

MEETING NOTES

SUBJECT	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara meeting notes
WHEN	Monday 18 May 2020, 2-4pm
WHERE	Zoom
ATTENDEES	Louise, Tui, Wayne, Pat, Sam, Zoe, Hikitia, Naomi Quentin, Pete, Gabriel (until 3pm), Sean (until 3pm), Roger (from 3pm)
APOLOGIES	Kara, Ros, Jonny, Anya
PROJECT TEAM	Tim, Phill, Glen, Emily O., Kat, Denise, David, Angela, Emily T., Sharyn, Al, Mark, Penny

Agenda

1. Karakia and welcome
2. Committee check-in
3. Approve meeting notes
4. Te Kāhui Taiao update
5. Identifying opportunities for leadership
6. Comms and Engagement subgroup update and working questions
7. Aotearoa Town Hall update and preparation
8. Mayoral Taskforce update and discussion
9. Project Team update – actions and round 2 prototype
10. Karakia and closing

Actions

- Science subgroup meeting to be scheduled to follow up on actions.
- Committee members to continue sharing feedback on small groups with the co-chairs.
- TKT to provide an update on timing of inputs.
- Lakes and wetlands are not currently included in the list of 20 issues. Project Team to provide an opportunity for a discussion on these.
- PT to provide an update on implementation of the Ruamāhanga and Porirua WIPs.
- Committee members to consider questions to prompt discussion and send co-chairs suggestions for a speaker at the Aotearoa Town Hall.
- Co-chairs to consider opportunities for the Whaitua Committee and Mayoral Taskforce to collaborate.
- PT to provide an update via email on progress with additional work and papers.
- Committee members to provide input on the process for round 2 discussions, such as what information is needed to support conversations. Interest in digging into difficult topics that involve trade-offs.
- PT to provide response on GW's role in rural land ownership.

Discussion

Louise opened with a karakia followed by a brief check-in round.

Meeting notes from 20 April 2020 to be approved with the following change:

- Notes from co-chairs update to be separated from other discussion points.

Te Kāhui Taiao update

- TKT is currently exploring the content of a values framework. They are working through an analytical process of aligning values with water quality.
- TKT is interested in bringing together an expert panel of local mahinga hunters and gatherers to learn from their expertise and knowledge to identify changes in water quality (e.g., needing to go further to collect kai moana for hui).
- TKT is taking a holistic approach and considering the end to end process from developing a plan through to implementation.
- Councils have limited capacity to implement WIPs and TKT wants to support implementation through a kaitiaki programme.
- It is discouraging not seeing delivery on the ground and councils should be transparent with the community about implementation progress. Project Team to provide an update on implementation of the Ruamāhanga and Porirua WIPs.
- There are competing priorities for politicians and it is important for the community to understand that water quality improvement will require sacrifice in other areas. The benefit of the whitua process is collaboration among councillors, iwi and community members.

Leadership opportunities

- Engagement with the councils' LTP process is an ideal opportunity for the Whitua Committee to have influence.
- One way get things done is to run for election on Council.
- Water infrastructure projects are being considered as part of the government's COVID19 economic stimulus package.
- The Committee needs to think about green infrastructure solutions; review Kāpiti approaches.
- Need officers and leaders from councils to support the WIP in order to get recommendations implemented including through district plans.
- Spatial plans need to raise the standards for green infrastructure, e.g., rainwater tanks as a bottom line.

Breakout groups – What are the key leadership opportunities the Whitua Committee can see?

- Make environmental values the core of what councils do, looking after people and water first. We need to do things differently than the way they've been done in the past otherwise we can expect the status quo to continue. Use opportunities to influence land use and district plans.
- We need water warriors to advocate on behalf of water. It would be great to get tamariki and schools involved. Meaningful engagement with councils is needed before submitting on LTPs and annual plans.
- Consider what the Whitua Committee can communicate to the public through education. There is cynicism toward councils but community groups supported by councils have been successful, e.g., predator free trapping groups. We need kaitiaki teams leading conversations and taking responsibility. A communications campaign will need to continue beyond the completion of the WIP.

- Water sensitive design and planning is needed. Consider natural solutions for waste disposal. There could be an opportunity for central government's budget for the environment to support water warriors and kaitiaki monitoring.
- Could community groups throughout the whitua work together toward an overarching vision? We have an opportunity to direct, connect and empower community groups.

Comms and Engagement

The C&E subgroup met on 13 May to reposition to a new normal. Discussion about how we can use the work generated in small groups to continue to talk and listen to communities, and sense-check during the deliberation process.

Breakout groups – what is your appetite/comfort for engaging and listening in this way? Who do you want to hear from and who do you want to speak to?

Group #1:

- Use social media to tell public what topics we're exploring, seeking input.
- Can do this as individuals, without pretending to speak on Whitua behalf or imply we've reached a conclusion.
- Can also do thru official channels.
- Important we link elements of kawa into our public comment on issue topics – connecting the two for people.
- Hungry and very comfortable to get info, issues, ideas out there and elicit comment in response.
- Whitua has been quiet in engagement, and opaque in transparency to date.
- Using tangible issue topics is a great way to stimulate engagement and "open the windows" on the Whitua.

Group #2:

- Keen to engage but still don't feel there's a strong message, given that people already know there is a problem. People want to talk about *solutions* but we're not quite there yet.
- We need to be out there putting forward solutions – even if they're not yet confirmed. Can ask "What do you think?" – gives something for people to provide feedback on.
- More comfortable engaging publicly on areas that we are already experienced in.
- Can use our engagement to help shape public thinking around things like "trade offs" – e.g., upgrading a swimming pool or making our stream swimmable. Pave the way for WIP implementation.
- Want to hear more from WWL as the operator (rather than regulator) – to help inform our comms.
- Our comms need to be used to engage people and also improve our transparency.

Group #3:

- Interested in getting into more difficult conversations and engaging with the community on trade offs, costs and what is realistic.
- Keen to have Zoom sessions with schools and universities.
- The community knows there are issues but we need to share solutions, e.g., examples of green infrastructure.
- Consider 5 gates of project management: desktop study to identify ideas and options, feasibility for the Wellington context, select engineering elements, execute and operate.
- Keen to meet with senior staff (mayors and CEOs) of councils.

Aotearoa Town Hall

- Kara and Louise met with organisers Thomas Nash and Tamatha Paul from GW and WCC. They have offered the opportunity for the Whaitua Committee to “hire” the hall.
- There has been traction with large numbers of people joining.
- The Town Hall will look at water on the national scale. Three people from across the country will be invited as speakers, one will be from the Whaitua Committee.
- Planning to discuss urban water and some rural issues in the whaitua.
- Committee to consider questions to prompt discussion and send co-chairs suggestions for a speaker.
- Date to be confirmed but likely in 4-5 weeks.
- Facebook link for Aotearoa Town Hall: <https://www.facebook.com/aotearoatownhall/>

Mayoral Taskforce

- Hikitia, Kara and Sean are members of the taskforce.
- The taskforce has been on hold during lockdown but reconvened for the first time during the week of 11 May. The co-chairs gave a brief presentation to the taskforce on the Whaitua process.
- Co-chairs to consider opportunities for the Whaitua Committee and taskforce to collaborate.
- Currently in the information gathering stage.
- The taskforce is looking at issues that have aggregated and understanding governance relationships between councils and WWL to consider what could be improved.
- They will consider how these structures can provide water for the current and future population in Wellington.
- Looking at examples of international best practice.
- They have been provided with useful information to help them figure out what can be achieved.

Project Team update – actions and round 2 prototype

- PT to provide an update via email.

Hikitia closed with a karakia.