

Monitoring and Reporting Community Outcomes (MARCO) Meeting

When & Where

*Thursday 25 October 2007, 1.30 – 4.30pm
Environment Waikato, Hamilton East*

MINUTES

Chair Beat Huser (Environment Waikato)

Present

Roxane Miller (Choosing Futures Waikato), Anthea Sayers (EW – part attendance), Ginny Semmens (Consultant), Jocelyn Pope (Waikato DC), Andrew Williams (Taupo DC), Katherine Palmer (Thames-Coromandel DC), Terri Kew (TCDC), Vikki Johnston (WDHB), Deven Russell (Gisborne DC), Paula Rolfe (Matamata Piako DC), Sandra Brain (Matamata Piako DC), Sally McComb (Franklin DC), Paul Chantrill (EW), Rob Harris (South Waikato DC), Paul Killerby (APR Consultants), David Kettle (Anew NZ), Dave Breuer (Anew NZ – from 3pm).

Apologies

Brendon Gardner (DoL), Paul Gower (Hamilton CC), Barbara MacLennan (DIA), Amy Murphy (Waikato DC), Cathy Kenkel (Franklin DC), Nova Caie (WDHB), Erica Holtsbaum (EW), Daniel Houppermans (EW).

Purpose of meeting

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the key tasks MARCO has planned to undertake in 2008/09, what we want to achieve and how – and who may be interested to contribute.

1. MARCO Work Planning – Beat Huser

Beat provided an overview of the MARCO work programme for 2008/09, which was approved at the July '08 SPN meeting. Three key tasks were discussed:

a) Regional Perception Survey

Background:

- Of the 75 Core MARCO Indicators about 20 are perception-based and require survey data. A regionally coordinated survey was undertaken in July 2007 that covered 23 topics/questions, with up to 16 sub-questions per topic. The results are disaggregated to local district/city level. Some councils added additional questions and/or increased the sample size in their district to reduce error margins. The Waikato regional perception survey includes people's views, attitudes and awareness of environmental, safety, social and cultural issues. It is complementary to the NRB Communitrac survey undertaken by most councils, which looks at customer satisfaction of services & facilities.

What we want to do in 2008/09:

- Evaluate and review of 2007/08 survey and planning for next survey (2010)
- Continue survey on a triennial basis, next results available in 2010 about a year before the next LTCCP round kicks off. Survey planning by Feb 2009.
- Make links, integrate and coordinate with other surveys (e.g. Quality of Life, EW EAAA survey, Anew NZ – see below Item 3).

Who wants to be involved:

Roxane, Andrew, Terri, Sandra, EW lead agency (Paul, Anji), Paul K available for support

Action: Roxane to set up initial hui (late Oct).

b) Web Application for Indicator Data & Report Cards

Background: The current web-based MARCO Indicators Inventory, see <http://192.122.180.21/> provides searchable access to information about the 75 MARCO Core Indicators, including links to sources of the data in reports or on other websites. The MARCO Indicators Inventory website can be searched by keywords, outcomes, themes or indicators.

What we want to do in 2008/09:

- Build on the current application, to increase functionality by providing direct access to indicator data (rather than via a report) and adding a standardised Report Card for each indicator and by district (downloadable, printable one-page summary) for use in CO Reporting, Annual Reporting etc. See <http://www.ew.govt.nz/Environmental-information/Environmental-indicators/Land-and-soil/Land/land1-report-card/> for an example of a Report Card (Land Use).
- There was some discussion about the need/demand by TAs for such indicator summaries or Report Cards, and how much councils would make use of a standardised Report Card. This end user demand needs to be further explored before progressing.

Any feedback about the usefulness and interest in developing Indicator summaries (Report Cards) by district/city is appreciated, otherwise we may not proceed.

Who wants to be involved:

Nova, Rob, Sandra, Brendon, Beat EW as lead agency (web application has been developed by EW).

Action: Beat to set up initial hui (late Oct).

c) Review of the MARCO Core Indicators

Background:

The current set of 75 MARCO Indicators was selected from a list of over 200 indicators, primarily with a focus on relevance of indicators to the regional community outcomes. A recent report (see below – Agenda Item 2) has highlighted considerable overlap and similarities of indicators used by TAs for reporting on progress towards COs that are not already included in the MARCO Core set. It is intended to expand the current 75 indicators to include additional ones that are commonly used by TAs. These would then be included in the MARCO database and web inventory, for easy data and information access (metadata), standardisation of methods and coordination of data collection, if necessary.

What we want to do in 2008/09:

- Review Paul's Mapping Report (see Item 2 below), including recommendations.
- Develop criteria and a process to select additional MARCO indicators.
- Keep a watching brief on other indicator projects (e.g. Stats NZ, Anew NZ, MfE, OECD, other councils etc).

Who wants to be involved:

Rob, Terri, Andrew, Beat, Sally. Paul K available to provide support.

Action: Rob to set up initial hui (late Oct).

2. Waikato Indicators Mapping Report – Paul Killerby (*ppt attached, also on CFW website*)

Focus of the MARCO indicator work is to produce consistent and meaningful data sets that have relevance across the region and can feed upwards and downwards to both central and district levels: project ongoing (see also Item 1. above). Potential to centralise such data and coordinate data collection more through the region so that districts don't duplicate effort – needs exploring with individual councils.

This report, commissioned by MARCO, is the first step for the review of the Core MARCO Indicators, refer to Item 1.c above.

3. Advancing Community Outcomes and Indicators – David Kettle (Anew NZ) (*ppt attached, also on CFW website*)

- 1) Project is seeking to underpin sustainable development with better measures and trend indicators
- 2) Looking for common data sets between LTCCPs and other organisations
- 3) Need for comparability or at least a better understanding of which indicators are used at district level – preferable that while different councils use a different range of indicators they all come from a common toolbox/library and are therefore useful for comparing local, regional and national efforts towards sustainability. This was based on not all organisations being of the same type, having the same issues and needing the same policy tools.
- 4) The Anew NZ work compares NZ Community Outcomes indicators with sustainability measures developed by other countries.
- 5) Currently most national jurisdictions use around 20 sets of sustainability indicators; eg, UK, Nordic countries, Canada
- 6) In NZ we are trying to integrate existing data sets from MfE, MSD, DIA,, MCH, regions and TLAs, etc. The focus is on stocks and flows and relationships. David noted that Community Outcomes are not necessarily sustainability indicators, although there is clearly an overlap.
- 7) The Anew NZ work has produced 6 basic themes and each theme has sub themes. The themes are similar to wellbeings in concept. They are all focused around a) people; b) processes; c) places
- 8) Hierarchy is (i) themes > (ii) sub themes > (iii) COs > indicators > (iv) responses

- 9) 50% of the draft COs at level 3 are social/cultural, 25% environmental and 25% economic
- 10) Real problems were that things like education stats were often meaningless, as there were too many variables – such sectors need more work to ensure that outputs can be meaningfully derived from stats and a linkage to policy instruments established
- 11) Criteria for indicators had to include (i) technically soundness; (ii) ability to intervene on the trends; that is, outcome based; (iii) able to effect real change; (iv) composite indicators shouldn't obscure linkages
- 12) David emphasised the difference between roles and values and said that a roles based approach to sustainability might be less controversial; that is emphasising costs and benefits and ecosystem services. This was a far more systems based approach able to be understood by non-ecologists.
- 13) He considered there were 3 aspects to the overall system:
 - (i) "Care for us" - support functions to maintain resource base (social, economic, cultural and environmental)
 - (ii) "Care for it" - allow things to maintain themselves (protection of identified key features of systems that were vulnerable)
 - (iii) "We care for it" - participation roles that provide for people to be actively involved in protecting, developing and supporting.

Defining the roles is important, who will fulfil them is less defined. In setting up such a matrix he suggested moving from activity roles to indicators to explanations and response mechanisms
- 14) After going through the identifier process they ended up with 39 indicators (more than overseas jurisdictions, but it is likely that many overseas indicators are composites and obscure trends).

David will complete the Anew report by November and then distribute it to MARCO.

4. What matters most to NZers? – David Breuer (Anew Consultants)

Dave discussed the results from a recent survey of NZer's aspirations and attempting to gain an international comparison with other similar countries. The survey will be expanded to look at previous data from various other surveys to see if trend data is there. It is hoped that this will contribute to the development and refinement of sustainability indicators. The approach taken in this research is to liaise as much as possible with sectors and gain input (partnership between civil society and Gov (local and central)). He identified the need to sometimes go back to basic definitions and work out common concepts first before developing indicators and policy toolboxes. Understanding of communities of interest and linkages between and within sectors are very important.

Dave will make the results available to MARCO as soon as they are written up.

Next meetings

<p>28 November – SPN meeting (brief progress report on MARCO activities) 17 December – MARCO meeting (and Xmas drinks).</p>
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