

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES BAY OF PLENTY (COBoP) UPDATE FROM THE STEERING GROUP: March 2010

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Welcome to our March update.

IN THIS EDITION:

1. COBoP Plenary date reminders for Signatories
2. Progress on COBoP priorities
3. COBoP Cluster News and Updates
4. Changing focus for local government
5. Central government changes from a regional perspective
6. COBoP Website

1. DATES for Signatories to remember

FRIDAY 19th MARCH- COBoP PLENARY MEETING (Signatories)

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- Plenary Group meeting – 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch - 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- **Economic Wellbeing Cluster meetings** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER – COBoP PLENARY MEETING (SIGNATORIES)

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- Plenary Group meeting – 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch - 1:00 - 1:30 pm
- **Tentative Cluster meetings** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

Please contact Barbara MacLennan at: Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz with any queries.

2. COBoP PRIORITIES 2010

Since our last update in December, the Steering Group has met once, in February. In addition to forward planning, we acknowledged the contribution of Vaughan Payne (CE Opotiki District Council), who has been an active COBoP contributor and Steering Group member. Vaughan commences his new role as Transport and Policy Manager at Environment Waikato, on March 15th. Diane Turner (CE Whakatane District Council) will step into the Steering Group role until the new Opotiki appointment is made and ongoing representation can be finalised among local government Chief Executives.

The Steering Group reviewed COBoP priorities for 2010, and our high level focus (which last year was on Deputy Secretary engagement) has become:

Priority A: Maintaining and enhancing BoP/COBoP profile in Wellington, with the aim of strengthening our influence there

- a) to increase Wellington awareness about Bay of Plenty priority development areas, and

- b) to ensure awareness of the COBoP network's ability and readiness to work with Wellington to achieve enhanced local and regional outcomes that contribute to national wellbeing.

Priority B: Supporting regional job summit recommendations

- a) Working together to support Maori development capacity and capability in the region.

Progress to Report: *A Cultural Wellbeing Cluster meeting has been called for 17th March. This follows the release of regional reports including Maori Assets in the Wairariki region, and Maori Entrepreneurship.*

- b) Enhancing and leveraging regional networks to share information

Progress to report: *Support of an entry to the IPANZ Public Sector Excellence Awards, of the development of Bay of Connections and the Regional Aquaculture Strategy - New Zealand's first, and profiles information about the "joined up" BoP region.*

(See <http://www.bayofconnections.com>;
http://www.bayofconnections.com/Regional_Strategy/sectors/aquaculture.asp)

COBoP has also been involved in a new network among among Tertiary Education leaders in the region, with a focus on exploring opportunities for collaboration around the regional economic development strategy, and other "joined up" strategies.

- c) Supporting sustainable aquaculture development in the eastern Bay of Plenty including the Opotiki harbour development

Progress to report: *COBoP Steering Group Chair, Stephen Town, is on the Opotiki Marine Advisory Group, which brings together key parties involved in the aquaculture and harbour development potentials. This ensures consideration of, and linkage to, wider Bay of Plenty local and central government interests, and potential support. (See www.opotikiharbour.co.nz;
http://www.bayofconnections.com/Regional_Strategy/sectors/aquaculture.asp)
[November 09 Opotiki Harbour Development Update](#))*

Priority C: Better aligning our individual work programmes to provide more efficient and effective service delivery for our communities.

Progress to report:

Bay of Plenty Productivity Forum 8th April 2010 – Register now!

COBoP Economic Wellbeing Cluster Chairperson Lionel Crawley(NZTE) has been instrumental in organising the Bay of Plenty Productivity Forum for 8th April 2010. The programme includes a focus on service organisations, such as central and local government. Registrations are open for this full day Forum, being held in Tauranga, and including international speakers, informative workshops and trade displays.

For more information and to register contact:

Jenny Milson 07 577 3034 or jenny.milson@nzte.govt.nz.

Seats are limited, to guarantee your place, please register by 5pm Wednesday 31 March

3. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING and WHAT'S COMING UP?

Firstly, some COBoP Signatory changes. Welcome to Miles McConway who is Acting Chief Executive of Opotiki District Council, on secondment from Environment Bay of Plenty. Also welcome to Brendon Gardner, who is now BoP based, and will represent Ross Jones,

Regional Manager of Career Services. And welcome to Gerard Horgan, from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, replacing John Vaney who retired from the public service last month, after 41 years of service to forestry.

COBoP CLUSTER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY 17th March – Cultural Wellbeing Cluster meeting

- Time: 10.00-12.30
- Venue: Te Puni Kokiri House, 1218 Haupapa Street, Rotorua
- Contact: Wally.Tangohau@tpk.govt.nz

FRIDAY 19th March – Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting

- Time: 1.30-3.30
- Venue: Rotorua District council
- Contact: Lionel.Crawley@nzte.govt.nz

WEDNESDAY 24th March - Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting

- Time: 12.00(noon) -3.00
- Venue: MSD Regional Office, Floor 2, 1207 Pukuatua St, ROTORUA
- Contact: Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz

COBoP CLUSTER UPDATES

Communications protocols: Once finalised, Cluster meeting agendas and records are circulated to the Plenary (Signatories) Group by the Strategic Broker. Cluster Chairs, and leaders of any project work within Clusters, are responsible for circulating agendas and meeting records within Clusters and project groups.

Community Outcomes Processes (COP) Cluster

(led by Anne O'Malley, Tauranga City Council)

The Cluster has met on 20 November and 12 February to focus especially on implications of the Government's review of local government, and pending legislative changes. (Referred to as Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Management – TAFM – see previous Updates and links for further information).

Given anticipated changes, and decisions by local government already in the BoP, the Cluster anticipates it may not need to continue, but monitoring and reporting aspects it has been overseeing will need to be attended to.

No further decisions will be taken however, until after the introduction of the Local Government Amendment Bill No 2, anticipated for release in April.

A briefing about the contents of the Bill, and likely impacts, will be organised and the wider COBoP network will be welcome to attend.

Key messages from the Cluster to the Steering Group were: a real desire to keep the COBoP network going regardless of any legislative changes; and to focus on strategy and not just on frontline activities (eg strategic thinking together around Iwi settlements in the BoP).

Please contact Anne O'Malley at: anneo@tauranga.govt.nz with any queries.



Social Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Mike Bryant, Regional Commissioner MSD)

Highlights from the last Cluster meeting, held on 16th December 2009.

Key points included:

- Growing attendance at Cluster meetings, around 18-20 people
- Strong focus on Strengthening Families network within the Cluster – working on central government connections around SF, aiming for central govt to work better together so that SF networks aren't 'bombarded'
- MSD has organised a one day session with Peter Kenyon on 15 April. The focus is on "Using asset based approaches to build vibrant communities and local economies". \$100 per person. There has been strong interest and workshop is fully subscribed. Please contact Susan Jolley (details below) for further information.
- 2010 Social Wellbeing Cluster meetings 12 – 3 pm, on: 24 March, 26 May, 28 July, 29 September and 24 November.

Please contact Susan Jolley at Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz with any queries.

Economic Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Lionel Crawley, Regional Manager NZTE)

Focus areas for this cluster are: Progressing regional Jobs Summit priorities, and supporting Bay of Connections, the BoP Regional Economic Development Strategy, by identifying gaps and stimulating discussion to galvanise new activity. Two meetings have been held since the last Update, on 16 December and 17 February. Presentations and discussions included a focus on:

- Maori Assets in the Waiariki region research outcomes, and potential connections to the regional economic development strategy. (Contact TPK for copies).
- Rugby World Cup 2011 preparations and Bay of Plenty opportunities that could be leveraged, particularly if food and beverage and tourism sectors were well organised.
- Supporting meetings among BoP tertiary education providers to discuss alignment and co-operation proving worthwhile
- Included forestry sector and EDA representation in think tank discussion around potentials for forestry in the bay of Plenty, and linkages to Bay of Connections Strategy.
- Continued project to identify central government agency "touch points" with businesses – as basis for exploring any efficiencies

Please contact Lionel Crawley at lionel.crawley@nzte.govt.nz with any queries.

Also see <http://www.bayofconnections.com/communications.asp>

Environmental Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Henry Weston, Regional Conservator DoC)

This Cluster is not formally meeting at this stage.

Please contact Henry Weston at hweston@doc.govt.nz with any queries.

Cultural Wellbeing Cluster

(led by Wally Tangohau, Regional Director TPK)

This Cluster commences on March 17th, 2010

Please contact Wally Tangohau at wally.tangohau@tpk.govt.nz with any queries.



4. CHANGING FOCUS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE TAFM REVIEW – Preparation of Bill underway

As reported above, news of this is expected in April 2010. At this point many local government commentators are not confident that the proposed changes will increase efficiency and reduce costs, but rather that some will increase compliance requirements – and costs.

To learn more, see the following link: [Cabinet Minute](#)

(Also see previous Steering Group Updates and links for other detail.)

5. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN THE REGION

As predicted in our last Update, the expectation around mergers of government agencies has now become public. At this point it is not clear what the implications will be on further reductions of central government personnel in the regions. We continue to anticipate an increasingly “inwardly focussed” Wellington public service while such changes are underway. This further accentuates the need for active liaison and communication channels at regional levels and between regions and the centre, to support good decision-making at times of change.

The Steering Group is interested to be kept informed of further changes you are aware of.

6. HAVE YOU VISITED THE COBOP WEBSITE YET???

We have established a “sign-in” capacity for Signatory organisations and this has been distributed to all Signatories, and to personnel listed as representatives of their agencies on COBoP Clusters.

This newsletter link is on our website at: www.cobop.govt.nz

Please contact Barbara MacLennan at: Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz with any queries.

