

Environmental Reference Group Minutes

Monday, 1 September 2014, 5:30-7:30 pm

Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Committee Room 1

Bev Abbott – in the Chair

Present

Howard Markland (Co-Chair)

Bev Abbott (Co-Chair)

Peter Gilbert

Claire Graeme

Paula Warren

City Councillors

Cllr Iona Pannett

Cllr Helene Ritchie

Apologies

Sophie Mormede

Nick Crocker

WCC Liaison Officers

Lisa Matthews

WCC Presenters

Myfanwy Emeny,

1. Apologies

Nick Crocker, Sophie Mormede on leave

2. Conflicts of Interest

None

3. Workshop for draft Biodiversity Action Plan

Myfanwy Emeny requested ERG's feedback on the Plan. Changes since the previous version are the creation of a new section called "Empower" to reflect the human element in the Plan. The previous "Identity" section has been changed to "Research".

Discussion:

- Whether "Empower" is the most appropriate word given potential for this to be interpreted as Council transferring responsibility to volunteers. Alternative words include involve, connect or engage. "Empower" requires resourcing.
- Importance of vision-setting at the beginning – set the scene with what is special about Wellington, for example, the Town Belt, Green Belt, and the scope of the plan.
- There is a need for more information/research to be publicly available, shared within the Council, and updated promptly.
- Need to see invertebrates reflected in the Plan (not just birds, other vertebrates and vascular plants).
- Definition and discussion of 'restore' is required.
- Explain interconnection with the District Plan. The District Plan needs to be updated to prevent the further loss of remnant bush and streams.

- Plan to reflect best practice and assess the effectiveness of regulatory provisions in protecting biodiversity.
- Consider the usefulness of rail corridors and roads (some people's only experience of biodiversity).

There are several community workshops to discuss the Plan and ERG are welcome to attend. Myfanwy also offered to come back to ERG for further discussion.

4. Update on development of ERG Work Programme

The work programme was updated following feedback at the last meeting. Bev Abbott met with Martin Rodgers, Councillor Pannett, Simon Wright (Research, Consultation and Planning), and Mark Jones (Policy) to discuss ERG's suggestions. Mark Jones presented a list of potential items suggested by Policy staff for the ERG work plan.

Most items on the ERG's proposed work programme were likely to be incorporated including the Biodiversity Strategy, and Long-Term Plan performance measures. Further discussion is needed on the following topics:

- ERG's potential involvement in stage 4 of the landfill .
- Martin Rodgers will come back to ERG regarding their view that the scope of Blue Belt is wider than matters likely to be covered in the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Other small projects are not so urgent (such as the Healthy Homes projects, implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design and the engagement plan for sea level rise).
- Clarification on the District Plan review timing, e.g. the need for better regulation of stormwater and clearance of indigenous vegetation.

Action:

- **Claire** to check which chapters in the District Plan are of interest to ERG.
- Lisa to clarify what developments are planned or underway in Johnsonville so ERG can decide whether this should be added to the work programme
- **Howard** to progress meeting Martin Rodgers regarding performance measures.
- **Lisa** to forward Martin's presentation on the Annual Report that included performance measures to ERG.

Next steps – Martin is to send a letter with a draft work programme and ERG will respond to that. The programme can be reviewed in six months (when new ERG members are in place).

5. Update on ERG recruitment and induction

Sea Rotmann to finish as her term is complete, Claire is resigning in October, and Peter and Bev complete their terms in February 2015. The plan is to recruit up to eight people now, and potentially two more in March 2015. Applications close next Monday and members were asked to encourage applications from their networks. An induction programme is being planned.

6. Minutes of last meeting

Confirmed.

7. Matters arising / updates

10 minutes

- Meeting with Capacity – ERG to request Capacity to come to an ERG meeting to give an update.
Lisa to invite Colin Crampton CEO of Capacity to October 20th meeting.
- Airport extension – Bev reported back on the next steps in the process following a discussion with Danny Combs of Council staff. The WIAL is expected to provide a report to the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee before Christmas. ERG decided to review the report as part of its work plan to establish whether the environmental impacts are balanced against development benefits.
- Transport Update _ Geoff Swainson to give a quarterly transport update and speak to ERG regarding the Basin Flyover. As part of this discussion, ERG identified that the draft ERG work plan did not yet include items from the transport and urban design components of ERG's expanded scope.
- Porirua Whaitua process – members encouraged to attend.

Action Points summary

- **Claire** to check which chapters in the District Plan are of interest to ERG.
- **Lisa** to clarify what is happening in Johnsonville
- **Howard** to progress meeting Martin Rodgers regarding performance measures.
- **Lisa** to forward sections of Martin's presentation on the performance measures in the draft Annual Report to ERG.
- **Lisa** to invite Colin Crampton CEO of Capacity to October 20th meeting.
- **Paula** offered to draft a letter from ERG to the deputy Chair of Council's Transport and Urban Design Committee on the environmental impacts of transport.

