

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	27 February 2023
Tāima Time:	9.30am – 12.30pm
Tauwāhi Location:	Zoom Online Meeting
Tuhinga Present	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald, (Deputy Chair) Northland Regional Council Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council Jane Sherard, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Kerrin Leoni, Auckland Council Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau Virginia Warriner, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
I Tae Mae In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, Kaipara Maurikura Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, Kaipara Maurikura Ben Hope, Ringa Pārongo, Kaipara Maurikura Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Kōawa, Kaipara Maurikura William Wright, Ringa-Hononga Mana Whenua, Kaipara Maurikura Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support, Kaipara Maurikura Brooke Waterson, Wai Tātai, Kaipara Maurikura Ilka Pelzer, Kaitātari Matua Senior Analyst, Ministry for the Environment (Observer) Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū Chief Executive, Northland Regional Council (Observer)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.40am

Karakia Timatanga and Whakatau

Secretarial note: Waka Kōtahi road closures, guidance under the National State of Emergency to avoid non-essential travel, concerns for safe travel after adverse weather event impacts in the period immediate prior to the Hui, and more adverse weather watches for the day of the Hui, led to a decision to modify the format for the Hui. The Hui was moved from a planned in-person meeting on marae, to be conducted fully remotely. Joint Committee Members were advised and consented to proceedings being livestreamed and recorded in order to be open to the public:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpsSmmytAZo&t=5122s>

Ngā whakapahā | Apologies (Item 1.0)

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

1. That the apologies from Kaipara Moana remediation Joint Committee Member Cherie Povey for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Ngā whakapuakanga | Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Confirmation of Minutes - December 2022 (Item 4.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support

Moved (Craw/Warriner)

1. That the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation meeting held on 1 December 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Joint Committee Action Tracker (Item 5.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support

Moved (Warriner/Curtis-Connelly)

1. That the 'Joint Committee Action Tracker' be received.

Carried

Joint Committee Forward Workplan (Item 5.2)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support

Moved (Sayers/Sherard)

1. That the report 'Joint Committee Forward Workplan' be received.

Carried

Reducing Barriers for Landowners (Item 6.1)

Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi

Moved (Macdonald/Sayers)

1. That the report 'Reducing Barriers for Landowners' by Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, and dated 15 February 2023, be received.
2. Note KMR staff are implementing initiatives endorsed in December 2022, specifically:
 - a. the development of Navigator projects.
 - b. funding of native planting on hill slopes near waterways with high sediment yield risk; and
 - c. pre-ordering of 400,000 plants for the 2023 winter planting season.
3. Note KMR staff have identified additional actions that will help reduce barriers to landowner participation in KMR.
4. Agree that Whenua Whānui Fund grants can cover up to 70% of estimated project costs to address cost barriers to participation.
5. Note that KMR staff will continue to explore other avenues to reduce costs to landowners and KMR, for example the development of third-party funding streams.
6. Agree that Whenua Whānui Fund grants under \$5,000 can be paid upfront to grantees once a contract is signed to reduce administrative burden, noting that projects remain subject to usual support, monitoring and sign off.
7. Agree that for large projects with high sediment reduction benefits the Pou Tātaki has discretion to approve grant funding of projects above the current per property limit of \$40,000 per annum, provided the average annual value of \$40,000 KMR grant per property is not exceeded over 5 years, up to a total cap of \$200,000 per landowner.
8. Note that the Kaipara Maurikura will continue to exercise operational discretion in application of these changes, if agreed, based on an assessment of risk, including the ability of the applicant to deliver the project.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Member Craw asked if Improvement 1 would pose any risk to the Deed of Funding. The Maurikura responded that the expected amount to make this change would come within existing allocations of Council (and other) funding. The Pou Tātaki added that in future KMR may choose to fund future (wider) sediment remediation activities at differing ratios, for example in cases where mitigation activities are at a larger scale, have third party co-funding or can generate other revenue streams. The Maurikura is confident the fiscal envelope will be maintained for both Councils as required under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as well as the 50/50 co-funding expectation across the programme in line with the founding MoU.

Member Carmichael indicated a desire to prioritise those landowners who had suffered loss due to recent weather events. Pou Tātaki responded that KMR did not envisage any trade-off decisions at this point – there was a need to accelerate both recovery of existing KMR projects affected by the recent adverse weather, and incentivise landowner participation in new projects. Member Carmichael then raised the potential risk of loss of new planting in future flood or Cyclone events, and suggested KMR could adopt a longer term view in its operational decision-making. The Maurikura responded that the proposed rate of scale up of KMR is appropriate for now, and that our current operational processes were designed to ensure resilience for landowners to future weather events. The Maurikura agreed that there may be additional ways, for example, through future Soil Conservation settings, to optimise sediment remediation investment to achieve wider co-benefits (e.g. climate resilience, flood resilience, etc).

Member Carmichael questioned if consideration had been given to modifying riparian planting distances to ensure projects did not contribute to flooding. Maurikura responded that this is an active conversation between Field Advisors and landowners as Sediment Reduction Plans are developed, and is taken into account already. The Pou Tātaki indicated that the Recovery package also allows for the option to amend KMR plans in response to recent weather events (for example, by moving current or planned projects to reduce risk from future weather events). Member Sherard reminded the Committee that the recent weather events revealed extensive new flooding, slips and stability risks. The Maurikura would be looking into how we might better understand areas of new or increased risk. KMR had recently amended its water-adjacent planting types in light of recent research. Generally, KMR's wet zone plants utilise species that are highly resilient to flooding, but there was agreement that some riparian planted areas have not been as resilient to flooding as expected.

The Chair requested the map of Navigator projects be shown relative to existing KMR projects. The Chair stated that KMR cannot resolve the impacts of recent weather events, but that it poses an opportunity to build confidence and encourage input from Third Parties, while making informed decisions about converting existing activities. The idea being that KMR's Recovery activity should focus here, as opposed to considering only new EOIs and their merit. It was raised that while KMR's core focus is sediment remediation, our work can intersect with flood management, and this needs to be taken into account in terms of KMR's understanding, investment and direction.

Member Blackwell indicated that KMR needed to be aware not only of flooding damage to planting, but wind damage. In addition, maintenance of planting needed to continue beyond the 6 years of funding.

Member Warriner asked about retrospectivity, i.e how the Maurikura would communicate to Whenua Whānui Fund (WWF) project holders about the changes in WWF funding settings, with an interest in maintaining trust and equity. The Maurikura responded that there were a very small number of projects (3 completed projects, 3 contracted projects) affected and that we would ensure kano ki te kano ki conversations with them all, noting that most KMR projects were multiyear and they would be eligible for the new policy settings from now on. Member Carmichael spoke in support of Member Warriner's comment and indicated a desire to offer support on a needs basis to those who have already given investment. The Maurikura noted it had some discretion in respect of planned WWF projects in the pipeline, and agreed that supporting our front-runner projects and landowners so they continued to take action into the future was critical.

Pou Tātaki Report (Item 6.2)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Sayers)

1. That the report 'Pou Tātaki Update', by Justine Daw and dated 13 February 2023, be received.

Moved (Sherard/Carmichael)

2. That the Joint Committee provide direction to the Kaipara Maurikura on the proposed KMR Recovery Package.

Carried

With an acknowledgement of the significant damage wrought by flooding, landslides and wind across the catchment, and in line with KMR's Memorandum of Understanding and *Jobs for Nature* Deed of Funding, it was further moved that an additional motion be received.

Moved (Macdonald/Craw)

3. To allocate funds as required from the KMR workforce budget to mobilise accredited KMR fencing and planting contractors to repair and restore KMR-funded project works, including those delivered via KMR delivery partners, where landowners are seeking assistance and this assistance is not otherwise funded

Carried

Secretarial Note: Deputy Chair Macdonald noted the importance of a holistic conversation in the future where climate change mitigation and adaptation are acknowledged as fundamental issues, and what opportunities there are to bring them up alongside the forefront issue of sediment reduction. Member Craw agreed with the Deputy Chair, and acknowledged the need to take an integrated approach, while being aware that we cannot relitigate the scope of the KMR project. Member Craw also encouraged 'educated guesses' from the Maurikura where action was to be prioritised, and recommended that we will need clear, separate criteria should KMR introduce exotic species into future investment settings.

Chair Te Rangi clarified that despite integrated thinking, KMR is a specific and direct programme, and must avoid getting 'tangled' in aspects too far beyond sediment remediation. Te Rangi indicated that all landowners need to be treated on the same level and offered the same pathways. In articulating what assistance KMR can provide, it's important to remain in the lane we're in command of, that being our MoU with the Crown and Local Government while adapting to the recent weather events, and providing Recovery support. The Pou Tātaki responded with belief that KMR can honour the KMR MoU while delivering wider benefits such as those mentioned, and ensuring adequate responsiveness and agility to the new and growing risks and opportunities also discussed. Deputy Chair Macdonald raised that the Recovery may require additional staff capacity and recommended secondment support. The Pou Tātaki signalled willingness to consider secondment support, acknowledging that even though the Recovery package was intended to be delivered in a time-effective way through direct additional contracts with existing KMR accredited contractors, there would likely still be an additional burden on the Maurikura to manage.

Member Carmichael suggested that recent events may encourage uptake of new projects, and the Maurikura agreed that that would be a silver lining from the adverse weather events.

Member Craw asked whether there was opportunity to integrate KMR projects with those that assist infrastructure protection (e.g. slips across railway lines). While KMR could not invest in consent-driven planting, KMR was open to discretionary planting on public lands, where there was high erosion potential. The Pou Tātaki requested any relevant contact details from Member Craw for further exploration of this idea.

Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme Draft Six Month Report (Item 6.3)

Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi

Moved (Macdonald/Warriner)

1. That the report 'Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme Draft Six Month Report' by Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and dated 10 February 2023, be received.

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Leoni)

2. That the 'Draft Six Month report' document (Appendix One) be approved in principle.

3. That the Chair and Deputy Chair are delegated the power to approve a final draft of the Six Month Report for provision to the Ministry for the Environment, with the Pou Tātaki also delegated to make minor editorial changes prior to submission if required.

Carried

KMR interests management: OAG response (Item 6.4)

Report from Ben Hope, Ringa Pārongo

Moved (Sherard/Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Conflict of Interest and LAMIA update' from Ben Hope dated 27 February 2023.

Moved (Warriner/Curtis-Connelly)

2. Note the response from the Office of Auditor-General, which acknowledges the unique role of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee and provides a framework for managing interests for Joint Committee members in the near term.
3. Note the reminder for all Joint Committee members to advise any new or changing interests as early as possible to ensure Kaipara Maurikura staff can effectively manage these in day-to-day operations.

Carried

Correspondence (Item 6.5)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support

Moved (Macdonald/Sayers)

1. That the report 'Correspondence' by Sophie Bone, PA and Governance Support and dated 1 February 2023, be received.

Carried

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm