



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for the Waikato
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Notice of a meeting of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) to be held at:

Waikato Regional Council Hamilton – Waikato Room

On April 24, 2019, at 3.00pm

1	Karakia Tīmatanga
2	Apologies – Dell Hood, Greg Hill, Brian Habberfield-Short, Shepherd Issac Attendees – Kemble Pudney, Anna Casey-Cox, Leo Koppins, Monica Peters (guest), Kelvin Mouritsen, Andrew Sinclair, Martin Wallace
3	Visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3pm Monica Peters - Conservation Hubs Research
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting – March 2018 Moved: Andrew Seconded: Kemble
5	Matters Arising from Minutes NIL
6	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Rivers – Expert Conferencing & Submission – Anna• Funding project roles - Andrew• Simon Upton's report - Andrew• MfE report and F & B response - Andrew• Visit with Pūniu River Care visit – Anna• Land Use Change Opportunities Forum – Anna
7	Written reports - To prior to meeting please – members identify highlights for discussion Topics: Identify your topics of interest.
8	Next Meeting – 22 May 2019
9	Karakia Whakamutunga



Minutes of the

Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:

Waikato Regional Council Hamilton – Waikato Room

On April 24, 2019, at 3.00pm

- 1. Anna opened the meeting with Karakia**
- 2. Apologies - Dell Hood, Greg Hill, Brian Habberfield-Short, Shepherd Issac, Gwyneth Verkerk**
- 3. Visitor – Monica Peters presenting on Conservation Hubs Research (PowerPoint Presentation)**

This research was contracted by DOC for the purpose of looking into conservation community hubs. The definition of a hub is a self-sustaining entity that holds a vision for a defined geographic area, whose purpose is to provide support to groups and individuals who help deliver this vision. There is a broad scope of different ways of describing a hub which can be a collective enterprise, trust, society, centre, network, forum and project just to name a few. The hubs involved in the research were started by groups of projects in a locality coming together with the common goal of conservation. The projects are small community initiatives and private enterprise that join for a common interest. There are over 150 community groups within the Waikato region.

Hubs are a long time in the making.

A successful hub model seems to join groups together and work across a common template. Many groups seem to be lacking support for administration, accounting, funding and reporting, training and certification, advice in revegetation and restoration ecology. A few hubs do provide these supports.

In the United Kingdom, community trusts act as an umbrella for informal organisations and there is a framework that they tap into that acts as their supporter and banker. In New Zealand the approach is really diverse and each hub operates in a different way. Hubs tend to receive funding from several different sources and the funding is often short term.

The membership of the New Zealand hubs tends to be informal and variable depending on the relationship with the community, corporate entities or group members.

How can the Waikato region move forward with supporting the administration needs of the various groups including upskilling, governance and planning aspects? Tasman Environmental Trust have a “value add” component. This trust is independently coordinated and can act as a banker for community funds. A lot of community groups want to get on with the ground work and not have to worry about meetings, administration and Council requirements etc.

Hubs can look at finding ways for groups to work together and identifying what roles for each group and how to best support each other. A lot of the people in community groups are volunteers or work on a part time basis.



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Auckland Regional Council is meeting with community groups to see how they can work better together. Sometimes more money is going into administration than on the ground.

The recommendations from Monica's report are for DOC to provide strategic guidance, to better understand the limitations of hubs and how to shape best practice for working with hubs to achieve biodiversity gains.

Monica will come back with an update once there is a clear direction from DOC of where this is all headed.

There was some discussion about the funding that Trust Waikato has provided to WRC for the development of biodiversity work in the region.

- *Anna and Kemble will write a letter to Allan Saunders regarding Trust Waikato's funding, requesting input from community groups regarding how this money may be best utilised.*
- *Leo to share reports from Ruth Hungerford that preceded the Trust Waikato funds*

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 27 March 2019

Moved - Andrew

Seconded - Kemble

5. Matter Arising from Minutes

None

6. Other Business

Funding Project Roles – Andrew

The Waikato Regional Council has been approached and engaged in conversation about coordination role for Predator Free Hamilton. WRC suggested a conversation with Predator Free Cambridge. Coordination might be understood as getting around members of the groups and linking people and making sure that the work is happening right. This would require someone who has 2 – 3 days a week to call and visit people. The coordinator of PFH may be employed by Go Eco.

Role descriptions and developments are worth sharing so that groups don't reinvent the wheel.

Simon Upton's report

The government is about to announce new carbon policies. The ACRE group has agreed that Climate Change policies are part of ACRE's work. Climate Change relates to the Healthy Rivers Plan Change. There is no national policy on climate change at the moment.

It may be important, as Simon's report suggests, to have different reduction goals for CO₂ and for Methane - this enables a simpler message to be conveyed to the community. As a nation, we need to reduce our use of fossil fuels and achieve zero CO₂ emissions. We also need to reduce the number of ruminants. Two separate goals may be worthwhile and clearer for the community.

Healthy Rivers – Block 2

A discussion on wetlands and how they can be a source of methane if not effectively managed. ACRE is advocating wetlands to be constructed, but this need to be done in a particular way that consists of shallow cascading ponds to prevent greenhouse gases.

- *Kemble to have discussion with Bev Clarkson and report back about wetland initiatives*



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The submission to block 1 hearing was worthwhile - ACRE offered positive encouragement, suggesting that both incentives and regulation were important. Submission processes are important to engage in - the policy makers are asking what people are in favour of and what do people want? ACRE needs to have a voice in this.

Visit with Pūniu River Care visit

In terms of ACRE nominations, we are approaching Pūniu River Care in Waipa to talk to them about joining ACRE. It would also be good to have a marae based group involved. Anna to set a date and see who from ACRE is available.

Land Use Change Opportunities Forum

Organic Farms New Zealand may be involved in this.

DoC Policies and Pest Control in Coromandel

A discussion on a new policy from the Department of Conservation which means that they are no longer employing people to do pest control on their own land. What does this mean for those people?

There are a lot of stoat traps sitting unused. Also there seems to be a big decline of Morepork noticed in the Coromandel especially after the use of Brodie.

- *Kelvin to draft a letter to be sent from ACRE to DOC enquiring about the new DOC policies and the utilisation of DOC stoat traps. Leo moved and Kemble seconded.*

ACRE will continue to discuss and research the use of toxins in pest control initiatives and information on the outcomes of these.

7. Monthly Reports

Name	Details
Brian Habberfield	Quite some involvement through the month with the Waikino Recreation Reserve, organising fence and gate upgrades in response to cattle incursion, spraying and weeding for more planting, trapping, guiding tours for interested locals. Usual weekly working bee at HELP Waihi, largest planting yet on the books for this season. Assisted on the Predator Free Hamilton stall at the Claudelands Show, Te Papanui. With Waikato F&B at the Morgan Reserve, weeding, drilling, and trap round. Meeting with Tauranga DOC Community Rangers at Karangahake with Protect Karangahake community group progressing a trapping project on farmlands close to the maunga.' http://meg.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/MEG-Newsletter_Web-1-2019.pdf
Kemble Pudney	Predator-Free Hamilton <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered traps for Fairfield Project Group members



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attended monthly meeting, 16 April● Prepared display material for and attended stall at Te Papanui, 5-7 April, with Gwyneth Verkeerck and Brian Habberfield● Continued work on strategic plan. <p>Prepared notes for and co-presented with Anna to Plan Change 1 hearing, 10 April.</p> <p>Attended Waiwhakareke Advisory Group monthly meeting, 17 April.</p> <p>Prepared comments for then attended Local Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy Drop in Day, 12 April.</p> <p>Completed and submitted annual report on Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust Grant to Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.</p>
Dell Hood	<p>As well as the usual pest control, nursery potting and Waiwhakareke releasing of last season's plantings</p> <p>Attended opening of NFRT's latest acquisition, the Taranaki Mahood Lowe Reserve, 142 ha of wetland forest on the boundary of Taranaki National Park. The Mahood Lowe whanau donated half the purchase price, to protect a piece of the environment that meant much to them, and 25 family members were there to celebrate and to remember their recently deceased wife, mother and grandmother.</p> <p>Heard a karearea while camping at DoC's Kuripapango campsite in the Kawekas, explored various other shorter DoC walks and an excellent and accessible Forest and Bird reserve at Blowhard Bush on the Napier Taihape Rd</p> <p>Participated in a Lizard workshop organised by Waikato Biodiversity Forum at Pukeatua</p> <p>Attended an NFRT trustee meeting - there are now 4 more properties of interest that may become available for purchase. We will be looking for help with planting at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve, between Hamilton and Raglan this winter. Ed Hillary Hope Reserve will be the focus of the Trust's 40th anniversary celebrations next year.</p> <p>Attended Waikato Forest and Bird's recent AGM where John Innes was the guest speaker on a range of conservation topics with a local focus.</p>

8 Next Meeting – 22 May 2019

9 Karakia Whakamutunga

Meeting closed at 17:10