



**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
On 13 February 2019, at 3.00pm

1	Apologies –																				
2.	Visitor – Andrew Wark at 4.15pm. Growers Expert Conferencing.																				
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting – December 2018																				
3	Matters Arising from Minutes– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Uru Rākau – feedback and discussion 																				
6	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRE members to be re-elected and confirmed at the next meeting in order to update the website. Mileage cost vs fuel vouchers Healthy River’s Plan Change 1 – presentation at hearing Review of Workplan from 2018: <p>Work Plan 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>Understanding and planning to meet the implications of Climate Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Plan Change 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Positioning for medium- and long-term Plan Change 1 implementation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Pest control (plant, animal, insect).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Predator Free Hauraki/Coromandel & related issues.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Community Group Support</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Marine Reserves and Coastal Issues.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Fostering Tree Planting.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Education (including Enviroschools) and Transport.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Acknowledgement and Support of various WRC Programs.</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and District Council Elections Speakers for ACRE meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions from Andrew: do rounds of the various industries re landuse (forestry, sheep & beef, tree cop and vege crop) and incorporate organics; ‘Collaborative’ environmental projects - NZ Landcare Trust and Sam from Waikato Biodiversity; John Simmons given his background with WRC, understanding of Taupo catchment with planning changes, experience with Maungatautari and also his keen interest and experience in trees / farm forestry. Felicity Brough to talk to us in a few month’s time re outcomes from the Walking Access NZ project. Suggestion from Brain: Tipa Mahuta and Kataraina Hodge 	Overall	Understanding and planning to meet the implications of Climate Change	1	Plan Change 1	2	Positioning for medium- and long-term Plan Change 1 implementation.	3	Pest control (plant, animal, insect).	4	Predator Free Hauraki/Coromandel & related issues.	5	Community Group Support	6	Marine Reserves and Coastal Issues.	7	Fostering Tree Planting.	8	Education (including Enviroschools) and Transport.	9	Acknowledgement and Support of various WRC Programs.
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8	Written reports - To Louise Capes at Louise.Capes@waikatoregion.govt.nz prior to meeting please – members identify highlights for discussion Topics: Identify your topics of interest.
10	Next Meeting – March 27th

ACRE Terms of Reference

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT (ACRE)

ACRE is an environmental advocacy and consultative group, interacting with but independent of the Waikato Regional Council (the Regional Council).

1. PURPOSE

To act as an environmental advocate by promoting the protection, preservation, conservation and enhancement of:

- The life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems – especially indigenous vegetation and fauna and their habitats and biological diversity;
- The natural character, features and landscapes;
- Those qualities and characteristics that contribute to people's appreciation of the pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, cultural and recreational attributes;

of New Zealand and in particular the Waikato Region.

To network and promote conservation and good environmental practices in the region;

To act as a forum for ideas and concerns on environmental matters;

To monitor progress on any environmental matters and recommend on any matters that need extra investigation and research;

To advise the Regional Council on environmental policy and alert it of environmental matters in need of attention;

To liaise with groups sharing similar aims.



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
for the Waikato
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

Minutes of a meeting of the
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE) held at:
Waikato Regional Council Hamilton
On 13 February 2019, at 3.00 pm in the Council Meeting Room.

Present: Brian Habberfield, Greg Hill, Anna Casey-Cox, Martin Wallace, Dell Hood, Kelvin Mourtison, Andrew Sinclair, Katherine Hay, Leo Koppens

In attendance: Neville Williams (WRC Director, Community and Services); Keita Kirchin (minutes WRC)

1. Apologies

Kemble Pudney, Gwyneth Verkerk, Shepherd Isaac

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 12 December 2018

Correction from Martin – settlement was talking about the settlement process, which is still in process, and not yet settled.

Moved by Martin Wallace, seconded by Anna Casey-Cox

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

Te Uru Rākau

Presentation was short but informative. From an ACRE perspective perhaps it was worth recording that Cathy Stephenson was of the view that there would be good support for collaborative public good projects where there were potentially multiple community / biodiversity benefit outcomes, (beyond just 1BT for instance). Cathy mentioned that while half of the funding would be going directly to landowners, the other half would be going via Regional and local council stakeholders. (perhaps a key point given one of ACRE's key role in the collective/collaborative field).

4. Andrew Wark, WRC:

- Anna stated that ACRE is going to the expert growers' forum next week and wanted to check in with someone more knowledgeable in that space for the ins and outs of what growers are discussing and what their issues are.

Points noted by Andrew Wark (AW):

- Vegetable growers' issue for NRP determination through Overseer is targeted more towards sheep/beef/dairy. Overseer could be used for potatoes and onions, but short term rotations, ie broccoli, is lacking.
- Second focus is the cap on area. From council's point of view, if Overseer isn't used, then how do we monitor? If no cap, there is no way to regulate their nutrients. If there is a cap, growers can move around in the area, but not increase the area. Andrew said he had

spoken to HortNZ who weren't worried about a cap, but more about being able to move around. AW said that flexibility won't be too much of an issue, but there needs to be regulations on where/how they move, ie moving onto sloping country will cause issues with sediment.

- AW noted that work is being done with the equine industry as well; Overseer focuses mainly on rumen animals at present.
- A best practice guide seems positive. AW said ECan is looking at this right now with 21 key points agreed to by multiple industries. If everyone gets industry good practices/good farming practices, we will get an improvement. **AW to email** website links to ACRE.
- Andrew agreed this is positive, but sceptical in our area – nitrate levels are up over 15 consistently; no-one knows how old the nitrates are; not only is there a leaching component but also from run-off; winter flooding of crops which can't take up all the nitrogen. AW said this could be regulated through an input-based system; nitrogen increase could be mitigated though increased nitrogen take-up. Some countries are highly regulated ie a permit is needed to put nitrogen on lawns.
- Andrew noted that some farms' Olsen P levels are testing over 400. AW said that agronomic optimum levels will be looked at, ie if a crop needs 100 of P but you already have 120, you need to show how you are going to bring this down to 100; comes back to soil test; these should be recorded annually.
- Dell queried if there was other international models that would be helpful for New Zealand, ie other island nations. AW said that quite a bit of research has been done, but there are not many places we can draw a parallel to. From what AW can tell, Hawaii don't even produce their own milk; in Australia, they have different environments to ours. Hopefully, at the end of this plan change, there will be enough data to make better decisions going forward. The last thing we want to do is stifle the vegetable growing industry; we have to watch we aren't driving the problem to another area that isn't regulated. It would be useful if there was more local data.
- Neville noted that, in his view, it was early days and looking at things such as environment cost/kg of food had not really be looked at by WRC to his knowledge. This may in the future be looked at more by the likes of Blair Dickie who is doing a lot of work on climate change. Work is being done on a national level on carbon.
- Neville said that as the realities of climate change becomes more evident we will be forced to adopt other ways. ACRE could fill a gap not currently being filled as an advisory group for regional council. Comments/statements around visionary options could be brought into a cogent framework.

5. Other Business:

- ACRE members

Points noted:

- Dell read out a section from the online 2016 of the manual that states a third of the Committee retire by rotation each year with the maximum number of members being 15, unless in exceptional circumstances. Of importance is rule 3.6
- Martin advised that affiliated groups are supposed to be advised for opening of nominations; existing people can be re-elected. Also supposed to advertise; in past in regional council publication or the press.
- Dell, Leo, Martin, Greg, Brian all confirmed to carry on – nominated by Anna, seconded by Katherine, passed.
- Martin noted that nominated members should not be appointed until advertising has concluded and all nominations received. No one is elected at this stage.
- Kelvin is happy to carry on unless someone else from his region wants to take his place.
- Katherine advised she will be stepping down.

- It was discussed last year about diversifying more. **Anna to contact** the Ngati Haua Ngati Trust; **Kelvin to contact** the Hauraki iwi.
 - It was noted that there currently is no representative for South Waikato on the Committee.
 - **Anna to confirm** whether or not Kemble or Gwenyth will be stepping down.
 - **Anna to follow-up** with Louise for the manual and review nominations rules
 - Other suggestions for nomination advertising – biodiversity forum; Forest & Bird; Neville offered to send out information via WRC channels ie social media.
- Mileage cost vs fuel vouchers
 - Points noted:
 - Proposal for calculating costs by distance travelled from Neville Williams.
 - It was agreed that having a formula for calculating costs was a good idea.
 - Moved by Martin; seconded by Leo; passed.
- Healthy River's Plan Change 1 – presentation at hearing
 - Points noted:
 - Anna confirmed with Steve Rice that ACRE did want to present at hearings. Steve has given options of 10-15 minutes either:
 - 25 March / 1 April in the afternoon, or
 - 8 and 10 April in the morning
 - It was agreed that this is a good opportunity to add weight to ACRE's support of the Plan Change overall and support of ACRE's submission itself.
 - If appropriate, climate change would be worth mentioning, however, ACRE can do work on climate change aspects at another point in time as it's a big project.
 - Martin noted that the Overseer issue has some faults, but it's the best there is currently and we should use it. Urge the hearings panel to go along with those recommendations if it is going to be used as a regulatory tool and 'get on with it'. Andrew agreed that improving Overseer, and not excluding access for vegetable growers, is a good idea.
 - Martin also submitted on his own account, would like to attend the hearing, and suggested Kemble would be a good person to present for ACRE.
 - Andrew confirmed he would be happy to present if needed.
 - Greg advised he would like to attend as well.
 - **Anna to confirm** with Kemble if he would be willing to present at the hearing.
- Review of Workplan from 2018
 - Points noted:
 - Plan Change 1 continues.
 - Positioning for medium- and long-term Plan Change 1 implementation. Anna advised that Gwyneth was quite thoughtful on this; involved with stakeholder group; good to follow up with her post hearings on how we advocate on implementation; keep focussed on the council going forward. Martin stated that the council has to have the budget to do its job; farm plans being audited; foreshadowing things coming in the next 10 year plan. Anna said ACRE needs to keep abreast of this and be aware of the need to submit on further plans.
 - Emailing between Anna and Andrew around Bay of Plenty's 'Food Talks' around the expansion of horticulture in response to climate change. Suggestion that this could be something ACRE looks at for the Waikato. **Anna to send links** and discuss at next meeting.
- Regional and District Council Elections

Points noted:

- Thames-Coromandel – it appears that no-one is taking climate change forward into the council elections.
 - Andrew suggested advocating to people ACRE speaks to that they vote for someone interested in the environment.
 - Anna suggested a letter could be written to the council that advises topics candidates could consider
- Speakers for ACRE meetings
Suggestions:
 - Beat Huser who does projections 50 years ahead. Anna noted this fits in well with ACRE’s views of looking into the future.
 - Tipa Mahuta may have some suggestions.
 - Suggestions from Andrew: do rounds of the various industries re landuse (forestry, sheep & beef, tree cop and vege crop) and incorporate organics; ‘Collaborative’ environmental projects - NZ Landcare Trust and Sam from Waikato Biodiversity; John Simmons given his background with WRC, understanding of Taupo catchment with planning changes, experience with Maungatautari and also his keen interest and experience in trees / farm forestry. Felicity Brough to talk to us in a few month’s time re outcomes from the Walking Access NZ project.
 - Suggestion from Brain: Tipa Mahuta and Kataraina Hodge
 - Pirongia Restoration Society
 - Greg is happy to draft a letter to the Pirongia Restoration Society regarding possum/rat control. WRC doing control on the outside of the area, but there was concern the job is not being done correctly as the pests are being driven onto private land. Neville asked for the letter to be sent to him.

Reports:

Name	Details
Brian Habberfield-Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of research report of Coromandel Community Trust on operational area. Marine report done by Kate James, marine biologist, who eliminated mosquito infestation. It is a thorough, solid report. There is a link in Brian’s list to the online report. Trust Waikato funded. Copies gone to Hauraki district councils. Anna noted it helps convey the importance of the work.• A possible replacement for the RMA being put forward by the Environmental Defense Society – Brian to circulate.

Meeting closed – 5.13pm

Next Meeting – 27 March 2019, 3.00 to 5.00pm