



Secretariat
REAP Aotearoa NZ
33 Puckey Avenue
PO Box 200
KAITIAIA 0441

Ph 09 408 1380
Fx 09 408 1382

REAPANZ National Executive - Update from the Chair November 2011

The end of November brought Managers, Chairs and Board Representatives and National Executive Committee members together in Wellington for a series of meetings held over three days – 23 Nov. Managers Meeting, 24 Nov. Governance Representatives and Managers, 25 November the final face to face meeting of National Executive for the year.

Integrated Contracts signed by each REAP

The significant event was the signing off by individual REAPs of their integrated contracts for the first time under the combined core national contracts approach. Thanks is due to the Implementation Group led by the EO Judi Rendall to complete the series of interactions with MOE over the last year to get to this point. The Implementation Group stayed in place from its inception in 2010 to ensure continuity as we worked through the changeover with MOE. Into 2012 the group will be known as the Core Contracts Management Group and its members will be appointed at the February meeting.

Strategic Directions

The Governance and Managers used time at their meeting to work on ideas for key directions for our organization over the next three years. The information will now be incorporated into our Strategic Directions document and the more immediate detail for 2012 captured in the Business Plan for 2012. One of the questions being addressed was where do we want to be in three years time. This timespan is important as it will support the concept of us producing three year planning documents and not just one off one year documents. Among the ideas emerging were – consolidation of our new structures; ensuring measures are taken to make REAPs the first port of call for politicians and ministry officials when they are drawing up new policy affecting rural areas; making use of the best talents and expertise we have access to among our REAP staff and elsewhere in our communities; sharing new and effective practice; articulating clear outcomes and having appropriate data to capture the results ; focusing on effective high level partnerships.

MOE and TEC officials at our meeting

Stephen Walker, Lead Adviser PTEs and Community Investment from TEC and Nigel Richardson Contracts Manager from MOE attended part of the national executive committee meeting. This is to keep up our regular contact with the officials who oversee the REAP Investment Plans and reporting and since TEC has undergone many changes in the last year it is important for us to build relationships with our key contacts in the two organizations. The two are very happy with the plans that have been submitted and were very complimentary on the integrated investment plans as they now have a much broader picture of the whole activity being carried out across REAPs.

English Language Partners MOU signed

Mark Burton (ex MP and also ex REAP Manager in Taupo some years ago) Chair of ELP attended the meeting to formerly sign off with us the new updated MOU. Lots of photographs and hand shaking for this event and a positive reinforcement of this very important partnership

ECE Working Group

We had a report back from the recently formed ECE group led by Corrina Gestro-Best from West REAP and has been established with a mixture of ECE REAP practitioners and Managers in its membership. The group is in regular contact with the ECE policy analyst in the MOE and will be gathering from around the REAPs information on different effective ECE models to be shared with the Ministry as it develops policy. This is part of REAPANZ's intention to work at influencing new policy rather than reacting to new policy. REAPs are well placed to be a key contributor in this area

ACE Working Group

This is being established along the same lines as the ECE group and will provide current information on REAPs ACE work. John Chemis has agreed to be the Convenor of this group and will shortly be confirming membership taking into account relevant coverage of the different areas and also establishing its purpose statement and terms of reference.

Peer Review Trials

Three Peer Reviews have been carried out so far in this year, which was designated as the period for piloting the process. All six REAPs who have participated have reported that it has been very worthwhile and much has been learnt about the process of Peer Reviewing and also about identifying different practices and processes. Some of the emerging issues are around writing up succinct reports with consistent formatting, making the difference between mentoring and a formal peer review approach and how to best peer review aspects of governance. These issues will be developed in the coming year when the 2012 schedule for Peer Reviews gets underway.

Web Page Update Proposed

The national executive committee is looking at how best to achieve a new updated website to capture the emerging functions of our organisation and to make it more interactive. A small group has been set up to progress this and more will be reported back in the first quarter of 2012.

Hauhake - Hui a Tau

Jo Mane, Hauhake governance representative on National Executive presented her report from the recently held Hui a Tau held in Auckland. Not all REAPs were able to send representatives to this gathering but good discussion was had on areas of focus such as regional Treaty Training, sharing best practice, how to share models of bi-culturalism, succession, support for Maori no matter where the live, participation in Hauhake by REAPs. Progress has also been made in the last year to work through a terms of reference for Hauhake and examine its purpose for REAPs in 2011 and beyond. It is hoped that next year on one of the days prior to conference commencing that each REAP will send a representative with their team attending conference to allow a Hauhake forum to take place. As Jo will be stepping down at the conclusion of her term due to taking up a new position outside of REAP her place will be taken next year by Sonny Harrison from Far North REAP. The importance of achieving a good transition period during the handover from Jo to Sonny was highlighted so that the positive progress led by Jo in articulating the role and purpose of Hauhake is able to keep momentum.

Shaping the future Role of the Executive Officer

Now that the organization is seeing clearly what the role and duties of the secretariat are, work is being done to define the role of the executive officer into the future. We are aiming for a new appointment from end of June next year when our present EO Judi will stand down.



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The idea of seeking a secondment from among the REAPs senior staff and managers has been floated and has met with enthusiasm as it allows for someone to come in with an already sound knowledge of our organizations. This of course is up to individual boards and managers and if in the end no one puts up their hand for a secondment then the position will be advertised on the open market. It is envisaged that there will be a good period of overlap between the new appointee and Judi.

2012 Conference

Central Otago REAP has things well in hand for the development of the programme for next year, which will run from 25/26/27 March. Managers meeting and governance meeting will take place on the Thursday 25 March and the Conference Powhiri will be that evening.

Recent meetings attended on behalf of REAPANZ

Our representatives have been busy recently attending the following meetings:
Policy meeting with TEC re ACE issues; School Bus Safety issues called by Rural Women;
Teacher Registration Proposed Changes called by the Teachers Council.

Post Election

It is our intention to prepare a briefing paper for the incoming Minister of Education in the new cabinet to be announced shortly. The paper will set out the scope of REAPs work in rural education and give a clear picture of important issues for us.

Kind regards to you all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jean McCombie'.

Jean McCombie, Chair