



## Minutes 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Attendees: Karen Richardson, Naomi Marshall (MEAG), Jason Maguiness & Mike Cash, (Northern Regional Parks | Parks & Community Facilities). Apologies: Steve Allen

### Item

- Naomi explained the Equestrian Questionnaire, how MEAG came about, the presentations we have done and our future direction
- We highlighted how existing stats do not represent the equestrians in the area
- We discussed the various Regional Parks under their control
- We discussed a combined Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy with examples of other regions (Kāpiti Coast, Hurunui district) and the tourism benefits

- Horses in Regional Parks – basic requirements
  - Pacific Road
    - Current loop is not actually on Regional Park land but the supporting landowners allows float parking
    - Poo pits are not permitted under Auckland Council – all poo should be taken away at all Regional Park locations – MEAG need to educate riders this as it is not clear
    - A vaulted toilet will be installed further up the road at the parking area
    - MC is looking at the signage requirements for the parking area
    - MC looking at tie ups and simple mounting blocks
    - MC's team looking at the trails, maps and signage, KR reiterated the offer from Steve & Wendy to help with the location of the tracks
    - KR offered her graphic design experience as a service from MEAG
  - Forestry Road
    - This is where the main enhancement project will be based with a horse riding park and camping ground re-opened
    - The concepts and planning are in motion – this is a 5 year project
  - Lake Tomarata
    - The parking area around the lake actually comes under the local board
    - JM said there was no reason not to look at incorporating that under the Regional Park so would look into it
  - Ātiu Creek
    - MC said they are aware that the float parking area is too boggy and are looking in to gravelling it
    - MC confirmed there are some improvements to the first access to the farm from the float park
    - MC asked that we suggest suitable equestrian gates as they are in the process of changing them

- KR asked to consider the bike park area for shared access with equestrians, as the area is gravel, has toilets and much easier to ride into the park
- Wenderholm / Te Muir / Mahurangi West
  - We discussed a dedicated equestrian area eg. McLaren Falls – Wenderholm has a lovely area on the left as you come in where dogs are exercised!
  - JM confirmed there is no local area to Matakana / Warkworth that could accommodate a full, all-weather equestrian facility for pony clubs
  - Main issue for Te Muir is access – Hungry Creek Road needs major investment
  - JM said they are keen on this improvement to Hungry Creek Road as it is the best area for staff to access the park
  - Hungry Creek Road main access also has great area for horse parking etc
  - We discussed accessing from Ngarewa Drive (Mahurangi West)
    - MC said very busy road in the summer and not many places for float park
    - KR said the road is good – the only part a concern is the 1½ lane area just at turn off to park – this can be controlled by basic traffic lights (would help boaties and campervans too!)
    - KR suggested The Cudlip Point Loop Track dog parking area could be expanded (dogs will now be removed due to new Auckland Council Regulations). This means the floats and trucks do not go down to Sullivans Bay causing congestion - JM said they could look into that further
    - Te Muir can be accessed 2 hours before and after high tide from Mahurangi West, however the parks have stopped moving stock across this area and they are trucked instead so further analysis would need to be looked in to

- Regional Parks are conducting a 'Recreational Assessment' to identify which parks are suitable for which users and how they can be combined
  - That review will include the other Regional Parks we discussed: Scandrett Park / Martins Bay, Tāwharanui Regional Park, Pakiri Regional Park
  - MC pointed out that although equestrians seem happy to share with other users, some other users are scared of horses. Ātiu Creek has got the right mix so we need to ensure Te Arai / West Mahurangi has too 😊

- Funding: KR asked that once MEAG became incorporated / a charity, could we help fund activities in Regional Parks – JM said they protocol is to do a Memorandum of Understanding and then we can help contribute,