

# **Environmental Reference Group Minutes**

**Monday, 3 November 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Committee Room 2

Howard Markland – in the Chair

## **Present**

Bev Abbott (Co-Chair)  
Howard Markland (Co-Chair)  
Nick Crocker  
Peter Gilberd  
Kate Mitcalfe  
Janet Young  
Martin Payne  
Mark Fenwick  
Stu Farrant  
Paula Warren  
Graeme Sawyer

## **Apologies**

Yvonne Legarth  
Councillor Ritchie  
Councillor Pannett

## ***WCC Officers***

Simon Wright  
Shanan Smith  
Myfanwy Emeny

### **1. Conflicts of Interest:**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **2. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Yvonne Legarth and Councillors Ritchie and Pannett.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as true and correct.

### **4. Performance measures:**

Shanan Smith outlined the scope of, and process for, a review of the Council's performance measures. The scope is a refresh of the existing suite of measures with a view to reducing the overall number of measures. The measures need to measure the 'right' things and be robust, transparent, reliable and realistic, and have target values. The process will include a review of issues in November, a review of output measures in December. Performance measures will be finalized in January and February in time for use in the Long Term Plan 2015-25.

The ERG will workshop the draft performance measures at its 1 December meeting. Discussions can be held online before and after the workshop via the ERG's Loomio account. Members should review the Council's Annual Report 2013/14 to see the current performance measures.

### **Actions:**

- Officers to workshop the new performance measures at the ERG meeting

on 1 December.

- Member to review the Council's Annual Report 2013/14 to see the current performance measures.

## **5. Biodiversity Action Plan:**

Myfanwy Emeny outlined how the new Biodiversity Action Plan will differ from the current Plan. Members then provided feedback on the working draft that had been circulated before the meeting. Feedback included:

- The Plan should be an opportunity to connect with business
- Local research will take a long time so, where possible, international research should be assessed to see if it is applicable
- Pest management should be done humanely and the Council should consider partnering with the SPCA
- Efforts to educate the public do not appear to be working regarding the contamination of stormwater. The Council could consider providing a carwash facility for community groups to use
- The document needs to communicate the Council's passion and commitment to biodiversity, and have a clear focus on identified priorities as well as identify who 'owns' the actions
- Should the focus be on improving existing biodiversity hotspots or more about developing areas that do not currently have good biodiversity?
- The Plan should 'mainstream' biodiversity. Even a road cutting can be good for biodiversity if planned from the start though this may require education within the Council
- The Plan could be made more nature-centric as opposed to organisation-centric, which would make clear the roles and the potential for collaboration between local authorities, the Department of Conservation and the community.
- The Council should consider how the Plan views biodiversity on other people's land and help people identify who owns plots.
- Practical guidance is needed on substrates that enable biodiversity to flourish and on how to improve biodiversity in particular contexts (e.g. on a flight path or near a forest remnant)
- Should the Plan use a pressure, state, response model?
- The subtitle of the Plan should make clear that the scope is broader than indigenous biodiversity given Wellington is urban. There should be a focus on eco-system services
- The Plan should ideally speak to people that are not that interested in biodiversity. Perhaps the Mayor's Forward could link the Plan to big ideas such as the 'Green Belt' and the 'Blue Belt'.
- The Plan needs to respond to Council plans to intensify residential areas.

Members were encouraged to provide Myfanwy with additional comments by Tuesday 11 November. The draft Plan goes to the Environment Committee on 16 December.

### **Actions:**

- Members to provide Myfanwy with additional comments on the Biodiversity Action Plan by 11 November.

## **6. Update on ERG Work Plan:**

The Council is still working on the ERG's agreed work programme letter. This will be considered at the next ERG meeting.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Letter to the Transport and Urban Design Committee**

A letter to the Transport and Urban Design Committee about areas of mutual interest was discussed. Paula will incorporate suggested changes to the letter and it will then be sent to the Chair of the Committee.

#### **Actions:**

- Paula to amend letter
- Simon to forward letter to the Chair of the Transport and Urban Design Committee

### **ERG meeting issues**

Lots of new members have recently joined the ERG, so members were given an opportunity to raise issues. The following issues were discussed:

- Not everyone knows everyone yet and it was suggested that meetings start with introductions. It was also agreed that members would send photos of themselves to Simon, who will add these to the member biographies.
- It was agreed to review which evening is best for ERG meetings. Simon will set up a poll with options for members to complete. Options will be for each day of the working week during the first week of the month.

#### **Actions:**

- Members to provide Simon with photos of themselves
- Simon to add photos to the ERG biographies
- Simon to set up a poll on the best day for ERG meetings
- Members to indicate meeting day preference via the poll

### **Suburb Reserves Management Plan**

ERG should consider submitting regarding Scenic B reserves.

### **Role of co-chair**

Howard and Bev are currently co-chairs. Howard flagged that he would like another member to take on his role. Ideally this would happen before Bev's term expires in February. Members were invited to consider standing to be a co-chair and let Simon know if interested. Members should contact Howard if they wanted to discuss the role.

#### **Actions:**

- Members interested in becoming a co-chair to contact Howard for more information and to register their interest with Simon