

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-chairs

DATE 8 June 2020 Committee meeting

TOPIC Co-chairs Report

General progress

This month, we emerge from our covid-lockdown cocoons as a Committee that has a clearer sense of the steps ahead and a stronger commitment to engage. The Small Group discussions have focused our energy on the range of issues/topics that will eventually lead into our WIP. The Small Groups have been valuable for engaging with each other and for starting to interrogate each topic. Although we are currently all assigned to groups, please do continue to attend other discussions where the topic is of particular interest – or invite another Committee member to attend a discussion where you think they would offer particular value.

Several Committee members have recently been considering how to bring greater debate and diversity into our work. They recognise that our Committee does not represent the full range of perspectives in our whaitua and that we want to intentionally bring those perspectives into our process – in order to represent our community well and contribute other information/approaches alongside what we have learned to date. They have also identified several initiatives that could be used to trigger more debate either within our Committee or in the public sphere. Please also turn your mind to this over coming months and share your own thoughts.

Our Committee has talked a bit about “leadership opportunities” and “leadership statements” over this past month. Early on, we all agreed that we are not just focused on delivering a WIP but also on paving the way for its implementation in the longer-term. We have a unique opportunity for influence both within GW and the city councils and also within our community. We encourage the Committee to consider what the opportunities are that might enable us to create long-term wins for our whaitua – in how we go about our work, how we engage with our wider community and what levers we can pull over the remaining six months.

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 May.

Te Kāhui Taiao

Te Kāhui Taiao had an in person wānanga last Friday which was by all accounts a positive session. Te Kāhui Taiao are currently still in the process of developing the mana whenua values table and mapping.

Small Groups

The first round of Small Group discussions occurred through April and May with 11 meetings held in total (covering 12 issues). These discussions provided the opportunity to apply our 2019 learning and our own thinking to a specific issue. The conversations began to identify the significant challenges for each issue, the potential opportunities and what information we need to further the discussion. Thank you to Glen for helping create the space for these discussions to occur.

The second round of Small Group discussions kicked off with two “test sessions” on 28 May and 3 June. If you attended these sessions, please pass on your feedback to the co-chairs or Project Team so that it can be used to shape the upcoming meetings. The Project Team has done a stellar job in providing a comprehensive package of information to support these discussions, including noting where additional material is still to come.

Subgroups

- The Comms & Engagement Subgroup met on 13 May and discussed the next phase of community engagement and messaging.
- The Policy and Science subgroups did not meet over this past period.

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

- The Co-chairs presented at WCC’s Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters. It was a brief presentation with little time for questions but a useful opportunity for our Committee to extend an invitation to collaborate. It is worth noting that our Committee has three members who sit on the Taskforce – Kara, Cr Sean and Hikitia – alongside the chair of the previous Porirua Whaitua Committee, Stu Farrant.
- The Aotearoa Town Hall opportunity is progressing and we will be seeking someone from the Committee to lead this awesome opportunity alongside the Co-chairs and in collaboration with the Comms & Engagement Subgroup.