



## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the Waikato REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Minutes of the  
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE)  
held at Waikato Regional Council, Level 1 Tui/Kowhai Rooms, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton  
on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
3:00- 5:00pm**

### **ATTENDEES**

Anna Casey-Cox  
Megan Thomas (Minutes)  
John Badham  
Wiea Montemezzani via teams  
Neville Williams  
Shepherd Isaac  
Rachel Thompson

### **APOLOGIES**

Kristel Van Houte  
Steph Parkyn

### **OPENING**

**Karakia:** Neville opens the meeting

### **Standing Items**

**Conflicts of Interest:** No new conflicts

**Confirmation of Minutes:** John moves minutes, Anna seconds

**Current Workplan:**

**Chair's Report:**

**Members Reports:** No comments

### **Membership**

Possibility of new membership: Ann has been in contact with someone from South Waikato but has yet to hear back. This is an ongoing item in the operational plan

## **Biodiversity Forum Attendance and Submission Support**

Waea to note attendance at the Biodiversity Forum event and the support provided within the submission space.

Megan to include this update in the draft document.

John moved that the updated draft be adopted; Rachel seconded the motion.

**Action:** Megan to correct the spelling of Rachel's name in B3 – Biodiversity Events (Strategic Policy 2).

Healthy Rivers Co-governance Meetings (and Te Ture Whaimana)

*Note:* The Waikato Co-governance Committee meeting scheduled for 4 April 2025 was abandoned due to a lack of quorum. It has not yet been rescheduled during the current council term.

John is in contact with the Waikato River Authority. A member of the Authority will attend the May hui to speak on key issues, including Plan Change 1 and Resource Management Act (RMA) changes

## **Review of ACRE Constitution and Rules (refer to Appendix 1, ACRE Operational Plan 2025)**

This has been distributed. Members are advised to go through and amend or comment on the current rules, and discuss them at the next hui

## **Doodle poll for alternate ACRE hui dates and times**

Continue with Wednesdays – the May hui will remain at 3:00 PM. A formal discussion on changing the date and/or time will be held at the May meeting

## **General Business**

**Action:** Megan to follow up on the IT email address for Waea. A work email is preferred, but a Gmail address could also be used if necessary.

**Action:** Megan to locate and email the most up-to-date ACRE Rules.

## **Submissions**

Anna to prepare submissions on the following topics:

- Rate Remission Policy
- Fees and Charges (including those for regulatory services)
- Public Transport

Public transport hearings are scheduled for 19–22 June, with the final day being 24 June.

John and Anna will attend the hearings.



## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the Waikato REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **General Feedback**

Taupō is still addressing the golden clam issue. It may be valuable to raise this with the Waikato River Authority member at the next hui.

There are questions around educational engagement in this area (e.g., Enviroschools).

Greening Taupō has been contacted; while their messaging currently focuses on koi carp, it has relevance for freshwater biodiversity monitoring.

### **Field Trips**

Anna to follow up with Steph regarding the Coromandel field trip, tentatively planned for September or October.

Shepard to contact Craig regarding the mussel field trip.

### **Youth Engagement**

Explore collaboration with Rangatahi Voices on a Waihou River clean-up project.

Anna to speak with Meshweyla Macdonald and connect with Rachel to engage Rangatahi Voices members.

### **Biodiversity Forum Attendance**

Rachel is unable to attend the next Biodiversity Forum.

Shepard, John and Wiea may attend in her place.

Date & Time: Wednesday, 14 May, from 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Event Link: <https://form.jotform.com/250760096325860>

### **Creative Projects**

Shepherd is working on the tuna story and a piece titled *"Bats in the Hood."*

### **Closing**

Neville closes with a Karakia