

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MANGAKINO-POUAKANI REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE WHAKAMARU SETTLERS HALL, 5 ARATAKI ROAD, WHAKAMARU
ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 10.00AM**

PRESENT: Cr Kirsty Trueman (in the Chair), Ms Charlene Campbell, Mr Whitu Karauna (via MS Teams, until 11.35am), Cr Anna Park, Mr Mark Seymour, Mayor David Trewavas, Cr Yvonne Westerman

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Operations and Delivery (A Moraes), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Iwi and Co-Governance Manager (D Rameka), Parks Operations Manager Town Centres (J Gordon), Executive Manager to the Mayor (J Later), Iwi Engagement Partner (TW Waaka), Construction Project Manager (C Haskell), Project Manager – Stakeholder Specialist (T Perry), Community Engagement Advisor (C Dredge), Governance Quality Manager (S James)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Three members of the public
Waikato Regional Councillor, Cr Mich'eal Downard
Waikato Regional Council Environmental Science Manager, Dr Mike Scarsbrook

Note: (i) Chairperson Cr Kirsty Trueman recited karakia to open and close the hui.
(ii) Mr Whitu Karauna joined the meeting via MS Teams until 11.35am. He was not present for resolutions MP202402/06 and 07.

1 KARAKIA

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

MP202402/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor David Trewavas

Seconded: Cr Anna Park

That the apology received from Ms Sapphire Tanirau be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MANGAKINO-POUAKANI REPRESENTATIVE GROUP MEETING - 17 OCTOBER 2023

MP202402/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Mark Seymour
Seconded: Ms Charlene Campbell

That the minutes of the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Rob Dexter, Director, DCM Process Control Water and Wastewater Specialists addressed the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group. The following points were noted:

- Mr Dexter's professional background was in engineering. He had undertaken real time water and wastewater monitoring during his career spanning 40 years.
- Between two to three years ago, he had decided to gather Waikato River data. He and his wife had funded this work.
- The data gathered showed a complex and dynamic river, constantly changing in response to external factors. The data had been provided to Waikato Regional Council.
- Waikato Regional Council's role was long-term planning. There was currently no short-term plan to address issues relating to the Waikato River.
- There was a lack of data before, but the new data gathered should be analysed and used to address things that should not be happening, for example management of algal blooms.
- Neither the Waikato River Authority nor the Waikato Regional Council had funding to address the issues.
- The issues could be addressed in various ways, including enabling public input, and a proactive approach to improve the river's health.
- Bad water quality was negatively affecting tourism, including in the Taupō district. Businesses such as restaurants and accommodation providers were suffering because algal blooms were affecting the quality of waterways in summer. Mr Dexter had noticed several businesses were closed in Mangakino. He had spoken with the operator of MiCamp Whakamaru, who had confirmed that bookings had been lost as a result of the poor water quality. Tourist attraction Orakei Korako was also affected.
- Intensive agriculture was causing most of the issues, as algae grows on the nutrients entering waterways as runoff from farms. Central government, not the farmers, was to blame.
- Entities including the Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council should collaborate to fix the Waikato River water quality issues.

Chairperson Cr Kirsty Trueman thanked Mr Dexter. She confirmed that poor water quality had been a significant issue in the Mangakino ward this summer, and that had affected local businesses. The Mangakino pool's opening hours had been extended for a few weeks as an alternative place to swim.

In answer to a question, Mr Dexter advised that the river 'flushes' every eight days, but regional council monitoring was only monthly.

MP202402/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor David Trewavas

Seconded: Ms Charlene Campbell

That the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group receives comments from members of the public.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/03 above.

5.2 WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Waikato Regional Council Environmental Science Manager, Dr Mike Scarsbrook addressed the Group (A3500633). Waikato Regional Councillor Cr Mich'eal Downard was also present at the meeting. The following points were noted:

- Dr Scarsbrook's area of expertise was freshwater ecology. He had been studying the impacts of land use on fresh water in New Zealand for the past 30 years. His career had included roles as a scientist at NIWA; 10 years in environmental roles in the dairy industry; and five years at Waikato Regional Council.
- There were multiple pressures on the upper Waikato River, including nitrification from land, industry and municipal waste. Nutrients fuelled algae- and other plant growth.
- Other factors affecting the river included hydrological changes from the dams along the river; the warming climate; and the presence of introduced invasive and damaging species.
- To improve lake water quality, the nutrient loads coming into the lake would need to be managed.
- Plan Change 1 proposed to introduce controls. The plan change was still going through the process, with an Environment Court decision expected mid 2024. Significant policy changes like Plan Change 1 took a long time to work through the process, to bring about change, including the reduction of nutrients getting into water systems.
- Cynobacteria is a problematic algal species producing toxins which in turn can cause issues including skin rashes, gastroenteritis etc. Waikato Regional Council monitors cynobacteria levels, provides the data to the district health board, and if levels reach an unsafe level, the health board instructs the regional council to erect warning signs.
- Mr Dexter's system and data was of enormous value, providing a whole spectrum/holistic understanding of the health of the Waikato River.
- The regional council had been gathering data from 120 monitoring sites, on a monthly basis, for the last 40 years.
- Waikato Regional Council was currently preparing its draft Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) for consultation. The draft LTP included systems to address environmental issues but with a focus on the lower Waikato River catchment.

Cr Mich'eal Downard advised that Waikato Regional Council's draft LTP would be out for consultation soon. Biosecurity monitoring was one of the regional council's core roles. He encouraged everyone present to make a submission to the draft LTP.

Dr Scarsbrook continued with his presentation:

- The response to invasive exotic freshwater golden clams was being led by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). Multiple agencies including MPI, the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council were involved and work was underway to ensure clarity about who will do what, and when, going forward.

Committee Chairperson Cr Trueman asked for a wash station to be installed at the Mangakino lakefront, to minimise the risk of golden clam spread.

The General Manager Operations and Delivery asked for more information to be provided about the projects of particular interest in Waikato Regional Council's draft LTP. Dr Scarsbrook advised that links would be provided to parts of the draft LTP relating to biosecurity and water quality. He suggested that submissions should mention areas of particular concern, for example Lake Maraetai and Lake Whakamaru.

MP202402/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mayor David Trewavas

Seconded: Cr Yvonne Westerman

That the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group receives the update from the Waikato Regional Council Environmental Science Manager regarding Lake Maraetai and Lake Whakamaru water quality issues.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/04 above.

5.3 MANGAKINO POUAKANI REPRESENTATIVE GROUP INDUCTION OVERVIEW FOR 2024

The Iwi and Co-Governance Manager summarised the report. He advised that the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative's Executive Team contact would be the General Manager Strategy and Environment going forward.

The General Manager Operations and Delivery emphasised that the best way to ensure operational issues were addressed in a timely fashion was to raise those issues in the Antenno app.

MP202402/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Kirsty Trueman

Seconded: Ms Charlene Campbell

That the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group receives the information provided to support members in their role for the 2024 calendar year.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/05 above.

5.4 MANGAKINO POUAKANI SNAPSHOT

Community Engagement and Development – Mangakino ward

The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District provided a summary of community engagement and development activities in the Mangakino ward. The following points were noted:

- The Mangakino pool would be open until Sunday 25 February 2024 when there would be a community pool party 12noon-2pm. The pool had been very well used over the summer period.
- Work was underway to consider how the sports hall next to the pool could be better used by the Mangakino community.
- Groups were collaborating on community garden work, with the Mangakino Charitable Trust recently organising a youth group revitalisation of the pensioner gardens.
- The Mangakino local community response plan was currently being drafted, with support from Council's Emergency Management Advisor. The plan would be presented to the community at Easter, in the Mangakino town centre, along with information about civil defence emergency management, for example how to prepare emergency kits.

- The Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District was working to connect various ‘community champions’ and community groups in Mangakino and throughout the ward, including Whakamaru, Tihoi, Tirohanga and Atiamuri.
- Taupō District Council’s Long-term Plan 2024-34 engagement was scheduled to take place in May. There would be several events throughout the district, including the northern part of the district, to support the whole community to understand what Council was proposing through its LTP and encourage people to share their views via submissions.

In answer to a question, the Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District confirmed that Pouakani Marae had been included in civil defence emergency management discussions facilitated by Council. Member Mr Whitu Karauna asked for Mangakino Orangatanga to be included, as he and the group were keen to be involved. Cr Anna Park (Chairperson of Council’s Emergency Management Committee) added that funding emergency response was a central government function.

Mangakino Lakefront Development

The Parks Operations Manager advised that the Mangakino Lakefront Development project was in the draft Long-term Plan 2024-34. The community could support the project by making submissions to the LTP process.

Pouakani Tōtara

The Parks Operations Manager advised that a local team was frequenting the Pouakani Tōtara site, to ensure it was being well looked after. New staff joining Council’s parks and reserves team were now visiting the Tōtara as part of their induction.

Basketball Court

The Construction Project Manager tabled some PowerPoint slides containing details of the new basketball court being constructed in the Mangakino town centre (A3500475). He showed members samples of the court surface material, in a variety of different colours. The perimeter of the court would be green, but other colours could be used for the main part of the court. These samples would be taken along to the Mangakino pool party on Sunday 25 February, to enable tamariki at the party to share their views too.

In answer to questions the Construction Project Manager advised that:

- He did not know if the court surface product was made from recycled material, but would find out.
- A 3m high fence would be erected around the court, to keep the ball in, but also to provide an area to which acoustics could be added at a later date if required. The fence had been included in the budget.
- The project would take approximately two months to complete.

The Parks Operations Manager advised that a sign needed to be removed as part of the basketball court project. All members present agreed that the sign should be removed.

Mangakino School Hall

In answer to a question, the General Manager Operations and Delivery advised that while Taupō District Council had no further role in relation to the Mangakino School Hall, there was nothing to stop members of the community approaching the Ministry of Education direct.

Members agreed that the matter could be removed from the actions table.

Te Awhina Hall

The Parks Operations Manager advised that she was awaiting clarification from the Marae Trustees about the current make-up of the Trust. The intention was to bring an item about the ground lease on the building to the next Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting.

Rural intersection lights

It was noted that rural intersection lights were included in the draft LTP. If adopted, engagement with the Mangakino community would take place in October-November 2024.

Licences to occupy at the Mangakino lakefront

The General Manager Operations and Delivery advised that a management agreement was still being drafted, with several different interested parties needing to be a part of the conversation. It was hoped that the agreement would be in place in time for Council (via the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group) to issue licences to occupy next summer.

Tirohanga Forest powerline corridor harvest update

The Iwi and Co-Governance Manager summarised an email which had been sent to the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group earlier that morning (A3500472). Subject to contractual formalities being concluded, logging in the Tirohanga Forest was due to start on 4 March 2024. There would be around 10 truck and trailer loads on Pokuru and Tirohanga roads per day, six days per week. Vegetation mowing and road maintenance work would also take place. The target completion date for the harvest was 30 April 2025.

In answer to a question, the General Manager Operations and Delivery advised that Council would be working closely with New Zealand Forest Managers to ensure signage was erected and road surfaces were safe for the harvest.

Boat ramp non-compliance

The Parks Operations Manager advised that a non-compliance notice had been received from Waikato Regional Council in relation to the Mangakino boat ramp. It was hoped that the boat ramp would be repaired with support from Mercury by mid March.

MS Teams connection was lost and Mr Whitu Karauna left the meeting at this point (11.35am).

MP202402/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Cr Anna Park

That the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group notes the information contained in the Mangakino Pouakani Snapshot report.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/06 above.

5.5 MEMBERS' REPORTS

The following members' reports were received:

Mr Mark Seymour

- Council had brought in a new booking system for the Tirohanga Hall. He was concerned that the system would result in a lack of control over bookings.
- A 'working bee' would take place at Tirohanga Hall that evening, 20 February 2024.
- What was happening to support the continued operation of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts on Mount Ruapehu? It was hoped that a positive outcome could be achieved through collective action.

Ms Charlene Campbell

- Acknowledged and thanked the Community Engagement Advisor – Northern Taupō District for her work supporting and connecting people in the Mangakino ward, including the Whakamaru Residents and Ratepayers' Association.
- Thanked Mr Rob Dexter, who had spoken during public forum, for his work and informative kōrero.
- Advised that the annual Mangakino firewood project was underway again this year, with 20 truck loads of wood already delivered, which was great to see.

Cr Kirsty Trueman

- Advised that a public hui would be held at Pouakani Marae, 9.30am Friday 23 February 2024. Wairarapa Moana would present information about proposed land zoning changes.

Cr Yvonne Westerman

- What was proposed for the Hotel Ladies Club at the Mangakino rugby grounds? Cr Westerman had some contact details she would pass on to the Parks Operations Manager.

At the conclusion of members' reports, Cr Trueman thanked outgoing General Manager Operations and Delivery, Andrew Moraes for all his hard work. He had achieved a lot in a relatively short space of time and his dedication to the Mangakino area was much appreciated. Cr Trueman wished Mr Moraes all the best in his new role as Chief Executive of Rotorua Lakes Council. Mr Moraes thanked Cr Trueman for her kind words and added that his work had been a team effort.

MP202402/07 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Yvonne Westerman

Seconded: Cr Anna Park

That the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group receives the reports from members.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group meeting of the 20 February 2024 voted in favour of resolution MP202402/07 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed with a karakia recited by the Chairperson Cr Kirsty Trueman at 11.51am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Mangakino-Pouakani Representative Group Meeting held on 23 April 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON