

MEETING PAPER

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee
FROM Co-chairs
DATE 6 December for 11 December 2019 Committee Meeting 10
TOPIC Co-chairs report

General progress

This meeting concludes our first year as a Whaitua Committee. It represents the last meeting of the “information gathering” stage of our process before we move into discussion and deliberation in the new year. At this final meeting, we continue to explore the rural and other non-urban aspects of our Whaitua, with a focus on GWRC parks, plantation forestry and lifestyle blocks.

This month we will also reflect on the year that has been and look ahead to the plan for 2020. Please make sure you stay on at the end of the day to celebrate the year with your fellow Committee members and project team.

As we move into 2020 we are considering the next piece of significant work ahead of the Committee. Much of our time will be consumed by identifying and analysing the issues highlighted to us in 2019 and placing them into the policy framework whilst also being informed by our kawa and the views of our community – then creating a whole suite of recommendations, objectives and limits which will be put in our WIP. The work ahead of us is significant. For that reason, we, alongside the project team, have been considering bringing in a facilitator to help the work of the Committee. Keenly, we want to ensure that this process is workable and ensure that the role of facilitator is not to lead the direction of the Committee but rather to ensure that all voices are heard and expressed as we go through to the next phase. We would like to discuss this with all Committee members and test your level of comfort to this suggested approach.

We wish everyone a good summer break and encourage you to weave the Whaitua message into your conversations across the community. Meri Kirihemeti and we look forward to coming together again in 2020!

Updates

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place late- November to mid-December:

Subgroups

- The Comms & Engagement subgroup met on 4 December and discussed the new comms/engagement plan being developed by the GWRC project team, our key messages and what collateral we require to support our summer engagement activities. It was good to have Grace from HCC and Alex from WWL also in attendance.
- The Policy subgroup met on 29 November. This was a positive meeting where the group explored the potential of working through the issues identified in 2019 via a workshop in our February 2020 meeting
- The Science subgroup held its second meeting on 6 December with a primary focus of confirming water allocation scenarios.

Co-chairs, Committee Members and Project Team

- The Co-chairs continue to meet fortnightly or monthly with Tim and Phil to check in on progress, provide Committee feedback and shape the next month's agenda.
- Last meeting, we welcomed on board our new councillor representatives – Sean Rush (WCC) and Ros Connelly (GWRC). We look forward to their perspectives and energy on the Committee over the coming year.
- We also welcomed two new project team members – Aaria Dobson-Waitere (Taranaki Whānui) and Mike Grace (GWRC).
- We farewell Anna Martin from the project team and we thank her for the valuable contribution and support that she has provided to our Committee over the past year.
- Recruitment for the second Taranaki Whānui representative on the Committee is still underway.

External Engagements

- Five Committee members plus Phill and Kat attended the Sanctuary to Sea meeting at Zealandia on 3 December. Kara introduced the Whaitua mandate and Committee and Louise, Ros, Jonny and Anya then facilitated small group discussions to gather input from the attendees. The meeting was a good opportunity to engage with 30 or so people who have a strong interest and wealth of experience as kaitiaki across the Kaiwharawhara Stream catchment. Thank you to Phill and Emily for organising our attendance at this meeting.
- The co-chairs had planned to present our Committee's work to the new GWRC councillors on 12 December but this has been postponed while the councillors get up to speed with more general business.