



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Bay Trust Forum, Rotorua Events Centre
Wednesday 30 July 2008
10:00am to 12:00pm

1. WELCOME

The President, Basil Morrison, extended a warm welcome to members for the 2008 *Local Government New Zealand* Annual General Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

John Banks	Auckland City
Leila Boyle	Auckland City
Paul Goldsmith	Auckland City
Mike Lee	Auckland Regional
Clare Crickett	Environment Waikato
Paul Pretorius	Grey District
Meng Foon	Gisborne District
Murray Guy	Horizons Regional
Bob Walker	Horizons Regional
Garry Jackson	Hurunui District
Geoff Geering	Life Member
Gordon Mason	Life Member
Ian McKelvie	Manawatu District
Len Brown	Manukau City
Garry Daniell	Masterton City
Wes Ten Hove	Masterton City
Don McLeod	Matamata-Piako District
Hugh Vercoe	Matamata-Piako District
Viesturs Altmants	Nelson City
John Brockies	North Shore City
Hugh Earwaker	Otorohanga District
Penny Webster	Rodney District
Philippa Barriball	Thames-Coromandel District
Morrissey	Thames-Coromandel District
Bob Harvey	Waitakere City
Graeme Weld	Western Bay of Plenty
Stan Semenoff	Whangarei District

Moved by Mayor Mark Ammon (*Waitomo District*) and Mayor Dale Williams (*Otorohanga District*)

Carried

3. DEBATING AND VOTING PROCEDURES

The Chief Executive, Eugene Bowen explained the debating and voting procedures.

Following the Chief Executive's explanation and to make sure everyone understood the electronic voting system and that it was working properly, a test vote was undertaken.

Seventy nine Councils exercised their voting rights, including proxy votes from Napier City and Waimate District.

Following the test vote the Chief Executive explained that due to the fact that this was the first presidential election to be held using electronic voting, the constitution required a motion recording the meeting's approval of the use of electronic voting for these Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections. As neither election had more than two candidates, the requirements of the Preferential Voting system could be accommodated.

Moved by Mayor Jenny Brash (Porirua City) and seconded by Chair David McLeod (Tarankai Regional).

That for the purposes of the elections of President and Vice President at this annual meeting, first preferences be exercised by the use of the electronic keepads issued to presiding members and to those persons exercising proxies. Application of the *New Zealand Local Government Association Inc* Rules are to be treated as modified accordingly.

Carried

4. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The President invited Mayor Kerry Prendergast and Mayor Lawrence Yule to address the meeting and asked that all members activate their vote on the completion of the addresses.

Following the completion of the voting the Chief Executive declared Mayor Lawrence Yule President.

5. ELECTION F VICE PRESIDENT

The President invited Mayor John Forbes and Mayor Kerry Prendergast to address the meeting and asked that all members activate their vote on the completion of the addresses.

Following the completion of the voting the Chief Executive declared Mayor Kerry Prendergast Vice President.

6. PROCEEDINGS

(l) 2007 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Mayor Juno Hayes (*Clutha District*) seconded by Mayor Peter Tennent (*New Plymouth District*)

That the 2007 Annual General Meeting proceedings be received.

Carried

7. ANNUAL REPORT

Moved by the President and seconded by Mayor Maureen Pugh (*Westland District*)

That the report, as presented by the President be received.

Carried

Mayor David Ogden sought clarification why the Remit Committee did not forward his remit through to the Annual General Meeting this year.

Secondly he reiterated his belief that the minutes of National Council meetings should be open to the membership.

The President advised that in respect of Mayor Ogden's first comment, the Remit Committee comprises the President and Vice President who, on advice from staff in regard to technical advice, determine the remits for the Annual General Meeting.

Secondly the President advised that as Local Government New Zealand is governed by the Incorporated Societies Act, the National Council meetings are not open to the public as it is not a public body and thus differs from a local body.

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007/2008

Moved by the President and seconded by Mayor Kerry Prendergast (*Wellington City*):

That the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2008 be received and adopted.

Carried

9. REMITS

(i) 2007 Remits: Report on Outcomes

The Chief Executive had an additional comment to make on the progress of Remit 4 - National Council financial recognition. He reported that following discussion at their meeting on Saturday 30 July 2008, National Council had decided to introduce a system of a daily allowance payment for specified additional duties. Those duties do not include the core activities relating to National Council attendance and zone or sector attendance, but which recognised the significant additional work put in by some national Council members, for example in the course of their portfolio duties.

Moved by Mayor Peter Tennent (*New Plymouth District*) seconded by Mayor Jenny Brash (*Porirua City*)

That the report be received.

Carried

(ii) 2008 Remits for Consideration

Remit 1 Funding of Pest Animal Management - Environment Southland

Moved by Chair Stuart Collie (*Environment Southland*)

That *Local Government New Zealand* requests

- i the Ministers of Agriculture and Biosecurity to retain the level of the Crown's contribution to the control of Tb Vector objectives within each region to help maintain the benefits of possum and predator control, including the DOC estate, subsequent to the Animal Health Board having achieved their 2013 objectives, and
- ii the Crown to seek to retain industry levy payer contributions within each region when the current Tb programme ends in 2013 to help maintain the benefits of possum and predator control.

Chair Stuart Collie (Environment Southland) advised the meeting that he was seeking to move a slightly amended version of this motion following consultation with our Councils. The amended motion is as follows:

That *Local Government New Zealand* requests the Ministers of Agriculture and Biosecurity to reserve any Crown funding made available from the wind down of the Tb Vector Control component of the NPMS for Bovine Tb and reinvest that finding in:

- a regional pest control efforts to maintain any gains for biodiversity or other national environmental priorities achieved by the Tb programme, including gains on the DOC estate;
- b and regional animal and plant pest control that promotes national objectives, such as those outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy.

Moved by Chair Stuart Collie (*Environment Southland*) and seconded by Ali Timms (*Environment Southland*).

Carried

Remit 2 Broadband Services - Northland Regional

Moved by Chair Mark Farnsworth (*Northland Regional*) seconded by Chair Fran Wilde (*Greater Wellington Regional*).

That *Local Government New Zealand* actively promotes a policy position that requires government to:

- 1 classify broadband services as key national infrastructure
- 2 develop the philosophy of equity of access
- 3 provide funding for broadband deployment and promote public private partnerships.

Carried

Chair Mark Farnsworth presented the remit and noted that the need for this remit should be obvious. There was clear national recognition for the need for high speed broadband and he quoted The New Zealand Herald as telling its readers that the country needed to have the benefits of broadband. He noted that both National and Labour parties had clearly indicated that they were going to make broadband a key policy plank. The remit seeks local government support in developing a clear policy direction that broadband be given the proposed status.

Chair Fran Wilde (Greater Wellington Regional) emphasised her support for the remit and said that it was absolutely critical for us as a nation going forward. Failure to advocate in support of these policies to central government would be the same as local government 100 years ago saying it did not think that roads are important. She urged the meeting to vote in favour of the motion.

Remit 3 Official Information Act - Mackenzie District

Moved by Mayor John O'Neill (*Mackenzie District*) seconded by Mayor Juno Hayes (*Clutha District*)

That *Local Government New Zealand* seek legislative amendment to enable elected members of local authorities to participate in and vote on issues at local authority meetings by way of video or teleconference.

Carried

Mayor John O'Neill (Mackenzie District) presented the remit and explained that this remit is aimed at Councils with coverage over large geographic areas and which face significant time and costs in travel for their members to attend meetings. He advised the meeting that currently under the Local Government Act teleconferencing is not allowed and that a member must be present in person to form part of a quorum to vote.

The remit was seeking to create an amendment so that councils could occasionally rather than consistently be able to use technology that is both available and affordable. He noted that both the Local Government Commission and District Health Boards are now permitted to provide remote participation for their members, and Parliament itself allows a form of proxy voting. Provision would still be made for the public and media to participate and the meeting venue would still be established and publicly advertised. He acknowledged that guidelines would have to be established which would cover issues such as attaining a quorum and determining the number of members being able to participate remotely at one time.

Finally he commented on the issues of transparency and effectiveness of representation. Effectiveness of representation was reduced by having members absent and unable to participate and using technology to enable the full attendance by members would make for better quality decisions.

Mayor Juno Hayes (Clutha District) supported the motion and commented that because of the rising costs of travelling to meetings, we have to get smarter and cleverer in what we do to try to keep meeting costs to a minimum.

Mayor David Ogden (Hutt City) queried whether this could be extended to involve people who are overseas.

Toni Millar (Auckland City) suggested that the ramifications of this should be thought about very carefully. While she thought it was good for those travelling long distances, she queried how it would work for those who would be voting from overseas.

Remit 4 Establishment of Maori Advisory Group - Porirua City

Moved by Hemi Matenga (*Porirua City*) seconded by Mayor Kevin Winters (*Rotorua District*)

The Remit seeks:

1. agreement in principle to establish a group of Maori elected members to provide advice to National Council on Maori representation and participation, and in policy development
2. to establish and resource a working group to bring a proposal to National Council covering the structure, budget and plan for establishment of the group referred to in 1 above.

Carried

Councillor Hemi Matenga presented the remit and explained that the remit was to approve in principle the establishment of a Maori advisory group to provide advice to National Council on Maori representation, participation and policy development. To do this, the remit sought agreement on the establishment of a working group to bring a proposal to National Council covering the structure, budget and plan for the establishment of the Maori advisory group.

He noted that Local Government New Zealand had developed some initial resources to support council in their engagement with Maori and that we had come a long way but still have a long way to go.

Mayor Kevin Winters (Rotorua District) added his view that having a relationship with local tangata whenua was vital to the ongoing welfare of the community and he supported the remit wholeheartedly.

He noted that over the last couple of years Rotorua District had had a good working relationship with their tangata whenua, from which they had benefited immensely.

Mayor Jenny Rowan (Kapiti Coast District) advised the meeting that she supported the remit and thought that it was time for many councils to have their own advisory groups and continue to build on their treaty relationships and partnerships and that this initiative would establish a connection at a national level.

Mick Lester (Hastings District) pointed out to delegates that, on Sunday prior to the start of the conference, a meeting had been held which resulted in unanimous support for this remit.

Ngairie Best (Wellington City) advised the meeting that she supported the remit and urged support for elected Maori representatives who were seeking to collaborate in local government and to provide a Maori perspective into the development of Local Government New Zealand's policy.

Mayor Mark Ammon (Waitomo District) stated that while he sympathised with the intent of this remit he did not think this was something that could be coordinated from Local Government New Zealand. This was because the provisions to allow Maori participation and representation are already enshrined in various pieces of legislation.

Mayor Jenny Brash (Porirua City) replied that while everybody was working in their own ways with their Iwi at a local level this added a national perspective.

The Chairman advised that as there had been three speakers for and against that the motion would be voted on electronically.

Carried

10. REPORTS FROM ZONES AND SECTORS

Moved by Mayor John Forbes (*Opotiki District*) and seconded by Chair Mark Farnsworth (*Northland Regional*).

That the Reports from Zones and Sector Groups be received.

Carried

9. OBITUARIES

The following obituaries were received during the year or were recorded by members during the AGM:

Jolyon Firth	Auckland City
Linda Leighton	Auckland City
Colin Kay	Auckland City/Auckland Regional
Trevor Shgrank	Carterton District
Bruce Greer	Central Otago District
Alan McIntosh	Central Otago District
Keith Paterson	Central Otago District
John Shand	Central Otago District
Graham Condon	Christchurch City
Keith Crieghton	Clutha District
TKS Sidey	Dunedin City
John Read	Featherston County/South Wairarapa District
Deborah Turner	Hastings District
Pat Baker	Kawerau District
Lady Kennedy-Good	Lower Hutt City - Mayoress
Neil Morrison	Manukau City
Helen Smith	Porirua City
William McKee	Southland County/Southland District
Ron Cooper	Waipa District
Brian McCabe	Waitaki District
Ralph Pile	Waihemo County
Jack Richmond	Wallace County
Ted Cheer	Woodville Borough

The President acknowledged their enormous contribution to local government and society, in many cases over a long period of time, and offered condolences to families and Councils.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The President delivered his closing address and advised that the next Annual General Meeting would be held in Christchurch on 29 July, 2009. He invited President elect Lawrence Yule to address the meeting. The President declared the meeting closed and placed the Presidential chains on President Lawrence Yule. This was followed by a karakia delivered by Trevor Maxwell (Rotorua District).

The President declared the meeting closed at11.45am.....

Signed: _____

President, Lawrence Yule

Dated: _____