

**MINUTES OF NGĀTI MARU PRE-MANDATE MEETING, HELD AT THE NEW PLYMOUTH
AUTO LODGE, TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 10.00A.M**

1. KARAKIA: STEPHEN IHAKA

OPENING MIHI: Stephen Ihaka

PRESENT: Stephen Ihaka (Facilitator), Kerry O'Connor(OTS), Anna-Lee Annett(OTS), Roena Te Uira;

Ngāti Maru - Reverend Dennis Patuwairua Waitara (RDW), Eddie Ngeru (EN), Tui Wichman (TW), Ron Puata (RP), B Hunt (BH), Wayne Hoben (WH), Gary Sue (GS), Michael Kopu (MK), Maioha Tokotaua (MT), Liz Patuwairua (LP), Jan Matuku (JM), Tony Whareaitu (TW), Matene Toa (MT), Holden Hohaia (HH), Tom Rangihaeata (TR), Theresia Kingi (TK), Tristan Patuwairua (TP), Haimoana Maruera (HM), Rangi Tapatu (RT), Pat Kingi (PK), Chris Manukonga (CM), Maria Kingi (MK), Deborah Edmunds (DE).

2. KEY MESSAGES:

The Facilitator began the meeting by discussing an agreed set of guidelines/rules for the meeting i.e. respectful of speaker, no matter who they are, a free and frank korero, the meeting was to be mana-enhancing, not mana-debilitating. The Facilitator then outlined it's objective which was to mediate a meeting between the 2 respective groups (the Working Party and the Runanga) so that a unified group could emerge that was capable of seeking a mandate on behalf of all of Ngāti Maru. The Facilitator explained that the purpose of mandate hui was to seek acceptance from whanau, hapu, and iwi that the intended group can negotiate all their claims on behalf of the people they purport to represent. The Facilitator made it clear that it's not always certain that the group seeking a mandate hui will be the same group that will emerge at the end of the process. The Facilitator emphasised that at the end of the negotiation process the Crown will go back to Wellington but Ngāti Maru will always be there. It was important to understand that how they interact together at this meeting will impact on how they move forward into the future. The Facilitator explained that keeping in touch with the claimant community is essential for the process.

The Facilitator emphasised on a number of occasions that the two groups needed to trust each other so that Ngāti Maru could move forward. This was completely necessary if the crown was going to get any form of traction on the draft deed of mandate.

3. PAPERS TABLED:

The Secretary of the marae had been instructed by the Chair of the Marae Trust to read a letter that was then tabled. The letter stated that the Marae Trust endorsed the Runanga as the only entity to progress the Ngāti Maru claim with the Crown.

The marae had been the power base of the people before the Runanga was established. The Māori Land Court had previously stated that it would be difficult for anyone to attain mandate without the support of the marae.

The Working Party requested to table a paper on how the groups could move forward. There was consensus that the Facilitator read aloud the document on the understanding that the Runanga did not agree to the contents of the paper as this needed to be

discussed between themselves. The Facilitator read from the document which discussed open, transparent and robust processes (the paper is attached).

The Working Party tabled another document which was not accepted or read out.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE DISCUSSION:

The Facilitator proposed to assist Ngāti Maru with designing something new – that the Facilitator and Ngāti Maru design a process together. The Facilitator then suggested setting up an interim committee to look at specific aspects of work involved in the writing of a mandate strategy.

The Facilitator proposed that the group could discuss how the interim committee could work but suggested 2 people from each group could come together. Their main purpose would be to work collectively to produce a claimant definition and mandate strategy that could then be taken out to the wider Ngāti Maru iwi.

The Facilitator also suggested that the small group would report back to the wider group (i.e. WP and Runanga) on a regular basis and in 6-8 weeks would report back to hui-a- iwi. The Facilitator suggested that the smaller group be chaired on a rotational basis and emphasised that the person sitting in the chair must remain neutral and make decisions based on producing the 2 documents in a collegial way.

The Facilitator then tabled a draft Terms of Reference for discussion (attached), stating that there needed to be high level agreement on how everyone would move towards completing the required task. He emphasised that this document was simply a guide for the overall discussion.

The group discussed skill sets that people would require to be part of the new writing group. These are set out below:

- Knowledge and experience;
- Good communication skills;
- Good comprehension skills;
- Negotiation skills (but at an interim level this is not as necessary);
- Management/time management and organisational skills;
- Business acumen;
- Practical understanding;
- Policy understanding; and
- Leadership skills (in terms of representing the people).

HH suggested that if an interim committee was to be established then the Runanga could choose 2 people from the Working Party and the Working Party could choose 2 people from the Runanga to represent their respective groups. He said that this would be a fair way of combining each others various interests and also recognition of the 2 existing entities.

The Facilitator reminded everyone that this interim working group was just that – an interim group of people working towards something more substantive and more permanent, which it is anticipated would arise out of the mandate strategy and hui a iwi.

The make-up, in terms of numbers was discussed between the groups. Following a caucus meeting of 25 minutes the Working Party then suggested 4 representatives from each group. The Runanga and marae then went into caucus and returned to the discussion with a suggestion of 2 representatives from the Working Party, 2 representatives from the Runanga and 1 representative from the marae.

The Facilitator re-iterated that the group was just a small committee sitting around a table discussing a draft deed of mandate template and claimant definition. This was to be their core function. They were not going to be directed to do anything else. They were effectively performing an administrative coordinating function. The Facilitator suggested that the interim committee could co-opt other people into the group if they were needed, or if there was a specialist task that they needed advice on.

After more robust discussion and serious debate both groups agreed to a compromise and the final solution for an interim committee would comprise of 2 representatives from each group.

The iwi asked whether Stephen Ihaka (SI) could continue to attend to the role of secretary/facilitator for the purposes of further administrative coordination and communication. SI said that he would be happy to do so until such time as "The Group" could do this themselves.

5. AGREEMENT AND NEXT STEPS:

The Working Party nominated Holden Hohaia and Tamsin Pue from the Runanga to be on the interim committee and the Runanga voted Chris Manukonga and Gary Sue from the Working Party to be on the committee.

The entire group took a vote on the composition of the committee to complete work on the draft mandate strategy to present back to the wider parties – 22 people were in favour and there was 1 dissension. The Facilitator called this a resounding vote of confidence in each other and a fantastic basis from which to move Ngati Maru forward as a united Iwi.

HM stated that he felt he was under duress to make a decision. When the Facilitator queried him on how he felt and how the duress had been applied, he remained silent and still voted in favour of the interim committee.

The Facilitator thanked both groups for arriving at a compromise and challenging themselves to find a 'win-win' solution. The *interim writing committee* will report back to the wider group on 18 March 2013 for input into the draft mandate strategy.

When the draft mandate strategy is approved, it will be taken to a formal, hui-a-iwi which will be held on 13 April 2013 in New Plymouth. The interim committee will then present this document to the hui-a-iwi under the umbrella of a unified approach to direct settlement negotiations. At that same hui the people will move to endorse a new group of people to be the vehicle to take the mandate forward.

6.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Holden Hohaia, Tamsin Pue, Chris Manukonga and Gary Sue will form an interim committee to assist with claimant definition and a draft mandate strategy.

MOVED / PASSED

The meeting closed with a karakia at 3.00pm.

7. NEXT MEETING:


Day: 18 March 2013

Time: [10.00am]

Venue: [TBC]

Purpose: Continue with drafting of Mandate Strategy and claimant definition.

MINUTES CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:


Facilitator 5-3-13
DATE

ACTIONS LIST	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE DATE
Claimant Definition	Interim committee	18 March 2013
Draft mandate Strategy	Interim committee	18 March 2013
Draft Minutes	Anna-Lee Annett	5 March 2013