



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 27th February 2025
3:00- 5:00pm**

ATTENDEES

Anna Casey-Cox (Chair)
Megan Thomas (Minutes)
Neville Williams
Steph Parkyn via teams
John Badham
Shepard Isaac
Rachel Thompson

APOLOGIES

Craig Solomon
Malcome Green
Krtistel Van Houte via teams
Wiea Montemezzani

OPENING

- **Karakia:** Neville opens with a karakia

Standing Items

1. Conflicts of Interest

- The register of conflicts of interest was reviewed. No new conflicts were reported.
- It was recommended to report if funding is being received by the council. The organisation you are affiliated with is receiving funding.
- John and Shepherd reported no conflicts of interest.



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Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Moved by Anna seconded by John.

Chair's Annual Report

- The Chair's Annual Report was circulated. It highlighted the advocacy done last year and the increase in national heritage funding. Submissions on the government's approach to the Treaty Bill were discussed.
- Acknowledgements were made to Mal for his oral submission on the WRC Coastal Plan. ACRE's in-person submission was well-received with positive feedback.
- Acknowledgement was given to the Kaitiaki River Sweepers and Rangatahi Voices for the River Clean Up supported by ACRE. The next river clean up event will possibly be in Paeroa.

Moved by Anna, seconded by John.

2025 Workplan with Roseanne Murray (Community Waikato)

Some of the ideas discussed

- Action: Add integrated catchment management committee moving forward.
- Continue to connect with Councillors - Greening Taupo Day was held, with positive feedback received from Michael Downard.
- Make submissions on the WRC Annual Plan
- Neville to share the date for the next workshop on Healthy Rivers and the National Policy Statement.
- Seek ACRE membership from North Waikato
- Continue informal advocacy.
- Share ACRE's submission with other groups, including the conservation board.
- Potential action on public transport and Rangatahi voices.
- Continue collaboration with Rangatahi Voices

Riparian Planting and Community Groups

- Keri Neilson shared a presentation on Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). Megan will share the PowerPoint with the minutes.
- WRC council confirmed it meets its obligations through the regional plan.
- The Waikato and Waipa areas have approved projects for Project Watershed.
- The restoration strategy will focus on non-regulatory methods in Te Ture Whaimana.
- Funding is available through Coromandel and Taupo, with groups being led outside the council but supported through iwi enterprises and co-funding.
- Leverage funding from the annual general rate, with no funding for restoration on public land, but proposals are in place for private ratepayers (e.g., replanting, traps, fencing).

Next Funding Opportunities



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1. The next funding cycle starts in April 2025, including NHF, ELF, and SSCIP.
 - The Shallow Lakes Program includes approximately 60 lakes in the region.
 - Planting and catchment management work is ongoing.
 - Lake level setting, freshwater programs, and coast care programs fall under biodiversity initiatives.
 - Technical advice and plant provision are available to community-led projects.
 - Weed maintenance continues as part of this program.
 - Some funding is available for mangrove removal in the Coromandel.
 - Other smaller funds exist for specific needs.
 - Weed and pest plant management is included in the biodiversity team's remit.
 - Riparian areas and willow management are part of the overall weed control strategy.

Future actions

1. A six-monthly review of the operational plan will be conducted.
2. ACRE Membership and roles will be discussed at the next hui.

Closing

- Neville closed the meeting with karakia

The meeting was adjourned at 5.00pm