

Combined Waitakere Ranges R&R Group
Monday 1 March 2021, 7pm
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Mels Barton (Titirangi R&R), Susie Vincent (Laingholm DCA), Rob Taylor (Karekare R&R), Errol Carron (Henderson Valley RA), Marq Hollibar (Waiatarua R&R), Steven Westwood (Waima & Woodlands Park R&R), Ken Cowan (Piha R&R), Dave Smith (Oratia R&R), Greg Presland, Sandra Coney, Mark Allen, Michelle Clayton, Ken Turner (WRLB), Deborah Russell MP, Councillor Linda Cooper.

In attendance: Michelle Swanepoel, Waitakere Ranges Pest Free Alliance.

1. Introductions

2. Apologies - Jean Berry (Preserve the Swanson Foothills), Councillor Shane Henderson, Louise Grevell (Waitakere Village R&R), Tom Hoey (Waiatarua R&R), Anna Fomison, Sandra Jones (Waitakere Ranges Protection Society), Mark Allen & Ken Turner (WRLB) for lateness.

3. Minutes of 2 Nov 2020 – APPROVED (Mels B., Ken C.)

a. Matters Arising - none.

4. Covid19

a. Emergency budget – Linda C. spoke on need to honour existing contracts despite loss of non-rate income; a 5% rate increase for 12 months is likely, followed by 3.5% PA. Greg P. noted that Council's investment in financial derivatives cost \$290M last year.

i. land for disposal PC60 – Sandra C. not concerned at the sale of the 2 strips in Waitakere.

ii. 10 year plan consultation – Linda C.: engagement will be by webinar, as F2F cancelled due to covid-19; \$70m of “asset recycling” proposed - asset sales will fund other asset purchases not just to pay the bills; want to extend Natural Environment Targeted Rates for 3 more years; water quality targeted rate extension could go towards Manukau Harbour improvements; CCO top salaries have decreased with each new appointment; what is the best use of available funds? *Action: All to do submissions as appropriate.*

b. Lockdown survey – disappointing response, reissue (*Action: Susie V/Mels B.*)

5. Plans / Policies / Legislation

a. RMA replacement - Deborah Russell: 3 separate pieces of legislation proposed to replace RMA. An “exposure draft” of the Natural and Built Environments Bill will be released for consultation probably in April. Keen to see this include general tree protection - Deborah has assurances it will.

b. Regional Pest Management Plan - now live and complete; *Action: Sandra C. to compile a “What's New” document once she has received hard copy.*

c. Waste Plan – *Action: Linda C. to provide an update* after the next Council sub-committee meeting

d. Greenways Plan – imperilled by budget cuts: Greg P. estimates need \$3.5M/yr * 10 years and will include in submission on LTP.

e. Auckland's Climate Action Framework – *Action: Greg P. to circulate Local Board submission;* Linda C. concerned that targets may not be met

f. CCOs review – ongoing, but key staff have left, need to be replaced before implementation can continue.

g. Local Board Plan – has been adopted.

- h. Regional Parks Management Plan review – awaiting final draft of plan for another consultation round.
- i. Rainwater tanks review – Price of water is increasing; people buying water need to order early. There is no Council loan scheme to assist rainwater tank purchase.

6. WRHA issues

- a. Welcome to the WRHA signs – no \$ in budget and unlikely to change.
- b. AT - Mark Allen; AT contacts have changed, method of engagement has changed. Mark continues to push for attention to issues.
- c. Fireworks & fires – Deborah R.: local & national government reluctant to act for fear of being labelled as killjoys, despite AC survey showing over 90% support and all local councils supporting banning private sales; *Action: Deborah will test the waters for a Private Member's Bill with Labour caucus.*
- d. Emergency planning - Piha flooding; Karekare and other communities have completed Resilience Plans; Piha's still in progress.
- e. Huia Water Treatment Plant Replacement – Mels B.: kauri dieback expert caucusing was flawed, some experts could not attend, submitters made formal complaint but Independent Commissioners are reconvening the hearing and calling for additional evidence before they make decision on Resource Consent, but whatever outcome will probably end up in the Environment Court.
- f. Glen Eden Apartments / Senior Housing – apartments are up and running, senior housing making good progress.
- g. Glen Eden Town Centre Upgrade – underway, one-third complete. Pop up cycleway for Captain Scott Rd ETA in June. Linda C.: Government is fast-tracking the Nola development, outside the Unitary Plan, which raises several red flags.
- h. Rubbish Dumping - sub group report: Not yet met. *Action: Mark A. to convene*
- i. Project K, Little Huia – issues ongoing
- j. Karekare Cutting pohutukawa – no change, *Action: remove from agenda.*
- k. Waikumete Cemetery expansion – no change, *Action: remove from agenda.*
- l. ACPL Titirangi – Mels B.: procedural issues with Ombudsman
- m. Public toilets – awaiting consent hearing
- n. Vehicles on the beach at Muriwai – ban popular with locals, but opposed by 4WD enthusiasts, etc. Council working on it, would like to make it permanent (Linda C.)
- o. Dog control – dog visitor numbers increasing, problems everywhere, policy needs a fresh look; *Action: Mels B to send info to Linda C.*

7. Weeds & Pests

- a. Weed Plan update – Local Board and Council approaches have to be melded; *Action: Sandra C. to report back.*
- b. Kauri Dieback & Rāhui – track re-opening plan is on target
 - i. Local Parks - Greg's recent Chairs report included timescale of upgrade plans. *Action: Greg P to check that Te Kawerau ā Maki engaged in signoff / reopening protocols for local parks same as regional parks.*
- c. Titirangi chickens & rats – chicken numbers continue to increase, local continues to feed them, no action apparently planned.
- d. Pest Free Waitakere Alliance - Michelle Swanepoel: PFWA provides support for groups working to enhance biodiversity in the WRHA; there are ~70 groups and 10,000 volunteers; they have an upcoming Strategic Planning review (March 10, 17) and an Alliance Hui (20 March). *Action: Mels/Michelle S. to circulate info on these.*
- e. Roadside weeds management – gone to Community Facilities. Sandra C is on the case.

8. Water Quality and Wastewater

- a. Polluted Beaches: Manukau Harbour and West Coast plus lagoons – the Manukau Harbour working group is going well; Ken C.: Piha R&R waiting on Council response to summer lagoon breaching proposal.
- b. Policy re pumpouts of septic tanks – programme kept as requested, cost shared amongst those serviced. Water quality targeted rate funds monitoring programme.

9. General Business

- a. GAG funds distribution – \$700 to be disbursed; *Action: Mels B./Susie work with Community Waitakere/ Mark A to circulate a proposal.*
- b. Camp21 – info has been circulated

10. **Next meeting** - Mon 12 April, 7pm via Zoom (5th is Easter Monday), 7 June, 2 Aug, 4 Oct, 6 Dec 2021

Meeting closed 9.30pm