



MINUTES

**Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIĀRI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL, GROUND FLOOR
MEETING ROOMS 1 & 1B, 306 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2024 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Ms Darlene Dinsdale (Chairperson), Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston, Commissioner Bill Wasley, Mayor James Denyer, Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (WBoPDC), Mr Jo'el Komene, Mr Manu Pene, Mr Maru Tapsell.

IN ATTENDANCE: **Tauranga City Council**
Carlo Ellis (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Neels Osmers (Project Manager - 3 Waters), Steve Wiggill (Team Leader: Project Management Office), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Kelvin Hill (Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes), Sam Hema (Tangata Whenua Liaison)), Keren Paekau (Team Leader: Takawaenga Māori), Jennifer Pearson (Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor) and Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Rueben Fraser (Consent Manager, BoP Regional Council)

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Chris Nepia (Strategic Kauapapa Maori Manager, Western Bay of Plenty District Council) and EJ Wentzel (Utilities Operations Manager).

EXTERNAL: Elva Conroy (Conroy Consultants), Raponi Wilson (Tapuika Iwi Authority), Luke Whare (Te Kapu o Waitaha)

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Mr Manu Pene opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairperson advised there would be no verbal update from Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) as their relevant items were noted in the reports in this agenda.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA1/24/1

Moved: Mayor James Denyer
Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

Due to technical issues, item 9.1: 'Kaituna Waiari River Access Feasibility Study' was delayed and addressed after item 10.3.

10 BUSINESS

10.1 Western Bay of Plenty District Council Verbal Report

The Chairperson advised that here was no verbal report from Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as their relevant items were noted in the reports in this agenda.

10.2 Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update March 2024

Staff Wally Potts, Acting General Manager: Infrastructure
Kelvin Hill, Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes

The report was taken as read.

In response to questions:

- This project went through Tauranga City Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) process, with the Commissioners endorsing funding of \$500k for the next two years. There was also funding from another project that, together with the LTP funding, provided for, and supported, the six cultural initiatives going forward.
- This was a greatly appreciated result given the competitive financial environment at this time.

Discussion points raised:

- The Waiari area lay along all the flood plains, streams and creeks that came down from the mountains. Development of a sub-regional heritage park should be about the protection of the riparian areas.

- Riparian areas were the ‘arteries’ of the Waiari that provided life for Tauranga City Council and the region in terms of economic development, as well as the environmental benefits it provided. Therefore, any interested or affected parties should be resourced and taken note of.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA1/24/2

Moved: Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update March 2024".

CARRIED

10.3 Waiari - Operational Report Ending January 2024

Staff Wally Potts, Acting General Manager: Infrastructure
Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Key points

- Three years of draught followed by a year of significant rainfall had made this year better in terms of water levels. The rainfall from the previous year had recharged the ground water.
- The aquifers were feeding the streams and the stream flows were sitting at about 70% higher than average. They appeared to be relatively stable at this stage.
- TCC had just come through its peak summer water demand. Water watches had been in place. This summer’s water peak day was lower than the previously recorded.

In response to questions

- Access into the valley to assess/count the aquifers had always been difficult but was something that could be pursued in the future.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA1/24/3

Moved: Mr Jo'el Komene

Seconded: Mayor James Denyer

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Operational Report".
- (b) Receives comments on the "Waiāri Operational Report".

CARRIED

PRESENTATION

10.4 Elva Conroy - Kaituna Waiari River Access Feasibility Study

External Elva Conroy, Conroy Consultants
Jason Crummer, Senior Recreation Planner, Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Ms Conroy spoke to a PowerPoint presentation providing the group with the results of the study.

Key Points:

Mr Crummer spoke to the group providing the following points:

- The work done to complete the study had taken a lot of time and a lot of consultation and was not yet finalised. When finalised, it would be presented to WBOPDC Elected Members and then put forward for adoption.

- There was a commitment to develop the Waiari bridge area. A draft budget was in place, which would be finalised in September of this year.
- Work was being done together with WBOPDC's Reserves and Parks team, on the immediate improvement of safety in and around the bridge area, which was of concern. This included a safety rope and general tidy up of the area, regular maintenance and mowing of the grass, adding some picnic furniture and developing a plan for carparking. Existing budgets that had already been approved could be used for this.
- Eventually, individual advisory groups would be formed for each site to get a better idea of what was specifically wanted/needed. This would include members from each Council and iwi authorities from this advisory group.

In response to questions

- There was very good literature around the historical context, economy and employment in earlier times around the Te Puke flax mills.

Discussion points raised:

- It would be helpful to look at the Waiari and Kaituna river economies from a much earlier perspective, as these economies were highly valuable. They were the main source of transport for goods. This was why Marae were close to rivers, and as such, critically placed. These stories needed to be told because evolutionary changes had had an impact on the environment. This form of transport had now been replaced with roading, which was not the main way goods were previously transported.
- Rivers were no longer seen as important in terms of the economy, but in earlier times were important and had little impact on the environment. Roading however, had had a big impact on the environment. It was felt this was lacking in the reporting in terms of the value of rivers, the protection of them and birdlife.
- It would be helpful to have increased coordination and information sharing between the non-iwi parties to save time and enable projects to be completed in a timely manner. There was a need to get the Kaupapa right.
- Tangata whenua were quite spread out and were involved in, and managed, many different things. However, they were poorly resourced. An exercise with iwi would be held on Friday to ascertain what sort of 'light purpose' groups could be pulled together to improve their equity in all that they were involved in, create more unity and collaboration, and to match the right skills with the right job. This was also important in terms of being able to support governance groups more effectively in terms of operations.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA1/24/4

Moved: Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston

Seconded: Mr Jo'el Komene

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the Kaituna Waiari River Access Feasibility Study presentation.
- (b) Requests that the Chair and Co-Chairs of Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group, Te Ohu Parawai and Te Maru o Kaituna meet and discuss a joined approach to the management of the Kaituna Waiari River Access and report back at the next Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting.

CARRIED

11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Introduction of New Member for Tapuika Iwi Authority:

Mr Komene announced his retirement from Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group and welcomed Raponi Te Rangikatukua Wilson who would now represent Tapuika Iwi Authority on the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group

12 CLOSING KARAKIA

Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston provided a karakia to close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:22am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 5 June 2024.

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Darlene Dinsdale
CHAIRPERSON