

MEETING NOTES

SUBJECT	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara meeting notes
WHEN	Friday 30 October 2020, 9.30am-5pm
WHERE	Wellington Tenth Trust, Petone
ATTENDEES	Louise, Kara, Zoe, Tui, Sean, Jonny, Anya, Sam, Hikitia, Quentin, Pat, Gabriel (from 11.15am), Pete (from 11.30am), Roger (from 12-1, 4-5)
APOLOGIES	Ros, Wayne, Naomi
PROJECT TEAM	Tim, Phill, Glen, Emily O., Kat, Denise, Brent, John, Mike G., James, David

Agenda

1. Karakia and welcome to place
2. Whanaungatanga
3. Ngā Kawa
4. Vision for wai, leadership statements and WIP
5. Our focus, mandate and deliverables
6. Karakia and close

Actions

- Project team to describe the process for setting FMUs.
- Project team to find and share examples of e-documents to prompt ideas for the WIP.
- TKT to identify places of value to mana whenua for prioritisation.
- Project team to provide a project plan through to completion of the WIP.
- Project team to create a strawman for the first FMU workshop, including draft recommendations.
- Project team to provide most useful documents to review in preparation and have clearly defined outcomes for workshops.

Discussion

Kara opened with a karakia and welcomed to place. The purpose of the day is to reconnect, reflect on where the Committee started on Matiu/Somes Island and where we are now, and discuss the next phase toward delivering the WIP.

Whanaungatanga

Each Committee member shared what motivates them to be part of the Whaitua Committee, what they bring to the table, and what is/isn't working well.

- Has whakapapa to white settlers, Whaitua can be part of a social and cultural shift to decolonise, sees the seeds of this in communities, reshape our way of being to the land and

awa, away from resource management to a te ao Māori worldview, for everyone – citizenry, industry and govt.

- Another step beyond de-colonisation is the concept of re-indigenisation. If the name “Hutt River” comes from a colonial perspective, what does our vision for Te Awakairangi look like? Can we re-indigenise with native trees and birds?
- Made a submission on Upper Hutt plan change 50 to bring attention to the fact that it primarily responds to the need for more housing but does not consider Te Mana o te Wai. Shared copies of the book “[Imagining Decolonisation](#).”
- I want to know what Te Awakairangi would say, to treat it as a living being and give it agency. The concept of being a future rebel addresses the fact that we haven’t heard from the generations that are yet to come. What will they say about the decisions we make?
- Whakapapa to Taranaki Whānui and Waiwhetu marae. The current system is broken and the path we’re going down is not sustainable. We need to plant seeds for a different view.
- Frustrated that the more I learn, the more I’m hurting. Whaitua is about change for the future and being caretakers of what’s left, educating people to value it. What we’re doing is new and it will take time.
- Practical approach, concerned about the state of the environment. We know so many solutions (planting trees, wetlands, etc.) and want to make changes. It could be simpler than we think. Why isn’t WSD incorporated in district plans?
- Wellington is behind other parts of New Zealand, other cities have replaced old systems and we can learn from Auckland and Kāpiti. There will be pressure against rates to do this work.
- The past, present and future are all intertwined in te ao Māori. There are realities and trade-offs to contend with at council level, we need to make changes within organisations and reprioritise funding but we don’t want to sacrifice social infrastructure.
- The headlines make it look like a lost cause, need to break out of paralysis and focus on tangibles. What about social/cultural capital that is not dollar-based? There is financial reality but also aspects that give us hope that it’s solvable.
- We can’t rely on councils alone, citizen science and action needs to be enabled. Council’s can’t pay for every worker. Need to put WSD rules in plans and have the costs land with developers.
- Whaitua has the unique opportunity to consider how to do things differently. What can we add to the science and bring to our areas of influence?
- It will cost \$1.3b to fix the Hutt City 3 waters network. Change for 3 waters management is happening through government currently. How do we transition to a modern city and make sure investment is done in the right way? How can we be local kaitiaki of our streams? The power of the individual to affect change is huge.
- The legislated requirement to protect and enhance our waters has been in the RMA a long time but regulators have failed. Concerned that recommendations won’t make a difference. The state of the 3 waters issues is now a challenge of intergenerational equity. Community and cultural change need to be at the core of our 100 or 200 year journey, with new cultural ideas driven by a Māori values-base.
- Connected to Wainuiomata River in his backyard and whanau in Island Bay. In Wainuiomata, there is a tension between people who have been there for generations and those who recently moved to the neighbourhood. Issues apply to both rural and urban, and we should take a more integrated approach.
- Brings the views of rural and older communities. Focused on achievable outcomes, need to maximise the high political profile of water. Regulations are of no use if they are not enforced. Most people want to do the right thing and we need to help enable them.
- Need to consider how to restore the mana of the wai from the perspective of Te Awakairangi. Compliance and enforcement doesn’t make any difference to the river. The traditional justice system doesn’t help the victim, a fine doesn’t fix the damage. A

restorative justice approaches the awa and the people as the victim and there should be reconciliation and redress. How can we make this the norm. Redress or penalties should be significant enough to be taken seriously.

- When a council makes a transgression and pays a fine, the money should go to environmental benefit and take into account a restorative justice approach.
- *Advisor input* – Restorative justice takes enforcement away from the money and puts the responsibility on investment in the community.
- Ruranga is a way of speaking about people who whakapapa to other places but have lived here for some time and planted roots. It comes with the responsibility to take care of the people and place. It is not up to councils or mana whenua on their own but the community as a whole. Mana is about responsibility and the responsibility is on all of us.
- This is a key concept for framing the WIP. It helps people see themselves in the equation, to have mandate and responsibility.
- Bring the interests of Ngāti Toa in this process, their boundaries are from Wairarapa to the top of the South Island. Freshwater has become a political issue, we need to think of waterways as like human beings. Ready to make recommendations. Iwi have limited capacity to participate in council processes. Need to be open-minded about the possibility of a second report from mana whenua that can be justified to iwi.
- The RMA set out the intrinsic value of ecosystems, which comes through more strongly with Te Mana o te Wai in the NPS-FM. Inspired by the kawa framework and foundations on Matiu/Somes Island. Want a WIP that councillors, mana whenua and community can be proud of and the first steps need to be achievable.
- GW should make sure that youth are involved in future Whaitua.
- There are good brains and hearts around the table. How can we enable communities to make change? Can we be creative about solutions for social change over the long term?

Kara closed the session with a karakia.

Ngā kawa and vision for wai, leadership statement and WIP

- What is the report going to look like? Need to break it down into sizeable chunks with sign posts along the way.
- How can we empower communities to be kaitiaki? We need to help communities understand what we have asked councils to do and let them know what they can do themselves. We need to enable mana whenua to do their roles.
- WSD should not be an add-on but an essential. What does stream centred design look like?
- The RMA has been in place since 1991. Why aren't people complying already? We need to ensure that regulations are enforced.
- In the context of an urban catchment, we are all in this together and we all need to step up to fix the problems. We need a can-do attitude and be willing to try pilot programmes like water warriors. There needs to be tangible actions that people can take to become agents of their own future.
- We've inherited a legacy of decline and loss. The first step to restorative justice is to identify the areas of ongoing loss where we can intervene and prevent them from getting worse. We need more clarity on where these pressure points are.
- We need to know the places of highest value to mana whenua.
- Prioritisation to consider easy wins and long term gains.
- Monitoring everywhere is a challenge but it can be focussed in key areas.
- We need a compelling common vision.
- We need to reorient towards conservation and fix leaks before considering more abstraction.

- Who is the WIP intended for – policy advisors or the public? The WIP is primarily a policy document to inform a plan change but there may need to be another version that is public facing. If we try to do both in one document it doesn't serve either audience.
- The WIP should be a 100 year roadmap to the vision
- We should recommend that the document be reviewed and updated to ensure that it is implemented. There needs to be regular reporting on the recommendations and accountability at the governance level.
- We need to activate communities so that the regulators can't forget about them. We need a series of community meetings to discuss how the WIP applies to their local streams and to set up local teams to take practical actions. The WIP is one stage in the process of social change. Lets use practical language about mucking-in where people can see what they can do.
- There needs to be visibility and ownership. Actions must be taken at the community and governance levels.
- Consider a proposed recommendation and how it relates to kawa:
- E.g., The Whaitua Committee recommends that councils put water metering in place.
 - Te Kawa Ora – the water gives life. Water is valuable.
 - There are water meters in other parts of NZ and we can learn from them how it's been done.
- E.g., Take less water from Te Awakairangi and leave more for the river.
 - Not convinced that minimum flow data is well informed.
 - This would be controversial because it would put more pressure on the drinking water supply.
 - There's a high demand for more housing development but it needs to be done with WSD or perhaps the growth rate needs to slow down.
 - There should be a limit to the amount of water we take out of the system.
 - Infill and greenfield development will both continue but we need to consider the controls or standards we can set so that there is as light a footprint on water and environment as possible.
- We want to take a place-based approach that considers how we traditionally interacted with waterbodies and will help us with the prioritisation process. Some systemic issues will apply across FMUs, such as WSD.

Our focus, mandate and deliverables

- Tim outlined the steps the Committee needs to complete according to their Terms of Reference and the NPS-FM guidelines (note these steps are not all linear; can be iterative):
 - Set Draft FMUs – can return to these and iterate – TKT and the science team have been working together on these
 - Set long term vision for whaitua – can be built putake and kawa (and other existing documentation, e.g., Ngati Toa Statement)
 - Set short/medium/long term target attribute states – start with current state from expert panel work, aim for A band in 100 years
 - Management methods for achieving target attributes – use issues summaries; determine work over short/medium/long term; need to be defensible and achievable; consider prioritisation
 - Action plans for achieving target states for some attributes
 - Set limits – technical exercise
- Proposal for three workshops by the end of 2020. Project team to bring together information for a place, catchment or FMU to start with, including thinking from TKT. Committee to work through the steps above in the workshop.

- Project team to share the process and rationale for developing FMUs. Current thinking of 14 FMUs likely to be too many and would be difficult for Councils to implement and anyone to monitor. The FMUs viewed in the meeting are still being worked on by TKT.
- The first workshop will take the longest to work through but the project team can apply the Committee's thinking from the first few workshops to the remaining areas.
- Great to have an e-WIP with spatial layers that are interactive, accessible and searchable. Project team to send links to examples.
- TKT to identify places of value to mana whenua for prioritisation.
- Project team to provide a project plan from now through to the completion of the WIP.
- Committee to consider how much time to spend on engagement with communities and TAs, and how much they want to be involved in writing the WIP.
- Committee needs to come prepared for workshops. Project team to provide most useful documents to review in preparation and have clearly defined outcomes.
- Project team to create a strawman of issues and target states for water quality attributes for the first workshop, including draft recommendations.

Closing comments

- Feeling energised, on the same page as other Committee members and trusting the system.
- Struggle to find disagreement and have a concern about how to address prioritisation. FMU workshops will need state and trend information. Cost is critical to decision-making.
- Reset has been effective for recommmiting to Committee work.
- Seeing leadership amongst the Committee.
- TKT and Committee are closely aligned.
- Eager to start making recommendations.
- Concern about accountability to deliver the WIP on time, need to see the pathway ahead of the Committee.
- Confident we will deliver the WIP, great to see the Committee's passion and commitment.

Gabriel closed the meeting with a karakia.