

**THE MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
WHAKATOHEA HAPU NEGOTIATORS HELD IN THE
BOARDROOMS OF THE WHAKATOHEA MAORI TRUST
BOARD AT 10.30AM ON THE 19TH OCTOBER 1993.**

PRESENT:

Claude Edwards John Hata Frank Matchitt Tenga Biddle Muriwai Jones
Charles Aramoana Wiremu Rewiri Tairongo Amoamo Teriaki Amoamo Bishop
Whakahuihui Vercoe John Kameta John Tai Tahu Taia.

KARAKIA:

Wiremu Rewiri

MIHI:

John Hata Tenga Biddle Charlie Aramoana Wiremu Rewiri
Bishop Vercoe John Tai Claude Edwards.

APOLOGY:

Dr Ranginui Walker

BUSINESS:

Claude stated that the kaupapa of this inaugural meeting is to establish the basis of
how the Negotiators will operate.

Tairongo stated that the first task is to set up a Secretariat for the Committee.

MOVED:

That Tahu Taia be appointed Secretary of the Committee
Tairongo Amoamo John Hata **CARRIED**

The next task was to call for nominations for the position of Chairman of the
Committee.

MOVED:

That Claude Edwards be nominated for the position of Chairman
John Hata Frank Matchitt **CARRIED**

Bishop Vercoe was nominated by John Kameta and seconded by Tairongo Amoamo
but he declined due to his heavy workload.

MOVED:

That the nominations be declared closed.
John Hata Frank Matchitt **CARRIED.**

MOVED:

That Claude Edwards be declared Chairman of the Committee
John Hata Frank Matchitt **CARRIED.**

Claude thanked the committee for their support and stated that his position as Claim Manager has allowed him a broad overview of all aspects of the Claim process to date.

It was agreed that the position of a Deputy Chairman should be established.

MOVED:

That Tairongo Amoamo be nominated as Deputy Chairman.

Bishop Vercoe John Kameta **CARRIED.**

There being no further nominations, Tairongo Amoamo was declared Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

Tairongo detailed some aspects that he would like to be placed on the Agenda, these being -

Expenses: Legal Counsel: Liaison Committee: Finance.

Claude stated that it was important that the Negotiating Committee was seen to be a completely independent and autonomous body. To this end, administrative resources needed to be available.

MOVED:

That the Committee have its own letterhead and personal cards.

Claude Edwards Tairongo Amoamo **CARRIED.**

It was further agreed that the Committee adopt some Standing Orders in respect of the negotiation process.

1. CONFIDENTIALITY.

It is essential that the confidentiality of the negotiation process be maintained.

2. CONVENING IWI HUI.

The Committee will convene any Iwi hui in respect of Claim issues.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

Hapu negotiators will report to their respective Hapu and also bring forward issues to be discussed.

4. MEDIA REPORTING

The Committee will liaise with the Media as required and will sanction any media releases.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS :

Claude clarified the expenses incurred to date by the Board in researching the claim. There is an expectation that such expenses accrued from the past and up until such time as the Committee has received its own funding will be reimbursed back to the Board.

The costs in researching and proving the Whakatohea case should be debited against funds obtained from the Crown for negotiating the Claim. Tairongo suggested that Land Trusts could contribute funds towards the claim.

COMMITTEE EXPENSES:

Tairongo advised that he does not expect a meeting fee but he requires his travel costs to be met. In his case, air travel would be in the vicinity of \$400/500 to Whakatane airport. Travel to Opotiki would be arranged with other Committee members or the Board will organise travel to and from the airport. It is anticipated that the same situation would apply to Ranginui Walker. It was agreed that vehicle costs will be .45c per kilometre.

LIAISON COMMITTEES :

Tairongo explained that due to his residence in Wellington, he regularly comes into contact with various people and organisations who may have some association with claim issues. He asks that the negotiators utilise his availability on the basis of a Liaison Sub-committee. He further believes that the same situation would be applicable with Ranginui Walker.

It was agreed that the proposed Liaison Sub-committee be approved.

Claude stated that the proposed Sub-committee could also be a link to those Whakatohea people living in the Wellington and Auckland areas.

LEGAL COUNSEL :

The Committee members needed to consider legal counsel.

Tairongo stated that he had investigated various legal personnel based on the criteria of - (a) Experience and (b) Proven successes.

Claude clarified the Boards relationship with Tom Woods, who has indicated that he has no problems if the Committee seeks other legal representation.

Reference was made to Tom Woods connection with Ngati Awa and there would be an expectation that if he represented the Committee, there would not be a conflict of interest.

MOVED:

That Tom Woods be the Committees legal counsel.

Tairongo Amoamo John Hata **CARRIED.**

Claude advised that contact had been made with Sian Elias in respect of the Iwi's requirements for the claim.

Bishop Vercoe stated that it was essential for the Rohe boundaries be confirmed, particularly with Ngati Awa. However, there was a consensus of opinion that the issue of boundaries be left in abeyance whilst the negotiations are under way.

CLAIM PROTOCOLS :

Claude clarified the protocols as the basis of the claim negotiations. There is a requirement to identify areas in which the Committee can negotiate appropriate compensation. These areas can be separated into different categories such as -

Physical assets, being land and buildings. Surplus Crown properties within the Whakatohea Rohe have been identified and tagged. (Need the Committee be restricted to Crown land only within the Whakatohea rohe?)

A monetary return. The lost economic opportunities suffered by the Iwi resultant of the Crowns policies of that era through to the present day needs to be quantified and valued. Kel Sanderson has undertaken some preliminary enquiries in respect of this aspect of the claim.

Soft Remedies. Statistics reveal that Maoridom is disadvantaged in many areas in our society. The soft remedies are to ensure that the Whakatohea has access to the Crowns resources that would enable them to reverse these negative statistics. A significant aspect of the confiscation apart from the land was the loss of the Mana and Mauri of the Iwi and the concept of soft remedies is to repair this loss suffered by the Whakatohea.

The Committee is required to look at all aspects of reparation. Undergrowth claims need to be taken into account. These refer to claims or issues that Hapu, landowners or Whanau may have and require resolution through the overall claim process.

It was agreed that Claude proceed with the assessment of the economic loss suffered by the Iwi and a report be compiled in conjunction with Kel Sanderson for the Committee to consider. Tairongo advised that he will provide some relevant information to Kel on the historical economy of the Whakatohea prior to the confiscation.

The Committee asked that information on the Whakatohea case as researched by the Board be made available. They further asked that all relevant information be despatched at least one week prior to the next meeting to be convened.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 12.40pm.

CONFIRMED.....CHAIRMAN

DATE.....