

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

22 JULY 2020

AGENDA ITEM E1

REPORT FROM HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Purpose of Report

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

Recommendations

His Worship the Mayor recommends that Council:

1. *Receives the Report from His Worship the Mayor.*

1. Wellington Region Mayoral Forum

Meeting 1 – Date & Venue	Wellington Region Mayoral Forum Friday 26 June
Key issues from meeting	See attached minutes (appendix 1)
Specific item/s for Council consideration	Review of Covid Response for region underway – questions as to timing of review of Wairarapa specific response

2. Wellington Water Committee

Meeting – Date & Venue	Wellington Water Committee Lower Hutt 29/06/20
Speakers	Wellington Water
Key issues from meeting	Advertising of Board appointments

3. Infrastructure Commission

Meeting – Date & Venue	Infrastructure Commission 29/06/20 Mayor's Office
Speakers	David Broome
Key issues from meeting	Discussion on how the Infrastructure Commission can assist in quantifying all infrastructure requirements for SWDC
Specific item/s for Council consideration	Encouraging a full assessment of all infrastructure costs and risks

4. Wellington NZ

Meeting – Date & Venue	Wellington NZ John Allen, new GM 23/06/20
Key issues from meeting	How do we see our involvement with WNZ continuing
Specific item/s for Council consideration	Progressing the funding and implementation of the Wairarapa ED Strategy via WNZ's own strategy for the Wairarapa

5. Correspondence

5.1 Outwards

DATE	OUTWARDS	SUBJECT
10 June 2020	Raihānia Tipoki	Acknowledging resignation both as Chair and Member Māori Standing Committee and extending thanks for leadership and achievements.
12 June 2020	The team at Kaiwaiwai	Congratulations winning the 2020 Regional Supreme winner and winner of 5 other awards at the 2020 Greater Wellington Ballance Farm Environmental Awards.

6. Other Meetings and Engagements

DATE	ENGAGEMENT	DATE	ENGAGEMENT
04/06/20	Developer, West St development, on site – RE roading plan	27/06/20	Booktown event
05/06/20	Wairarapa Moana Ramsar planting with Minister Sage	28/06/20	Carkeek visit
05/06/20	Wai Water Resilience Meeting	01/07/20	Opening Ruamahunga Roads Depot
09/06/20	Wellington Regional Strategy Meeting	02/07/20	The Tank Guy meeting

DATE	ENGAGEMENT	DATE	ENGAGEMENT
09/06/20	Don and Ruth Hathaway Funeral		
09/06/20	Featherston Commemorates Meeting		
12/06/20	Wairarapa Eco Development Review		
12/06/20	Paul Broughton meeting		
15/06/20	MTFJ Meeting with Katie Brosnahan		
16/06/20	Wairarapa Joint Recovery Committee		
18/06/20	WEDS meeting		
19/06/20	Featherston Water crisis		
19/06/20	3 Mayors meeting		
26/06/20	NZSO with Mayor Foster		

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Minutes from Wellington Region Mayoral Forum

Appendix 2 – Minutes from Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Joint Committee

Prepared By: His Worship the Mayor, Alex Beijen

Appendix 1 – Minutes from Wellington Region Mayoral Forum

Minutes

Wellington Mayoral Forum Minutes

Friday 26 June 2020 at 10:30am held in the Council Chambers, Level 2, Upper Hutt City Council, 838-842 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

In attendance:

Mayor Wayne Guppy (Upper Hutt City Council (Chair)), Mayor Andy Foster (Wellington City Council (Deputy Chair)), Mayor K Gurunathan (Kāpiti Coast District Council), Mayor Campbell Barry (Hutt City Council), Mayor Anita Baker (Porirua City Council), Mayor Lyn Patterson (Masterton District Council), Mayor Alex Beijen (South Wairarapa District Council), Mayor Greg Lang (Carterton District Council) and Chair Daran Ponter (Greater Wellington Regional Council)

Peter Kelly (Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council), Barbara McKerrow (Chief Executive, Wellington City Council), Jo Millar (Chief Executive, Hutt City Council), Kathryn Ross (Chief Executive, Masterton District Council), Wendy Walker (Chief Executive, Porirua City Council), Greg Campbell (Chief Executive, Greater Wellington Regional Council), Jane Davis (Chief Executive, Carterton District Council), Kate Glanville (Strategic Policy Manager, Upper Hutt City Council), Lisa Kynaston (Governance Advisor, Upper Hutt City Council) and Heather Clegg (Upper Hutt City Council)

Apologies:

Wayne Maxwell (Chief Executive, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Harry Wilson (Chief Executive, South Wairarapa District Council)

Mayor Guppy acknowledged the passing of Police Constable Hunt in the line of duty at 10.37am, Friday 19 June 2020.

Item 1 | Wellington Electricity – resiliency issues facing the electricity supply in the Wellington region

Greg Skelton, Chief Executive and Ray Hardy, GM Asset Services, Wellington Electricity were present for this item.

Mr Skelton explained the process to date of resilience planning for Wellington Electricity, and the extent of the extra efforts required during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. He outlined the following:

- how Wellington Electricity delivered power to the three areas of the region – Southern, North-Western and North-Eastern areas;
- the progress of the company's earthquake readiness program, including seismic strengthening and splitting the central data centre into three locations. He added the project was scheduled to finish in March 2021, with no increase to customer bills anticipated. He noted the earthquake readiness timeline had been dependent on new legislation being progressed through parliament, which had now occurred;
- the Lifelines Projects, including two electricity projects – 33kV fluid cables replacement and Transpower Central Park Point of Supply. He advised that both were expensive projects, \$160M and \$30M respectively, but were vital to improve resiliency in the region. He noted that Council support would be required to complete both projects. He added that public consultation would be required for the Central Park project.
-

- that Wellington would experience a discount in transmission costs due to new rules, and this reduction would be used to help fund the Central Park project. No change in overall costs to customers was anticipated.
- that decisions would be required with Transpower on the Central Park project in the next four weeks, and requested all Mayors sign Appendix A – Draft Support Letter.

Action Point: Mayor Guppy to co-ordinate signatures on Appendix A – Draft Support Letter.

In response to a question, Mr Skelton advised that Kāpiti Coast was on a different system. He added Wellington Electricity would be happy to assist both Kapiti and the Wairarapa if any resilience issues arose.

Item 2 | RMA fast tracking process

Alistair Cross, GM Environment Management Group, Greater Wellington Regional Council was present for this item. He advised the following:

- There were three main streams to the fast tracking process –
 1. Listed large-scale government-led projects, including Metro rail upgrade and Petone to Ngauranga shared pathway;
 2. Referred projects that meet certain criteria:
 - Must have economic benefit, fulfil the four wellbeings and benefit future generations;
 - Provide significant public benefit with several criteria to meet e.g. employment, housing supply, development for urban environment, climate change;
 - Focus on employment imperatives.
 3. ‘Deemed Permitted Activities’:
 - Enable relatively minor activities to simply occur, with management of effects. This could extend to flood protection areas.
- Fast Tracking was a significant change from the status quo. Notification and public participation would not apply. Reduced amounts of information and time frames requirements. Did not have to hold a hearing, but could, and had narrow grounds for declining an application.
- What was not clear:
 - Role of councils in the process – how to input?;
 - Front loading and council assisting panels around advice and reporting;
 - Councils would be given the consent and conditions. It would be a complicated process to understand and enforce, as it would be difficult to enforce a project’s conditions when this had not been included in the process.
- An overview of the Local Government New Zealand submission:
 - Focus on role of councils in fast track process;
 - Could be a number of unintended consequences;
 - Cost recovery questions;
 - Fast track consenting grounds for decline should be extended and more regard given to local planning instruments e.g. District and Regional Plans;
 - ‘Deemed Permitted Activities’ should have any ambiguity removed; and
 - More formal notice of the notification process.

In response to a question from Mayor Foster, Mr Cross acknowledged there might be more large-scale projects named in the future, and that potentially the Ferry Port might be one.

Jo Millar suggested that as there were limited grounds for declining a fast tracked project, any such projects should be front loaded with clear deliverability plans and management plans already developed. She added lots of goodwill across regions would be required.

Mr Cross acknowledged Mayor Gurnathan's comments about obtaining Māori input into the fast tracking process. He explained it was still not clear how the principles of the Treaty would be incorporated, or how much input mana whenua would have throughout the whole process.

Mayor Lang stressed it was important to have iwi involvement from the start of a project.

Mayor Baker stated she was looking forward to the process starting, as it would benefit the region.

Item 3 | Environmental initiatives update

Chair Ponter provided an update on this item. He advised that all regional councils nationwide worked together during lockdown to produce a list of projects which would collectively cost \$1B, focussed on employment and environment initiatives. He added that whilst initially the Minister for the Environment was very receptive to the list, the movement had stalled somewhat, and he was working to bring it back to the forefront of the Minister's mind.

Greg Campbell advised the Wellington region could qualify for about \$200M-\$300M (17 projects were submitted for the region, with only two having requests for more information), and that it was frustrating to not receive much feedback from the Ministry. He added there appeared to be a communication breakdown between the Environment and Conservation Ministries.

Mayor Beijen asked that the local councils be engaged early in the process of each project, to ensure local taskforces could be used especially for planting projects.

Mayor Foster stated WCC was very keen to be involved.

In response to a question from Mayor Patterson, Greg Campbell stated no submitted projects were on Department of Conservation (DOC) land, however some did border DOC land and there could be cross over projects with DOC. He added councils could not make decisions on activities on DOC land.

Chair Ponter explained that not all the projects submitted were on Regional Council owned land and acknowledged none were within Porirua. Greg Campbell added that the list of submitted projects was for those that funding had not yet been secured for, and there was also a "waiting list" of projects.

Item 4 | Home Insulation

Chair Ponter provided an update on this item. He explained GWRC had operated Warm Greater Wellington for a number of years, using an approved set of suppliers, and that the uptake had dropped off over the past few years. He added that the model had been successful, and GWRC were looking to use the model to assist homeowners with water storage or solar panel installation. He asked that each local authority engage with GWRC regarding any healthy homes initiatives they were operating, noting that PCC and HCC had an insulation section listed on all LIM Reports, detailing whether a home had a home fitness certificate.

In response to a query from Mayor Baker, Chair Ponter acknowledged there were many businesses operating in the insulation field now, and that the interest rates charged by GWRC were being reviewed.

Mayor Beijen was keen to explore the initiative model for the Wairarapa.

Mayor Patterson advised the insulation initiative was useful in Masterton, especially given the area's poor air quality levels in winter.

Item 5 | Infrastructure (Shovel Ready)

Greg Campbell provided an update on this item. He advised there were 18 projects presented to central government as being ready to go in 18 months, adding that the process was very vague and light on detail. He stated 10 of those projects had been accepted to go forward to the next level of consideration and that there had been no timelines or indication of how much involvement regional and local councils would have in the final approved projects.

Wendy Walker advised any projects related to 3Waters would be on hold until the government announcement about future water management was released. Mayor Foster advised the government seemed to be signalling large water management entities, and that the issue of asset ownership was controversial. There was discussion on possible implications of a new water management regime, and that aggregation or amalgamation might occur.

Greg Campbell noted that the proposed purchase of a fleet of electric buses was not in the original list of 10 projects which had advanced, even though it was detailed in GWRC's Long Term Plan. He added the Ministry of Transport had requested further information regarding that project, and that it appeared the whole process was rapidly evolving.

With regards to Riverlink queries from Mayor Barry, Greg Campbell explained that \$10M of that project required for flood protection had been shortlisted, and that there had been no further response.

Item 6 | Approach to economic recovery

There was no discussion on this Item. Mayor Foster requested the matter be revisited as soon as possible as it was important to understand what each local authority was undertaking in response to the Covid-19 situation.

Item 7 | CE report back on proposed Regional Collaboration and Regional Economic Development

Luke Troy, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kim Kelly, Project Director – Wellington Regional Growth Framework were present for this item.

Peter Kelly provided a brief overview:

- Mayors and the Chair were trying to improve regional governance, on the back of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) committee discussions. It had been Covid-19 impacted.
- Discussions were occurring about how to establish a new joint committee structure, leveraging off the requirements that the Regional Growth Framework had imposed on regions. A formal decision-making body from the Wellington Region, speaking with one voice, was essential.
- Mana whenua should be part of any committee from the start, with Ministers being members for the Regional Growth Framework committee meetings.

Barbara McKerrow supported the principle of the establishment of a committee enabling a group of mayors and chair to facilitate a unified voice. She noted the Mayoral Forum remained an essential Forum, but that a decision-making committee would enable the region to progress.

Mayor Guppy was fully supportive of the proposal, as he believed the Wellington region would be left behind if the proposal was not progressed, with the end result being possible amalgamation.

Jo Millar advised that it was best to begin with a small number of functions and grow as confidence in the model grew. She stressed governance was essential.

Mayor Patterson supported the proposal. In response to her query, Peter Kelly explained that WRS would not conclude at this point and that it could be incorporated into the new committee.

Mayor Foster expressed concern that as WCC contributed more to the fund, they should have more than one vote. (There were currently four WCC representatives on the WRS). There was disagreement concerning this, and the general opinion was that each member council and mana whenua receive one vote.

Barbara McKerrow advised that discussions were still to occur with WellingtonNZ.

“That the Mayoral Forum agree in principle to:

- 1. Note and endorse the problem statement and the evaluation undertaken by the CE Forum***
- 2. Agree that the preferred solution is to:***
 - a. Create a new Joint Committee with membership of all mayors, the Chair and mana whenua.***
 - b. Invite central Government representative to participate in the Joint Committee on matters relating to the Regional Growth Framework.***
 - c. Create a new joint secretariat and policy advice function to advise the Joint Committee and to lead regional collaboration.***
 - d. Continue the role of the CE Forum in providing oversight.***
 - e. Identify a consistent funding mechanism to fund this new structure.***
- 3. Note that the Mayoral Forum, WRS Committee and other existing regional collaboration structures would be evolved into this new structure, possibly through the use of sub-committees or aligned working groups.***
- 4. Note that the establishment of a Joint Committee would require approval from all Councils and mana whenua.***
- 5. Consider the next steps, including the development of a terms of reference, engagement with individual Councils and mana whenua.”***

Mayor Guppy/Mayor Patterson

CARRIED

Item 8 | Regional Growth Framework

Luke Troy, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Kim Kelly, Project Director – Wellington Regional Growth Framework were present for this item.

Kim Kelly advised that Mr Bill Wesley chaired the Future Proof organisation for Hamilton/Auckland. It was agreed that he be asked to present to the Mayoral Forum in the near future.

Action Point: Officers to arrange for Mr Wesley to present to the next Mayoral Forum.

Kim Kelly provided an overview as follows:

- A major challenge was the lack of housing;
- There had been significant engagement up to this point; and
- briefly described each of the five steps undertaken leading to step six– the leading options (Option 2 and Option 5).

Chair Ponter left the meeting at 12.02pm.

Jane Davis requested a detailed map to be distributed to all councils as soon as possible. Mayor Baker expressed concern that PCC was about to advertise its District Plan review, and that their spatial work undertaken may be superseded by the regional framework requirements.

Kim Kelly assured the Forum that current local authority works and studies had been taken into account, and that all the identified land for growth would be required, if the region was to support the estimated additional 66,000 dwellings required.

Ms McKerrow left the meeting at 12.09pm

With regards the next steps, Kim advised of a workshop to be held on 10 August 2020.

In response to questions from Mayor Foster regarding weighting of criteria, transport impacts on each option and whether climate change had been factored into all options, Kim Kelly agreed that housing provision should have been weighted, and confirmed climate change and transport impacts were factors taken into account.

In response to further questions from Mayor Foster regarding assumptions on employment, Kim Kelly advised that retention of the Wellington CBD as the core employment base, but with nodes of employment near to places of residence had been assumed. She added that it was expected that over time District Plans would be changed to reflect the regional framework.

Item 9 | Confirmation of minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 24 April 2020 were confirmed as true and correct.

Mayor Guppy/Mayor Patterson

CARRIED

Item 10 | General Business

Mayor Guppy noted his concern about the recent government announcement that some government departments might be relocating to the regions. He advised each mayor should be aware of the situation in their own areas, and that as a region, this decentralisation move could have a huge negative impact. He suggested a discussion with the Minister of State Services should be organised and that a cohesive argument for maintaining Wellington bases be put forward.

Action Point: *Mayor Guppy to discuss the issue with the Minister of State Services.*

There was discussion concerning the impact Covid-19 lockdown had on workplaces, and that it had emerged many workers could work successfully remotely at home.

Item 11 | Mayor's Only Time (if required)

There was no Mayor's Only Time required.

The meeting closed at 12.36pm.

Appendix 2 – Minutes from Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Joint Committee



WAIRARAPA COVID-19 RECOVERY JOINT COMMITTEE Minutes from 16 June 2020

Present:	Mayor Lyn Patterson (MDC), Mayor Greg Lang (CDC), Mayor Alex Beijen (SWDC), Cr Brent Gare (MDC), Cr Rebecca Vergunst (CDC), Cr Rebecca Fox (SWDC), Robyn Potangaroa (Ngāti Kahungunu), Tirau TeTau (Rangitāne o Wairarapa), Jason Kerehi (Rangitāne o Wairarapa), Hera Edwards (Ngāti Kahungunu) via audio-visual conference until 2:15pm.
Officers In Attendance:	Dave Gittings (Wairarapa Recovery Manager), Kim Rudman (Alternate Wairarapa Recovery Manager SWDC), Kate Conroy (Alternate Wairarapa Recovery Manager CDC), Kathryn Ross (MDC Chief Executive) via audio-visual conference, Jane Davis (CDC Chief Executive), Euan Stitt (SWDC Group Manager Partnerships and Operations), and Suzanne Clark (Committee Advisor).
Conduct of Business:	The meeting was held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough and was conducted in public between 1:30pm and 2:41pm.

Open Section

Mayor Lyn Patterson assumed the Chair

Mr Potangaroa opened with a karakia.

A1. Election of a Chair

Mayor Patterson tabled information on the two voting systems as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002.

WAIRARAPA COVID-19 RECOVERY JOINT COMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRJC2020/01):

1. To use voting system A for election of a chair as follows:

The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee who are present and voting. This system has the following characteristics:

- (a) There is a first round of voting for all candidates;
- (b) If no candidate is successful in the first round, there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and
- (c) If no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third round, and if necessary subsequent rounds, of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

DISCLAIMER

Until confirmed as a true and correct record, at a subsequent meeting, the minutes of this meeting should not be relied on as to their correctness

In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person to be excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

(Moved Mayor Patterson/Seconded Cr Gare)

Carried

Mayor Patterson called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Cr Fox nominated Mayor Beijen.

This nomination was seconded by Cr Gare.

As there were no further nominations, Mayor Beijen was elected as the Chair of the Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Joint Committee.

Mayor Alex Beijen assumed the Chair

A2. Election of a Deputy Chair

Mayor Beijen called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.

Mayor Patterson nominated Mayor Lang.

This nomination was seconded by Mr Potangaroa.

As there were no further nominations, Mayor Lang was elected as the Deputy Chair of the Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Joint Committee.

A3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

A4. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

A5. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

A6. Actions from Public Participation

There were no actions from public participation.

A7. Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

B Decision Reports

B1. Recovery Plan Report

Members discussed the iwi liaison role and there was general agreement that iwi could provide input to the appointment of an iwi liaison member to the Recovery Project Team. Members discussed including the Department of Conservation as an Environmental Advisory Group and that Wairarapa Community Networks could be well placed to be the Advisory Group for all non-profit organisations in the Social

DISCLAIMER

Until confirmed as a true and correct record, at a subsequent meeting, the minutes of this meeting should not be relied on as to their correctness

Focus Area, ensuring that the scope provided for the Recovery Plan to be community led, the need for resources to enable implementation and community engagement, community input to date including issues and trends, establishing a baseline and then how success should be measured, the role of the Wellington Economic Development Agency for economic growth and recovery, identifying a lead for social recovery, ensuring hard to reach groups were engaged, and that the Recovery Plan was a living document and would be updated following engagement.

WAIRARAPA COVID-19 RECOVERY JOINT COMMITTEE RESOLVED (WRJC2020/02):

1. To receive the Recovery Plan Report.
(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Mr Potangaroa) Carried
2. To note the Draft Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Plan is the first version of the plan, and that the plan will be further developed with input from the Wairarapa community.
(Moved Mr Potangaroa/Seconded Cr Gare) Carried
3. To adopt the Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Scope.
(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Cr Vergunst) Carried
4. To endorse the Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Plan version 1.
(Moved Mayor Beijen/Seconded Mayor Lang) Carried
5. To agree that the Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Plan is further developed through each Council's upcoming engagements.
(Moved Cr Fox/Seconded Mayor Lang) Carried
6. To agree to refer to the Chief Executives to arrange resources to support the development of the Wairarapa Recovery Plan and actions.
(Moved Mr Potangaroa/Seconded Cr Gare) Carried

Confirmed as a true and correct record

.....(Chair)

.....(Date)

DISCLAIMER

Until confirmed as a true and correct record, at a subsequent meeting, the minutes of this meeting should not be relied on as to their correctness