

Waikato Regional Council

Regional Plan Review Committee

OPEN MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 21 May, 2019, 1:00 pm

Location: Council Chamber
Waikato Regional Council
401 Grey Street, Hamilton East

Members Present: Cr S Kneebone - Chair
Cr D Minogue
Cr F Lichtwark
Cr B Quayle
Cr T Mahuta
Cr K White
E Berryman-Kamp (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust)
M Tukere (Waikato Raupatu River Trust)
P Majurey (Hauraki Maori Trust Board)
J Kaati (Maniapoto Maori Trust Board)

In Attendance Cr J Hayman

Staff Present: T May (Director Science and Strategy)
T Quickfall (Manager)
L Van Veen (Democracy Advisor)
J Cox (Team Leader Democracy Services)

1. Terms of Reference

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Maria Nepia (Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board), Cr A Livingston and Cr S Husband. Apologies for lateness were also received from E Berryman-Kamp (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust).

The Chair welcomed R Lewis (Kaiwhakarite) to open the committee with a karakia. The Chair also presented a mihi and provided all members opportunity to introduce themselves in acknowledgement of it being the first committee meeting.

RPRC19/1

Moved by: Cr S Kneebone

Seconded by: Cr F Lichtwark

RESOLVED (SECTION A):

- 1. THAT the apologies of Maria Nepia (Tuwharetoa), Cr A Livingston and Cr Husband be accepted; and**
- 2. THAT the apologies of E Berryman-Kamp (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust) for lateness be accepted.**

The motion was put and carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest for the meeting.

4. Establishment of Regional Plan Review Committee

Report to confirm the operational establishment of the Regional Plan Review Committee, Council's standing orders and the draft Terms of Reference.

The report was presented by T May (Director Science and Strategy).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following was noted:

- A member referred to inconsistencies between the Terms of Reference included in the cover pages of the agenda compared to the Terms of Reference attached to the report. Staff clarified that the Terms of Reference attached to the report were the up to date version being put to the committee for endorsement.
- A member queried the process for confirming iwi members on the committee. Staff advised that they were to confirm in writing to the Committee Democracy Advisor. This applied to situations where iwi members were no longer able to attend committee meetings and needed to reassign their membership status to another representative.
- Members were advised that current Council Standing Orders required attendance in person for committee meetings.
- In response to a members query regarding whether members were able to suspend standing orders, staff advised that members would need to discuss their proposal to do so with the committee chair outside of committee meeting to determine the merits of what was being sought and the best course of action for resolving.

RPRC19/2

Moved by: Cr B Quayle

Seconded by: Cr F Lichtwark

RESOLVED (SECTION A):

1. **THAT the report 'Establishment of Regional Plan Review Committee' (Regional Plan Review Committee 21 May 2019) be received; and**

RECOMMENDED (SECTION B):

2. **THAT the Terms of Reference for the Regional Plan Review Committee are endorsed as per Attachment 1 of the report 'Establishment of Regional Plan Review Committee' provided to the 21 May 2019 Regional Plan Review Committee.**

The motion was put and carried

5. National direction, National planning standards and ePlan update

Report to update the committee on the government's national directions programme, National Planning Standards and the Waikato Regional Council ePlan project and how these matters will integrate and influence with the Healthy Environments project.

The report was presented by the Manager Policy (T Quickfall).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following was noted:

- The Minister for the Environment intended to place more pressing timeframes on regional councils to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) than what was originally planned for. It was noted that this would fast track the work to incorporate relevant freshwater provisions within the new regional plan.

V Payne (Chief Executive) arrived at 1.35pm.

- V Payne acknowledged the status of the NPSFM and its likely impact on the regional plan review work. It was also noted that current treaty settlement obligations could complicate giving effect to the NPSFM, especially given the anticipated direction of more pressing implementation timeframes. This has signalled the need for smarter ways of working, to accommodate both treaty settlement and NPS directions.

E Berryman-Kamp (Te Arawa River Iwi Trust) arrived at 1.40pm.

RPRC19/3

Moved by: Cr S Kneebone

Seconded by: Cr K White

RESOLVED (SECTION A):

THAT the report '*National direction, National Planning Standards, and ePlan update*' (Regional Plan Review Committee – 21 May 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

6. Introduction to Plan Review topics

Report to inform the committee about the topics based approach to the review of the regional plan and regional coastal plan and to introduce the topics that will be considered in Phase 1 and in Phase 2 of the review.

The report was presented by the Land and Coast Team Leader (M Foreman).

During questions, answers and related discussion the following was noted:

- Staff advised that regional plan provisions would be reviewed in two phases - including phase 1 (Regional Coastal Plan provisions) and phase 2 (Regional Plan provisions) respectively. "Lake Taupo Waters" (Chapter 3.10 of the Regional Plan) would be reviewed as part of phase 1 due to Variation 5 obligations. Mangroves provisions would also be reviewed as part of phase 1 to address historical issues relating to mangrove management.
- Matauranga Maori would be incorporated into all aspects of the plan review process, instead of being accommodated through a standalone chapter, as is the case with the current regional plan.
- A member queried how engagement with iwi was planned to ensure their perspective on Matauranga Maori was appropriately addressed. Staff advised that the Committee included provision for working parties to be established. The intention would be for an iwi working party to be established made up of iwi members, so as to inform the committee on iwi matters, including Matauranga Maori. Members advised that iwi Environmental Management Plans were also a good source for information.
- A member requested clarification on the definition of "review". Staff advised the "review" was to reflect current levels of science, direction and community expectations which had evolved since the current regional plan had been enacted.
- In response to a members query regarding whether a resolution of council to take into account 1080 effects (December 2015 Council meeting, resolution WRC15/448) would be considered as part of the plan review process, staff advised that Council resolutions of the past 4-5 years had been tabled and were being reviewed as part of the research stage of the project. The member highlighted the need for staff to take into account recent Landcare Research test results for 1080 within waterways.
- A member queried regarding the process for reviewing occupation charges. Staff advised that recommendations would be presented to the committee for their endorsement of Council decision. The extent to which occupation charges would apply was undetermined.
- Staff undertook to provide a more comprehensive report on project timelines and mechanics at the next committee meeting.
- In response to a members query regarding the process for notification to the public for feedback, staff advised they were yet to determine if notification would occur as one bundled package or in separate parts on separate dates. Intention was to notify phase 1 as one package.
- In response to a members query regarding how topics for review would be prioritized, staff advised that topics had individual staff "leads" assigned to them and would be reviewed concurrently to accommodate linkages.
- A member highlighted that water was the highest priority for their iwi and requested that this be taken into account when prioritising topics for review. Staff advised that prioritisation would be based on the most outstanding matters of the current plans and that water was not considered the highest priority as it had been addressed more recently through Variation 6, compared to other matters in the plans. Prioritisation would need to

take into account the interests of the whole community which went broader than water. Some current plan topics had not been reviewed since they first came into effect 20 years ago and therefore required more urgent attention. It was reiterated that pending national direction to improve water quality would likely fast track the review of water quality provisions which could address heightened iwi interest in this space.

- A member raised concern that the 2021 notification target for phase 1 was ambitious and that iwi members would find it challenging to ensure engagement with their respective parties within such a short timeframe. Staff assured that they will endeavour to work closely with iwi to determine the best means of engagement.
- A member highlighted the need to engage closely with iwi members to ensure up to date views of Mātauranga Māori were reflected within the new plan provisions. It was noted that views had evolved since the current plan had been enacted.
- In response to a members query regarding whether climate change would be adequately addressed, staff advised that they recognised the high importance of climate change and that provisions for climate change would be worked into all aspects of the plan review process. It was noted that there were also statutory obligations requiring that all council's address sea level rise up to 100 years from now.
- A member raised the need for engagement to appeal to various audiences in order to ensure useful feedback was received. Staff assured that they were working closely with communications staff to ensure engagement was tailored to best suit audience needs and tastes.
- A member queried the Rena oil spill court case ruling regarding regional council jurisdiction in the creation of marine reserves. Staff undertook to investigate this further and bring back their findings to the committee.

RPRC19/4

Moved by: M Tukere

Seconded by: T Mahuta

RESOLVED (SECTION A):

That the report '*Introduction to plan review topics*' (Regional Plan Review Committee – 21 May 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

7. Engagement approach and overview

Report to:

- Brief committee members on the engagement approach to Healthy Environments – He Taiao Mauriora (Regional Plan and Regional Coastal Plan Review)
- Enable committee members to better understand engagement for this project so they can respond to any constituent or registry queries
- Provide an overview of our approach, key legislation and engagement principles; and
- Provide a forum for questions and input.

The report was presented by the Communications Advisor assigned to support the project (A Pihama).

A Pihama explained that work to progress project engagement was to be addressed in two parts. The first would involve scoping engagement needs. The second would involve determining topics for engagement. It was noted that project engagement had a set allocated budget.

During questions, answers and related discussion the following was noted:

- In response to a member's query regarding how committee feedback on the draft issues discussion document would be sought prior to it being submitted to council for endorsement and then released to the community for engagement purposes, the committee determined that feedback from members would be sought by way of email. Staff undertook to email committee members the draft issues discussion document for their feedback as soon as it was ready for review. A summary of feedback received would be sent to members after feedback had been received.
- A member queried regarding the content of the draft issues discussion document. Staff advised that it would be a high level document outlining each specific plan review topic and drafted in a way which would be useful for informing all levels of engagement with varying stakeholders.
- A member highlighted the usefulness of social media for engagement with the community and encouraged its use during the plan review engagement work. It was noted that social media attracted specific types of feedback from stakeholders which might not otherwise be easily obtained through other means. Members were mindful that this means of engagement required a high level of active management.
- A member advised that media releases would also be a useful tool for public engagement.
- It was noted that Senior Policy Advisor (M Graham) had been assigned the role of engagement lead with iwi. Contact with iwi to determine the best means of engagement was planned to occur within the next few weeks.
- A member emphasized the need for staff to work with iwi to formulate solutions. Staff assured members that engagement plans were flexible and that a collaborative approach with iwi was possible.
- A member requested a programme for engagement, so as to enable iwi to adequately plan for resource needs. This included planned out scheduling of committee meetings with adequate notification of when specific decisions would be sought. Staff undertook to provide this.
- Staff advised that they would provide the Field Days engagement plan to committee members in due course.
- V Payne highlighted his involvement on the regional sector group for essential freshwater and that this could prompt the need to set up a technical working group in order to feedback to the sector group from a regional perspective.

RPRC19/5

Moved by: Cr K White

Seconded by: Cr B Quayle

RESOLVED (SECTION A):

That the report '*Healthy Environments|He Taiao Mauriora – Engagement approach and overview*' (Regional Plan Review Committee – 21 May 2019) be received.

The motion was put and carried

Meeting closed at 3.13pm

Chair