

Agenda outline

Kai and Our Community: Doing Things Differently | Wednesday 28 October 2020

Puna Ora Meeting Room, Takapuwahia, Porirua

Kia ora koutou, please find a copy of the notes from our Hui within.

‘Growing a food resilient region together where everyone has access to good food’

10.00am	Welcome and introductions
10.15am	Developments since the July Hui Working with the Mayoral Forum
10.30am	A Network: Why we are planning to do things differently for a more resilient approach to kai in our community
10.45am	Morning Tea
11.00am	How will we develop the Network <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would you like the Network to be known?• How would you like to build a common vision and mission together?
12.00 noon	Lunch
12.45pm	What <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What would you like the Network to see and do next?• What would you like to give or bring to the Network?
1.15pm	How can we tell when the Network is effective?
1.45pm	Next steps
2.00pm	Finish

HUI NOTES FROM GROUP FACILITATION

Summary of Hui 1

- Sense the lockdown of COVID revealed the reality
- Shortages of people not being able to volunteer, food shortages- value local food
- Be solutions focused, shared resources, shared partnerships
- Work together when it's sensible
- Opportunity we can't let go

Led to aim of the network

Priorities

- Moving from a fragile system to one that is robust
 - Having those most affected being the leaders of change
 - Creating effective measures to capture data
 - Building connectedness and interconnection with each other regionally
 - Building a circular economy rather than thick lines of hierarchical disconnect
 - Sense of agency from members
 - Supporting those who are elderly and are isolated, and supporting volunteers for people to connect.
 - Build on and connect positive things that are happening in the system
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Jane and Julia

- Find a way to connect and collaborate more.
 - In the middle of organisations are human beings.
 - Respond to a real solutions: 2 ½ thousand meals per week as had resilient farmers (from prison).
 - Applied for funding. Hutt Council- funding us to have these conversations around the valley: RPH also supports this to help this be a regional development.
 - What does it look like when we start connecting regionally? What does this look like?
 - Going forward- shift these around the region to get good ideas.
 - Upcoming mayoral forum is an important place for us to be standing in.
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Justin

- Collaboration, an idea that makes sense intuitively so that we're stronger together. Collaboration takes sacrifice
 - Would like to be able to take something to the Mayoral Forum that shows what we can together create a significant impact to community members that also fits in with the mayor's projects.
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What can mayors not do without to ensure that food is grown that everyone has access to?

Collaboration

- Collaboration needs to be supported, and that includes financial support.
- The work of collaborating together needs to be supported by all mayors.
- Total community inclusion process. Everyone owns it, and everyone benefits from it.



Urban Farms

- Regional farming network with some urban farms that are bigger and are centres.
- Urban farms that are centres. This reduces waste as able to identify where surplus and demand is. Can have kai cycle alongside this.
- If there were centres of excellence then they could support the smaller farms.

Coordinated Approach

- Network- no duplication or overlapping of service.
- Having a clear pathway to access for food needed so that people know where to go for food that is needed. If coordinated, can organise where certain foods are grown and fit this in to where they fit better.
- Localising food systems for food that is provided to schools rather than having lots of plastic waste.
- Advocacy that we can do as a network and hone in on those who have the skills to do this so that they can be well supported.

- Councils are planning where food is grown together. To ensure that the council development planning is keeping food security at number one focus.
- Creating resilience rather than dependence: say funding is for a year, fix a problem and then lose that funding. There's no resilience.
- Understanding what our supply line looks like and where the weaknesses might be in that. Build greater resilience as we know where the deficits are. This then allows us to know what we can grow in our own backyard and how this fits in with what we want it to look like.
- Sustainable living and food is what we're aiming for.

Initiatives

- Gardening
 - Paid green gardener (use different word). Shows people how to grow foods, run workshops. Having someone whose job it is to assist people to grow food.
 - If there's money for low-decile schools to be provided with access to grow gardens etc., can have better food for these communities.
 - Community gardens are so small, the food that's grown in them will be gone in a week. Community gardens not sole answer, but part of it.
 - Create a marakai region.
 - Pre-COVID, gardens were not working however now they're working.
- Education
 - Investment in education so that it's not just a one-off quick fix. Have education at a regional level. Decentralised gardens with centralised organisations. Economy of scale of having education centralised. Coordination needs to be centralised to maximise outcomes.
 - Education about what to do with food
- Lunch in schools
 - Importance of lunch in schools being local. The wider administration still going to the local farmers, and making sure that this money is being kept here, never shipping food or money out, to solve these problems and enhancing the region.
 - Food network: be the fronting funnel for feeding children with sovereignty
- Marae
 - Marae different kettle of fish as they already have tools that feed their communities.

Water

- Ideas on how to best use water to grow sustainable food. Sharing ideas on how to best use water. Need to rely on each other for this to work.

Localising the food system

- Shift to re-localising food.
 - Creating a local food economy as locals want to feed locals. 'Doing local for local'.
 - Economies of scale: if keep fruit and vege in region, can support local in the long-run.
 - Using state owned land to grow trees, etc. in spare space: would require a paid gardener to look after this and would need to be supported by community groups.
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Anita (Porirua Mayor)

Would the mayoral forum be interest in this? Yes. Growing food is great, also need wider support around this as people don't know what to do with food.

See's the importance of council gardens

Julia: What would strengthen Porirua if there was a regional response and that mayors were making decisions around food collectively.

Anita: Supports that idea as would like to see us as one region.

Acknowledges that there is need everywhere, but would like to lead the parcels that are being distributed.

What's wrong with the current system?

- Currently model isn't working
- Spatial plans are disconnected
- Silos
- Making decisions without seeing the bigger picture
- Identification of knowledge and skills: low matauranga for families
- Short term thinking is dominating decision making.
- Access to the supermarket and food sources
- Growing food is seen for privileged however we want all of our people to be able to do this.
- Costs of setting up a kitchen etc.
- Distribution of good food is not equitable.
- Lots of food is waste yet people can't access the food they need.

Why a network?

- Want to feel supported
- Power in numbers to get things moving at a higher level.
- Challenging to advocate separately, benefit of the collective
- Supporting a food community that really supports our people
- Together we can look at now, intermediate and systemic change.

- Together we can help educate families about food they can grow and create
- Top down meeting the bottom up and that lens that comes with decision making: considering how this is going to impact on food security and how this also links in the te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Sense that we can go further and better together.
- Feeding those on the way through to food equity.
- Building mana and resilience
- Disconnect between demand and supply: linking this to foodbanks.

Think about how you'd like the network to be known

- Seen as being united and doing things together.
- All in this together
- Moving and growing together
- Transparency of sharing knowledge and skills
- Resilience and being supported
- Revolution
- Characteristics of the movement, focus and ways of working together to ensure that the movement comes together to be a movement.



How would you like to grow a current vision?

- A creative and engaging experience
- Heart space rather than headspace
- Words not just concepts
- Small group who are design team that they can draw from community and wider and using that to craft the 'thing'.
- Knowing your story and sharing with others to find the common threads, then further sharing this.
- Harvesting as collective vision and doing this with the community
- Cycle of feedback and constant reassessment on values, goals, policies and statements that might need to be worked through and feedback.

What would you like the network/movement to do next and what would you or your organisation like to bring to this?

- Collaborating with networks
 - Better communication.
 - Making sure that everyone who needs to be included are included.

- Creating a list of who is missing from this group both lived experience and stakeholders.
- Long-term vs. short-term and resilience mixed with current goals and also linking this to need.
- Funding for a conversation rather than funding for practical things.
 - what time-frame does this network focus on
 - Keeping the dialogue going
- Needs assessment that focuses on what us and our community needs
- Understanding what already exists in NZ and in our region.
- Shared vision
- Bringing the COVID opportunity to forefront
- Community-led framework for resources and funding: movement from the bottom.
- What does a journey from food charity to food resilience look like- pinpointing this journey and steps
- Bring people in power from the beginning so they can see the journey from the start
- Membership where everyone has responsibilities: giving and sharing relationship
- Value of social media and sharing stories from communities: creating a pool of resources that we can co-share and a work programme that allows us to do some stuff, not just talk about stuff.

What you'd like to bring to the group?

- Sharing of ideas, skills and insights
- A more equitable contribution
- Commitment to the systemic
- Connecting with each other and with each other.
- Bringing passion, enthusiasm and energy
- Bringing a perspective of older volunteers
- Allowing older volunteers to be involved for wider purpose
- Looking at data with different eyes: what are some observations we should make.
- Need to have paid coordination to keep process happening.
- Having this with heart based underneath for the paid coordination within the collective. Easy to get out of synch.
- Build on NZ's desire and passion to help.
- A common unity: everyone was on level playing field when it came to COVID-19.
- Staying united is the biggest, most powerful tool we have

Next steps and the mayoral forum

Moving from food security charity to food sovereignty and resilience

- There will be situations where people need food given to them, however we want it to be less than it is now.
- What do we keep from food charity?
- Resilience allows for a reduction in food waste and an increase in composting.
- The cycle of food management on how it's regurgitated for whanau to manage
- We still need to feed our vulnerable people.
- To get from A-B will take many years.
- Need to map where we are.
- Develop strategies to shift across the region.

Working Together

- This journey is going to take a long time. To change the shape of the wellington regions food system. This could take a generation to change.
- How do we create a mandate, and how do we make decisions together as a network?
- What are the barriers to people not being here? May not have funding or backing to be here. May just be a time issue.
- Being intuitive, adaptive and agile.
- If the network sends something to the mayors, have the network add all of their logos to this to strengthen this.

Financial Investment

Consider other funders. Producing a lens for decision making that look at long-term smart decisions rather than short-term ones for all councils, on the basis that we communicate back to the network and do your best to make sure that this progresses an increasingly meaningful mandate.

Including Iwi

- Iwi: lots of fingers in lots of environmental pies so would be good to be able to bring these conversations to the table.

Council Involvement

- If it's going to be noticed, it needs to be invested in.
- Mayors will be wanting to report on it if they invest in it.
- There are other people that are interested in if this is going well.
- Can we ask them to have time to develop a lens to get a good idea of what's going on across council?
- Bargaining off them in relation to their lens.

- Putting those glasses on.
- Understanding strategic development of councils.
- Celebrate the councils that are doing food stuff well and ask what other councils are doing in relation to this.
- Feeding kids in schools: is this making an overall change to this or are you providing a quick fix or an industry out of that problem.

12-month plan

Proposing that we spend the next 12 months doing that really well- having relationships developed, things started. Funding a 12 month project to develop 'that'.

Key themes

- People are at the heart of the work we do- important to make sure that our most vulnerable are being included in these discussions as well as key decision makers.
- Collaboration needs support and this needs be financial. Collaboration takes sacrifice.
- Network is developed to prevent duplication of services.
- Develop clear pathway of food network (growers, places to access etc.)
- Investment in education of the food system starting with gardening.
- Advocacy as a group



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