



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for the Waikato
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Minutes of meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:

Te Whenua Tupu Ake o Hauā – Mangateparu Agritech Hub, 799 Tahuna-Morrinsville Rd

On July 23rd, 2019, at 3.00pm

1	Karakia Tīmatanga – Neville Williams
2	Apologies – Shepherd Isaac, Greg Hill
3	Visitors Keri Thompson – Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust - Cultural Prioritisation Tool Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust (NHMT) connects with 5 marae - Rukumoana marae is the main marae. NHMT has 12 completed WRA projects. Each project was approximately 3 -5 years in duration. Current work is from Te Miro all the way down to Hamilton and involves restoration of wetlands and riparian planting for the next 21 years. NHMT works with whānau marae. They have gathered information alongside WRC to develop a mauri too. It is important to understand the history and the whānau perspective. Kaumatua know about baptism sites, swimming holes and what we need to do to restore the mauri. Collaboration is important. NHMT is working with Matt Veer and Paula Rolfe. It has been tricky for Māori whānau to connect back with marae because whānau need jobs as a priority. It took Helen Richie and Keri a long time to get Tauwhare marae to say yes to being involved in developing a mauri or cultural prioritisation tool. There are 80 sites within the HCC area that are environmentally and culturally significant. Paula Rolfe contacted Te Ha o te Whenua about the Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy and they said talk to Ngāti Hauā Mahi Trust. Tauwhare marae has been trying out the cultural prioritisation tool with their kaumātua. They are asking not only about history, but can I touch this, is there kai there, is the pekapeka doing okay? The mauri tool recognises the local wisdom of kaumātua and kuia. There are some things and some knowledge that cannot be shared. Andrew Thomas – Biodiversity Officer Andrew's role is still developing. There are constraints in terms of working with District Councils to improve biodiversity because sometimes the staff only know about exotics. Very few District Councils have trained ecologists. There is a need for advocates both inside and outside Council. What work might be done to achieve biodiversity – question from Leo. Andrew – we can halt the decline in biodiversity using multiple approaches. The collaborative partnership model that is being developed is important because it will help people to work together. Hubs are a good vehicle to try and achieve greater collaboration. Andrew is interested in the potential of tool kits. It is difficult to find a diversity of plants. DOC is collecting seeds in the Coromandel, so this may result in some diverse plants being propagated. Wayne Bennett has developed a book on the variety of plant species in the Waikato Basin. The University has also done a lot of work in this



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	<p>space also. Kemble has tried to undertake strategic plant ordering with nurseries but it has not worked out. Nurseries are caught up with big orders such as through the NZTA, so any project ordering is small by comparison. Perhaps WRC could act as a clearing house for plants? NIWA and Manaaki Whenua have done some work looking at developing a planting plan – this work describes locations, soil type and what species might be planted.</p> <p>Discussion around tree planting strategies – the spacing, species and what might be most effective. Farmers are likely to plant pine for carbon credits. Pines can be planted in places where there is no access. Pines can make good mulch for native planting later on. Biodiversity in pine forests is greater than pasture. Wilding has to be taken into consideration. Discussed Dane Anne Salmond’s assessment - https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/07/16/682858/forestry-facing-a-perfect-storm</p>
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 2019 Minutes accepted - moved by Leo, seconded by Andrew
5	Matters Arising from Minutes Integrated Constructed Wetlands. Neville has approached the manager of infrastructure regarding the costs of consents. There is the possibility of a technical manual approach, but it will come down to the rules that can be applied. District Councils can interpret RPS differently.
6	Other Business - Interim Climate Change Committee (ICCC) – report – any role for ACRE here? Brian The primary sector are putting forward what they hope is a credible alternative. Rod Oram reflects that there is no urgency in the primary sector alternative. The main way to incentivise change is through cost. Industry is suggesting that they don’t want a concocted measuring system. The incentivising should start now even if it has to be at a processor level. Farm environmental plans can include carbon emissions and methane can be measured by Overseer. The current version of Overseer expires in 2020. Current consent processes relate to Overseer. There are also reforms being made to the RMA. WRC is working on the implications of all of these changes. Anna will make contact with Alison Dewes to find out what Landcorp’s approach is to the Climate mitigation proposals. - Integrated Constructed Wetlands - where should ACRE go with this? Kemble’s thoughts: WRC policy that provides substantive support for sub-catchment management, with ICW as a primary tool, and resourced in part by urban authorities. Advocate for monitoring of receiving waters, treatment systems and identifying sources where lake monitoring identifies a pollutant spike. Concerns about the costs. However, they do achieve a specific outcome. If your farming operation had to meet specific things then this is how you could do it. ACRE has been advocating for a subcatchment level approach in the Healthy Rivers. Integrated wetlands can be designed to capture run off from a large area or a number of farms. This could be



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	<p>partly resourced from urban community and this might get the consenting costs down. Alison Dewes might be good to talk with about the likely benefits and costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Landcare Networking Days – supporting Bala and Nardene – Andrew <p>Landcare networking day is proposed for November 19th – the programme is being put together. The Biodiversity Forum runs similar events – these could be rolled out in the 5 districts every year. ACRE would like to advocate for increased hours for Waikato Biodiversity Forum. ACRE to discuss with Judy about the best approach for this advocacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Uncertainty and stress in the farming community – Leo <p>Rural support trust is very busy. Banks are calling up loans and the stress in the farming community is considerable. A lot of farmers are looking to get out. Ngāti Hauā sees the impacts of stress through more unemployment. ACRE to keep noticing the farming environment and impacts of changes.</p>
7	Written reports – these were circulated prior to the meeting
8	Next Meeting Wednesday the 28 th of August at WRC, earlier start time 2.30pm
9	Karakia Whakamutunga - Brian