Sephton	Kaipara District Council
Jason Marris	Kaipara District Council
Mark Schreurs	Kaipara District Council
Hannah Van Waelsden	Kaipara District Council
Francis Toko	Kaipara District Council
Tanya Cook	NorthTec
Dylan Smith	Northland Regional Council

In attendance

Yeyi Teng Wong

Apologies

Tom Drinan (Department of Conservation), Rudi Hoetjes (Northland Fish and Game Council), Carol Nicholson (Northland Regional Council) and Lisa Forester (Northland Regional Council).

Opening

Jason welcomed everyone and invited Francis to open with a karakia.

Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

Jason explained the agenda for today.

Preliminary findings

The members of the Working Group provided an update on the research programmes they had been progressing.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) explained that they had been unable to undertake any of the regularly scheduled spotlight monitoring during the COVID-19 Lockdown. They are intending to undertake this monitoring as soon as the weather allows (they need calm weather as ripples on the water make this method inaccurate).

There was some discussion on Tom's work to reanalyse the spotlight data (refer to the notes of previous meetings for more detail on this). This work has been completed. The recommendation from this work was to alter the methodology to reduce the number of passes from two to one and to include additional monitoring sites. This modified methodology will be implemented going forward.

Consideration was given to using fyke netting to support the spotlighting method. DOC considered this is a possibility.

NorthTec said their work has also been affected by the COVID-19 Lockdown. The trout gut sample analysis was able to be completed as it could be done from home, however the otolith research had to

be put on hold as it required access to the laboratory. It is understood that the radio isotope research into trout diet also had to be put on hold over Lockdown.

There was some discussion on the Radio Isotope work. Radio Isotope investigations of this kind were considered to be a very robust method for gaining considerable insights. However, there was concern that this investigation may not be going far enough e.g. was it extending to looking at *Gambusia* (*Gambusia affinis*) predation on Dune Lake Galaxias (DLG)? If not, it was considered that providing some additional funding to extend this project could prove more cost effective than attempting to obtain these additional results through a further study.

Action: Dylan Smith to contact Rudi from Fish and Game to investigate what is being looked at in this Isotope study and what can be added.

Taoho reminded the Working Group of the recommendations of the NIWA report (Gee and Franklin, 2017) which had been circulated prior to the meeting by Carol Nicholson. It was recognised that the research the Working Group had undertaken to date was based on, yet fell far short of, what had been recommended by the NIWA report. The reason for this short fall has been the lack of resourcing available to the Working Group, an issue which has long been acknowledged.

It was considered that the Working Group had been very successful in progressing research given its resourcing constraints, however, to truly achieve results, some significant resourcing or an alternative approach would be needed.

It was remembered that the ultimate goal of the Working Group is to inform the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee on what actions can be taken to protect DLG in the Kai Iwi Lakes. This includes advising direction on future trout releases.

DOC suggested they could set up a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the DLG. A Recovery Group is a working group established by the Department of Conservation as a way for experts on the species to share knowledge and make informed decisions about the best way to save this precious taonga species. If formed, this group would comprise leading scientists in the fields of freshwater ecology and nonmigratory Galaxias conservation.

There was some discussion over if the mandate of the Working Group should transition to a DOC Threatened Species Recovery Group. There was concern that the DLG's indeterminant species status could prevent it from attracting sufficient resourcing from DOC given their priorities are based around species threat classification. It was agreed however that the DLG is a taonga that needs to be protected regardless of what its genetic species status is.

If a DLG Recovery Group were to be set up, the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee would be able to task the Recovery Group with looking at the issue of protecting the DLG and reporting back within a specified time frame with recommendations on what actions should be taken.

Action: Dave West will investigate the possibility of setting up a Threatened Species Recovery Group for the DLG.

Recommendation: The Working Group recommend the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee write to DOC requesting a Dune Lake Galaxias Recovery Group be formed and resourced.

It was stated that from Mana Whenua's perspective, the trout have always been regarded as a "pest fish" rather than a "sports fish". It is the desire of Mana Whenua to see the lakes ecology restored to a fully native state.

It was noted that this is a wider objective than just considering what actions could be taken to protect the DLG. It is also wider than what a Threatened Species Recovery Group would advise on.

It was suggested that this objective could be approached in two phases, with the first phase being to secure the survival of the DLG in the Lakes and the second phase being to progress towards a fully native state.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:36pm and reconvened at 12:57pm

Monitoring in response to the 2020 trout release not occurring

The Taharoa Domain Governance Committee had not given permission for Fish and Game's annual release of trout. This means there will be no smaller trout in the Lakes coming into spring as the Gambusia population begins to increase. It is unknown what effect this will have on the Gambusia population and on the DLG.

The Working Group discussed what additional monitoring could be put in place to keep watch on the effects of this decision.

DOC will implement their improved spotlight monitoring methodology. It was noted that this method misses larval fish and consideration was given to running another method alongside it.

It was suggested that the Gambusia population also needs to be monitored. DOC will undertake this, beginning with a review of the work NorthTec have done.

There was some discussion on how this could be resourced. It was considered that a "citizen science" approach could be taken to make efforts go further. This could include working with Whitebait Connection. Jobs for Nature could be another avenue.

It was asked what budget Kaipara District Council is able to contribute. Kaipara District Council does not have any budgets allocated to this project specifically but does have some ability to support these initiatives. It was noted that now is a good time to consider allocating additional funds as planning is underway for Council's next Long Term Plan.

It was considered there should also be monitoring of koura (freshwater crayfish), especially given the low lake levels will have reduced their access to the reeds and therefore their ability to hide.

Action: Dylan, Matt, Dave and Taoho will get together to discuss options for DLG and Gambusia monitoring.

It was noted that Northland Regional Council are also running a project to monitor changes in the reed belt in Lake Waikare. This includes taking samples of the reeds and analysing these in the laboratory to see if they contain higher concentrations of nitrogen in some areas than in others. If this is found to be the case, it may identify the location of nutrient rich inflows into the lake.

Adequacy of current environmental monitoring programs

A report had been pre-circulated to the Working Group providing a stocktake of the environmental monitoring and research programmes presently being undertaken in the Taharoa Domain. The Working Group was asked if the current suite of programmes was sufficient or if more investigations were needed.

When this matter was considered by the Working Group at its last meeting, the recommendation had been made that traffic counts of vehicles entering the Taharoa Domain should be monitored by Kaipara District Council. This has been implemented with traffic counts recorded over summer 2019-20. The results of this monitoring had been circulated to the Working Group previously. It was requested these also be shared with the Committee.

Action: the traffic count data is to be provided to the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee for their information.

It was agreed that the current suite of programmes was sufficient to monitor the health of the Domain environment. That said, there was a request for information that would provide a better understanding of how many people are using the trout fishery and what the demand for this fishery is in the community. There was some discussion on this.

It was reiterated that inadequate resourcing is a key limitation to the Working Group completing further research.

Action: All members were asked to investigate what additional resourcing their respective organisations may be able to contribute.

Matt suggested that the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee should write to DOC, inviting the Department to further assist with the recovery of DLG within the Taharoa Domain. This would help both Matt and Dave with seeking additional resources for this project. The letter could also invite the Department to help support the wider delivery of restoration objectives for the domain, both aquatic and terrestrial.

Action: Mark to work with Matt to recommend that the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee write to the Department of Conservation inviting them to further assist with the recovery of DLG within the Taharoa Domain.

It was noted that DOC may also be able to get funding to attempt to control Gambusia.

It was requested that all information relevant to the DLG be made available to all Working Group members. It was suggested that KDC should coordinate this.

Action: KDC to investigate making historic research available on its website and sharing the link with Working Group members.

Meeting closure

Jason invited Francis to close the meeting with a karakia at 1:56pm.

Taharoa Domain Security and Accommodation Report 2020

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Hamish Watson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To update the committee on the security review and accommodation option for Taharoa Domain.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Staff are working with Fearfree to develop a security plan for Taharoa Domain which encompasses on site accommodation as well as other potential security features

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain Security and Accommodation update report 2020.

Context/Horopaki

There have been a number of security issues at the Domain and in particular the campground. This is a particular concern where behaviours can affect members of the public and the lack of full time supervision reduces the ability of Council to respond to issues.

Council have budgeted \$350,000 in the 20-21 financial year of this Long Term Plan (LTP) for Kai iwi Camp Ground Facilities, this has been previously identified as being for potential Domain Manager's accommodation.

The committee have previously requested that further work be done before committing to security gates.

kōrerorero

Staff have engaged Fearfree consultants to complete a security review of the Taharoa Domain including identifying a potential location for the accommodation to be built on site, this will need to consider culturally sensitive areas as part of this review.

Staff are meeting with the consultant to discuss issues, potential future issues that may arise and what plans we currently have in place to mitigate security issues.

Financial implications

This has been budgeted for in the 20-21 financial year of this LTP and is funded from financial contributions.

Risks and mitigations

These will be identified through the report.

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Continue to work with Fear free to develop the report.

Taharoa Domain Campground Management Report

Meeting: Taharoa Domain Governance Committee
Date of meeting: 11 August 2020
Reporting officer: Hamish Watson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To seek approval for staff to undertake a review of campground management options and seek direction on a future report to Council.

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Kai Iwi is one of two campgrounds in Kaipara operated by the Council. Whilst this brings benefits in terms of controlling the management of the campground, it is also a demanding role and there have been questions as to whether this could be better managed by the private sector.

If directed, an investigation of options will be undertaken this financial year in preparation for the Long Term Plan.

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Taharoa Domain Governance Committee:

- a) Notes the Taharoa Domain Campground Management report.
- b) Delegates the Chief Executive to review Campground Management and provide a recommendation.

Context/Horopaki

Staff have been asked to look at campground management options to ensure we are using the best management model available.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Staff are looking at different options for the management of the Kai iwi Lakes campgrounds. The current options to be investigated are;

- Council staff run the campground with funding from rates and revenue is returned to Council. (Status quo)
- Potential commercial lease.
- Council to continue to run but as a not-for-profit model where budgets are self-funded from campground income and other potential funding sources outside of Council, and any funds above operating and capital expenses, will be retained for use at the Domain.

Staff will need to review all these options and investigate other potential models, they will then need to review pros and cons while also taking in to consideration financial implications and general Domain operations.

This work will be undertaken in conjunction with an external consultant for peer review.

Options

Option 1: Approve the review of the management options for Kai Iwi Lakes campground.

This will provide Governance and Council with the correct information to make an informed decision.

Option 2: Not approve the recommendation.

The recommended option is **option 1**.

Financial implications

The cost will be covered by current budgets for Planning Services allocated in the Long Term Plan

Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Continue to investigate further options and develop a report.

Kai iwi Lakes stage one wilding conifer removal



Legend

Tree Height

- 1.3 - 5.2
- 5.3 - 8.2
- 8.3 - 12.1
- 12.2 - 15.6
- 15.7 - 19.4
- 19.5 - 22.9
- 23.0 - 26.6
- 26.7 - 31.2
- 31.3 - 37.4
- 37.5 - 47.5

Wilding conifers identified for felling

Public Track

Stage one operational area

Wilding conifer canopy area