Minutes of the

Inaugural Mount Air Quality Working Party meeting

Held at the Armoury Room, Classic Flyers, Mt Maunganui

on Monday 7 December 2020 – 1pm to 3.30pm

**Chair:** Graeme Marshall

**Attendees:** Pia Bennett (Ngāi te Rangi rūnanga); Cr. Matemoana McDonald (BoPRC Councillor); Cr. Dawn Kiddie (TCC Councillor); Emma Jones (Clear the Air Mt Maunganui); Joel Ngatuere (Whareroa Marae); Cr. Stacey Rose (BoPRC Councillor); Cr Heidi Hughes (TCC Councillor); Dr Jim Miller (Medical Officer of Health, Toi Te Ora Public Health); Dr Claire Isham (Western Bay of Plenty Primary Health Organisation – PHO); Dominic Adams (Ballance Agri-nutrients); Charlie Bourne (Ballance Agri-nutrients); Aroha Kopae (Ngāti Kuku); Kathy Ngatai (Whareroa); Kiri Peita (WBOP PHO); Lindsey Webber (WBOP PHO); Jessica Phillips (Ministry for the Environment)

**Working Party support:** Sanjana France (BoPRC Communications & Media); Stephen Mellor (BoPRC Compliance Manager, Industry and Urban); Barbara Dempsey (General Manager Regulatory Compliance, TCC); Sarah Omundsen (General Manager Regulatory Services, BoPRC)

**Scribe:** Reece Irving (BoPRC)

**Apologies:** Cr Thompson (BoPRC); Pete Chandler (Chair, DHB).

**Mihi Welcome:** Joel Ngatuere Whareroa. Welcome to the whenua of Ngāti Kuku. Acknowledgement to all parties in the room and extended whānau across the rohe.

Karakia to **Tāwhirimātea** (Atua of weather / wind)

**Introductions, background, aims for the Working Party.**

Members introduced themselves, sharing their background and what they would like to see as a result of investing time in the Working Party. The Chair acknowledged the passion that exists for the kaupapa in front of the group and that everyone is striving for the same goals, which is a clean environment for now and future generations. *Seek first to understand before being understood*. Adopt this into our process and undertake robust kōrero.

**Context of the Working Party**

Regional Council staff provided a background to the Working Party and why it has been established.

The community have long expressed their concerns about air quality in residential areas of Mount Maunganui in proximity to the Mount Industrial Area. The Regional Council has been hearing these concerns for at least the past 10 years.

As a result, air quality monitoring in the Mount Industrial area and around the Port of Tauranga has expanded with a new network fully commissioned two years ago. The results of the first 12 months of monitoring lead to the Airshed being gazetted by the Minister, and being declared polluted on that same day.

The Regional Council have implemented a number of initiatives to improve air quality and reduce emissions, many of which are ongoing. The Working Party aim is to bring together all parties with responsibility to and interest in improving air quality in the Mount area.

**Summary of aspirations of the Working Party**

Collaboration, co-operation, cohesion and understanding. Look beyond the current air quality standards, bring in transformational thinking. All parties working to bridge the gap but understanding there is a regulatory aspect to some agencies.

**General discussion points**

* **Terms of engagement:** respect and mana for all members
* **Expand the membership**:
  + More industry representation is needed around the table – invite the five significant industries as a start.
  + Ngāti Kuku and Ngāi Tukairangi representation is required
  + An additional community representative would be a helpful support for Clear the Air, potentially the Tauranga Moana Fumigation Action Group
  + Note that experts from other agencies might be required to attend from time to time (e.g. KiwiRail, NZTA)
  + It would be great to have a youth voice at the table, such as a member of the Mount Maunganui College Environment Committee
* **Build understanding on how we have got here, and what the causes of pollution are**:
  + Historical development information will be circulated to members
  + Air pollution inventories will also be circulated showing various contributors - industry, traffic, rail, domestic heating and shipping.
* **Agencies at the table need to be very clear about their roles**, and what they could do to improve environmental and health outcomes for the Mount communities. This includes working better together – for example, if a new consent in the Mount area will result in increased truck movements, the impact this has on air quality needs to be recognised.
* **Need narrative and stories from the community:** what are the impacts for the wider Mount community of living adjacent to a polluted airshed?
* **Draft Terms of Reference:** these are a critical part of guidance determining where the Working Party moves going into the future. The most important part is the purpose, so we need to be very clear around agreement on the purpose.
  + Need to revise with a Vision; Mission; Purpose; Core Values
  + Recognise that clean air is essential for good human and environmental health
  + Expand the membership as per discussion
  + Require regular attendance, or seek alternative representation
  + Don’t just reference a single contaminant (e.g. PM10 – this should apply to all discharged contaminants in the airshed
  + Everyone at the table needs to be accountable for actions going to back to their organisations and communities.

**Moving Forward**

**Meeting frequency:** Bi-monthly (six per year)

**Meeting time:** Two hours, mornings preferable

**Meeting locations:** rotating venues between Working Party members who are able to host

**Next meeting host:** Whareroa Marae. Late February 2021.

**Actions prior to next meeting (for staff)**

* Update Terms of Reference and circulate to Working Party members for further review
* Set up an email group including all representatives
* Circulate the historical development information that TCC and BOPRC have prepared
* Presentations for next hui:
  + Define the roles and responsibilities of each agency around the table
  + Overview of the air quality inventories that have been done in the area – what are the sources of air pollution
* Invite the Port of Tauranga, Waste Management, Lawter and J Swap to be part of the Working Party
* Invite Mount College and TMFAG to be part of the Working Party
* Work with Whareroa to establish as suitable date and time for hosting the next meeting.

**Closing**

The Chair concluded by sharing his view that establishing the Working Party, and with the representatives around the table, Tauranga Moana could become an exemplar of how air quality is managed in New Zealand.

Closing Karakia to **Tangaroa**, Atua of seas, lakes, rivers and the creatures within.