

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee – Meeting 4 Notes

Monday 13 May 2019
9:30am-4:00pm
Hutt City Council Chambers, Lower Hutt

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Attendees

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Committee:

Louise Askin, Roger Blakeley, Quentin Duthie, Peter Gilberd, Wayne Guppy (until 12:30pm), Tui Lewis, Morrie Love, Peter Matcham, Zoe Ogilvie (via Zoom), Jonny Osborne, Anya Pollock, Kara Puketapu-Dentice, Hikitia Ropata, Gabriel Tupou, Pat van Berkel (via Zoom), Paul Swain
Apologies: Naomi Solomon

Project Team:

Kat Banyard, Phill Barker, Jon Gabites, Mark Heath, Brent King, Anna Martin, Arpan Mukherjee, Emily Osborne, Shane Parata, John Phillips, Tim Sharp, Richard Sheild (GWRC), Helen Bolton (WCC), David Burt (HCC), James McKibben (UHCC)
Apologies: Onur Oktem (WCC), Paul Gardiner (WWL), Grace Katene (Ngāti Toa), Pekaira Rei, Tamahau Rowe (PNBST)

Action points

Project team:

- Provide a high level draft project plan to the Committee by Meeting 5.
- Emily to update the Committee and Project Team member bios and recirculate.
- Emily to create a meeting summary document in SharePoint that provides a high level overview of what each meeting covered.
- Request for the foundational framework to include a map of the whitua so the boundaries can be identified and a creative graphic to illustrate connections.
- Request for a workshop to discuss the concept of consensus and learnings from the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Committee with an experienced person who has been in a successful process with a consensus approach.
- Prepare a media statement about the co-chair arrangement and a general update for the public.

Committee:

- Committee members to inform Emily which subgroups they would like to serve on.
- Kara to draft a scoping statement for the communications and engagement, policy, and science subgroups.
- Kara to gain input from mana whenua advisors on the Project Team to finalise wording in the foundational framework document.
- Communications and engagement subgroup to prepare five key points from each meeting that Committee members can bring to conversations with their communities.
- Committee members to complete logo design questionnaire by Tuesday 21 May that will help develop branding.
- Co-Chairs to prepare submission to WCC on Planning for Growth website by Friday 17 May.
- Co-Chairs to speak at a future GW Environment Committee meeting and prepare regular progress reports in conjunction with the Project Team.

Actions in progress from Meeting 3:

- “Provide talking points from the field trip speakers.” Emily to collate and circulate these when notes have been received from all speakers.
- “Schedule discussion in a future meeting on the two completed WIPs (Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua) and Ngāti Toa Statement on Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP.” Rather than a session to present the previous WIPs, key points, findings and recommendations will be raised as they are relevant to the work of this Committee.
- “Invite Stu Farrant (Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Chair) to a future meeting.” Stu will speak to the Committee but he is currently busy until the end of June.

Decisions reached

- Established a policy subgroup including Roger, Hikitia, Anya, Jonny, Morrie, Pat, Pete and Kara.
 - There will not be a separate subgroup for Mātauranga Māori but it will be woven throughout all subgroups.
 - Committee to have closed session for 15 minutes prior to the start of each meeting.
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Meeting notes

Session 1: Meeting start

Kara opened the meeting with a karakia. For future meetings, the co-Chairs suggested that any Committee member is welcome to offer a blessing or equivalent at the start and closing. Tui welcomed everyone to Hutt City Council. The Meeting 4 agenda and Meeting 3 notes were approved. Kara and Louise chaired the meeting.

SharePoint presentation:

- If you have any issues gaining access, please contact Emily.
- The homepage includes a description of the libraries in the menu on the left, upcoming events, quick links, and recent activity in documents.
- The discussion board can be used for sharing ideas with the Committee or responding in the comments.
- Committee collaboration is the subgroup workspace for making comments or tracking changes in documents.

Session 2: Committee establishment

Overview of process:

Tim Sharp (Whaitua Programme Manager, GWRC)

- The two year timeframe for the Committee's work started from December 2018 to be finished by December 2020, with consideration for influencing the 2021 Long Term Plan (LTP).
- Request for the Project Team to prepare a high level draft project plan by Meeting 5. Recognising that the process is iterative rather than linear, it will be useful to have a visual representation to show that the work will happen in parallel workstreams with milestones to help provide structure and keep the Committee on track.
- There is a large amount of work within each workstream and it would be helpful for Committee members to identify where they can contribute most effectively to the process.
- Discussion about the opportunity for Committee members to suggest or choose external contractors within the science subgroup. Desire to have ownership of science and transparency with community.
- There are three mana whenua advisors on the Project Team to support Mātauranga Māori as it weaves through all workstreams.

Foundational framework:

Kara (Committee co-Chair)

- Kara to gain input from mana whenua advisors on the Project Team to finalise wording in the framework document. Revised version to include tohutō (macrons).
- Request to include a map of the whaitua so the boundaries can be identified and a creative graphic design to illustrate relationships and connections.
- Discussed the purpose of the document, which is to serve as a touchstone or a set of guiding principles. All Committee actions and decisions are to be based on the four kawa statements.
- Question raised about how the te putake and pepeha sections link together. Te putake is an overarching purpose statement. Take, meaning expression of truth, could be a more appropriate term to use instead of pepeha.

- Suggestion to include manuhiri in the pepeha. Kara explained that only when you and your rivers are healthy can you take care of visitors, which is implicit in the pepeha.
- Confirmed the correct phrase for referring to the whitua is “Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara” and “the whitua” for all subsequent mentions in a document.
- Recommendation to visit the [Wai exhibit at the Masterton art gallery](#), on display until the end of May.

Co-Chair approach:

Kara and Louise (Committee co-Chairs) – [see paper](#)

- Agreement that Chairs are to serve as the spokespeople for the Committee.
- Request to make a media statement after Meeting 4 on current progress including the co-chair arrangement.
- Important to be clear about what consensus is and what it means for the Committee based on learnings from the relationship between Ngāti Toa and the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee. Understanding that iwi have the right of tino rangatiratanga to reserve their position without compromise. Request for a workshop to discuss the concept of consensus with an experienced person who has been in a successful process with a consensus approach.
- Establishing the foundational framework document is a good starting point. Return to these principles to measure behaviours of the Committee.
- Discussed the difference between consensus and unanimity. The Committee can agree to disagree and any differences of opinion will be recorded. Consensus requires collaboration to work through issues.
- Request from Committee to have closed sessions. Agreement to meet for 15 minutes at each meeting without the Project Team.

Session 3: Public role of the Committee

Kara and Louise (Committee co-Chairs)

Balancing our roles:

- Committee members bring a wide range of experience and expertise to draw on through whitua process. Individual representation is needed to help shape a shared approach for the whitua as a whole.
- Expressed challenge as a mana whenua voice, which involves social pressure to act as a representative and requires dialogue with whanau and iwi in decision making. Important to understand that mana whenua are not responsible for representing all Māori and cannot be grouped together without respecting the hierarchy set up through treaty rights, as discussed regarding the stakeholder document.
- Discussion around whether Committee members, especially Councillors in an election year, are representative or representational. GW Councillors are elected to pursue the best interests of the region as a whole, but it can be a challenge to determine what is best. Representation is a complex issue and it is difficult to reflect opposing views. There is pressure around finances as Councils are concerned with how much it will cost to make changes and increases for ratepayers.

Influencing public acceptance of the WIP:

- Stakeholder engagement, alignment with councils and communities, is necessary in order for the WIP’s recommendations to have the best potential to be funded.
- Committee meetings are closed to the public so that the Committee can operate both in confidence and under the Chatham House Rule. Committee members are to

use discretion when sharing information with people outside of the Committee but are encouraged to engage in conversation about their work on the Committee.

- Important to identify key influencers and how they can be brought along for the whaitua journey, including when they can be included or participate in meetings. Need to begin socialising ideas and make recommendations to Councils prior to completing the WIP in order to influence the LTP. Need to consider the economics of Committee proposals and communicate the cost of not making improvements.
- Co-Chairs to speak to the GW Environment Committee and prepare regular reports with the Project Team.
- Discussion about preparing a submission from the Committee to WCC on the [Planning for Growth website](#) by Friday 17 May. Agreement to submit foundational framework with brief comment attached to provide context.

Subgroups:

- Use of subgroups will allow Committee work to progress between meetings, enable Committee members to play to their strengths and contribute in focused areas. Key subgroups throughout process to include: communications and engagement, policy, and science. Other subgroups may be developed as needed.
- Mātauranga Māori should not be a separate subgroup but woven throughout all subgroups. Acknowledged both the need for mana whenua representation and the pressure for mana whenua to contribute in all areas of work. Need to discuss with mana whenua members of the Project Team how they will operate.

Session 4: Communications and engagement

Zoe (communications and engagement subgroup lead)

Subgroup update:

- First subgroup meeting discussed context and scope for developing a communications and engagement plan.
- Currently focused on three ideas for messaging:
 - The voice of the river
 - Who we are, what we do and why?
 - What we think the future looks like
- Request for Committee members to complete [logo design questionnaire](#) by Tuesday 21 May to develop branding.
- Request for communications and engagement subgroup to prepare five key points from each meeting that Committee members can bring to conversations with their communities.
- Subgroup to send draft documents to the Committee for feedback.
- Committee would like to have a presence at the [WCC Matariki ki Pōneke event on Saturday 22 June](#).
- Subgroup to discuss how the Facebook page will be managed and maintained.
- Anya to join communications and engagement subgroup.

Session 5: Introduction to policy context

Tim Sharp (Whaitua Programme Manager, GWRC)

PowerPoint presentations on policy context and values and objectives will be emailed to the Committee and can be found on SharePoint.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) overview:

- Overview of the NPSFM components including values, attributes, objectives, limits, and policy responses.
- Discussion around meaning of the term “value” in the NPSFM, which is different from conventional usage. Another way to think of values is to consider what activities the community values the waterbody for, such as drinking, swimming, or fishing. Acknowledged that the values outlined in the NPSFM are anthropocentric.
- Committee to consider using different terminology from the NPSFM to communicate with the wider community. Possible to use Māori terms for water quality such as wai-tapu, wai-ora, and wai-mate.
- Comment raised issues and constraints of the policy framework where values and objectives already appear to be fixed with little room for flexibility. Need to continue conversation and consider alternative framing before going further down the policy track.
- Identified need to establish a policy subgroup. Roger, Hikitia, Kara, Jonny, Anya, Pat, Pete, and Morrie volunteered to form subgroup and will meet before Meeting 5.

Session 6: Values and objectives workshop

Phillip Barker (Senior Policy Advisor, GWRC), Brent King (Senior Science Coordinator, GWRC), Mark Heath (Senior Environmental Scientist, GWRC) – [see presentation](#)

Values and objectives exercise and examples:

- The NPSFM requires that regional councils at least meet the minimum acceptable state. If the current state is above the minimum, it must be maintained or improved.
- *E. coli* was used as an example to demonstrate the process of setting objectives and limits. Maps of the attribute state across the whaitua at popular swimming locations, and the difference in the attribute state in wet and dry weather conditions to indicate where improvement efforts could be focused.
- While the NPSFM does not specifically require limits to be set outside freshwater bodies, it does require integrated management which provides for accounting for freshwater impacts on estuaries, harbour and coastal environments.
- Policy subgroup to explore alternative approaches to values and objective setting to implement the NPSFM, E.g., as noted above Māori terminology.

Gabriel closed the meeting with a karakia.

Next meeting: Monday 10 June 2019, location TBC.
