

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

TO	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee
FROM	Co-chairs
DATE	20 July 2020 Committee meeting
TOPIC	Co-chairs' Report

General progress

This past month has been a busy one for our Committee with Small Groups meeting regularly, all the Sub-groups having met and Te Kāhui Taiao discussions well underway. We are now into the last quarter of the Whaitua process and are well and truly in full swing! Two strong themes in our current work are: 1) pulling together a wide range of information to inform our discussions and communications; and 2) focusing on community engagement.

Today's Committee meeting will help chart our direction for the remaining months. We will hear from Te Kāhui Taiao and discuss how we can integrate their work into the full Committee's work. The Project Team will then map out our process for the coming months, illustrating how the various parts of the Whaitua process will work together. This meeting is also our first one in person post-covid response and it will be nice to gather together again.

At our last meeting, we all reported in on our own community engagement activities. We are keen to continue with a shortened version in future Committee meetings so please come prepared. The first session was particularly useful in hearing how our city councillors are starting to integrate the Whaitua discussions and outcomes into their councils' work.

Please continue to contact us, or the Project Team, with any ideas, concerns or process improvement suggestions you have. As co-chairs, we want to reflect our Committee well. Do also remember to get in touch if you have any items that you feel should be discussed in a closed committee session.

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place in early-June to mid-July.

Te Kāhui Taiao

On the 4th of July Te Kāhui Taiao had a half day wananga discussing a number of key mana whenua issues relating specifically to mana whenua kaitiaki interests as it relates to the Whaitua. Much of the wānanga revolved around identifying values associated with water bodies and exploring how best those values may be protected within a Te Ao Māori framework. Te Kāhui Taiao also explored frameworks which could be developed to support the management of our water bodies aligning directly to our Kawa. Finally, work is currently being put into an engagement programme for iwi members specifically as it relates to the Whaitua kaupapa and the outcomes iwi members want to see.

Small Groups

The Small Groups are delivering solid discussions on the various topics that will make up our WIP. Some topics/"issues" have now had a second round of discussion with additional information brought in and more active input from Project Team members. Other topics have only just had an initial discussion (e.g. water bottling) or are set to do so in coming weeks (e.g. wetlands). Additional rounds of discussion will be held on topics where required, with some finishing after Round 2 and others continuing for future rounds.

Thanks again to all those Project Team members who are pulling together the memos for each Small Group meetings – these documents are a repository of all information previously provided to the Committee on each topic, along with updates following the previous Small Group meeting on that topic. We look forward to bringing in further information to support our discussions over the next two months, including Te Kāhui Taiao's work, the Expert Panel's discussions and feedback from our community engagement.

Subgroups

- The Comms & Engagement Subgroup has been very busy over this past month, meeting on 10 June, 18 June and 23 June plus a smaller meeting on 24 June focused on rural engagement. The C&E meetings are working to reshape our community engagement post-lockdown and start linking it with the "issues" being discussed by our small groups.
- The Policy Subgroup and other interested Committee members met on 15 June to re-craft the list of "issues" before discussing them with the full Committee on 29 June.
- The Science subgroup met on 3 July to discuss the Water Quality / Ecology Expert Panel's findings and how the information could be best used by the Committee. Some representatives also attended the Project Team meeting on 7 July to start designing the Coastal Expert Panel work.

Co-chairs, Committee Members and Project Team

- The Co-chairs continue to meet with Tim, Phil and Glen via Zoom to provide feedback on progress and design and help shape the Committee's meeting agenda.

External Engagements

- Tim and Louise presented to the GWRC Environment Committee on 11 June. Tim updated the councillors on our progress and Louise described what we, as a community Committee, want to achieve and how councillors can help us. The councillors had a varying level of knowledge of the Whaitua process so there is an opportunity for us to improve our engagement with them.
- A "Catch up with the Committee" session was held with Eugene Doyle of the Owhiro Bay Residents Association, and a member of the Mayoral Taskforce, on 19 June. As well as a chance to share our Committee's work, it was also a valuable opportunity to gauge opinions and ideas from our wider community which will help shape our thinking over coming months.
- An upcoming *Aotearoa Town Hall* session has been progressed by Roger with support from Zoe and Louise, with a date set for 10 August, five panellists confirmed and a theme of "*Water Use and Water Quality in the Urban Environment*". Please be sure to share this event with your networks once the promotional material is available.