

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE RAKAHURI ROOM RANGIORA CIVIC CENTRE,
215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 1 MAY 2023 AT 3.30PM.**

PRESENT

C Latham (Chairperson), C Aldhamland, E Harvie, M Jolly, J Cook (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga), A Rueben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga), Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (Ecan Councillor), R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE

A Burton (WDC Water Environment Advisor), N Theinhardt (ECan Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri) S Worthington (ECan Braided River Revival Advisor, M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), and J Benn (Department of Conservation),

KARAKIA

C Aldhamland opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. BUSINESS

Apologies

Moved: C Latham

Seconded: C McKay

THAT apologies for absence be received and sustained from committee members M Blackwell and A Reuben.

CARRIED

Welcome and Introductions

C Latham welcomed everyone present at the meeting and requested members and those in the public gallery to introduce themselves.

Register of Interests

E Harvie advised that she was the co-ordinator of the Waimakariri Land Care Trust and not a Trustee. J Cook advised that he was no longer a Director/Shareholder of Secure Property Management Limited. M Jolly reported that she was now a PhD student with a scholarship through the University of Canterbury. They requested that the Register of Interest be updated accordingly.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 James Ensor

C Latham advised that J Ensor would not be attending today's meeting, however, he had expressed his support for the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust – Wetland Restoration Daiken project. He suggested that it would be good to involve other schools such as Loburn and Pegasus as well as the Woodend-Sefton Community Board.

2.2 Michael Bate

M Bate expressed his concerns regarding the report on New Zealand Rivers and Lakes which indicated that the waterways were deteriorating. He tabled photos of the Kaiapoi Lakes in 2019 and November 2022, and was happy to report that the water quality in the lakes had improved since the Council had stopped using chemicals in the lakes to control the aquatic plant life. There was also an increase in aquatic and bird life at the lake.

Councillor T Fulton questioned the use of herbicides in the Kaiapoi Lakes. A Burton confirmed that the Council had not sprayed the lakes in over 15 years due to public pressure and the environmental impact of herbicides.

M Bate also provided videos of the Pegasus Wetland area and reported that the aeration of Pegasus Lake had improved the water quality in the lake. He was able to see signs of fish activity in the lake, however, no plant life. However there seemed to be an increase in aquatic and bird life in the wetlands due to the return on insects.

3. SUSPENSION ON SECTIONS 9.4 OF THE STANDING ORDERS

The Chairperson advised that in the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was subject to the Council's Standing Orders, which did not allow for the public to provide input on reports. She therefore moved that Sections 9.4 of the Standing Orders be suspended for Items 3 and 4 to allow members of the public ask questions prior to the item being moved.

Moved: C Latham

Seconded: J Cooke

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Agrees** that Sections 9.4 of the Standing Orders be suspended for Items 3 and 4 to allow members of the public ask questions prior to the item being moved.

CARRIED
T Fulton Against

4. REPORTS

4.1 Ashley Rakahuri Braided River Revival Draft Strategy - M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

S Worthington provided an update on the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival draft strategy development.

In response to questions from C Latham, S Worthington elaborated on the relationship between the Braided River Revival Strategy and the Regional Policy Statement. Councillor C McKay explained that the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) would include the "vision and aspiration" for the region and not deal with the detail of achieving the vision and aspiration. The detail would be included in the strategies. S Worthington confirmed that the RPS would not slow down the development of the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival strategy, however, there needed to be alignment.

M Jolly questioned what the timeframe was for finalising the draft Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Strategy. S Worthington advised that it was envisaged that the draft would be finalised by the end of 2024, whereafter public engagement would be undertaken. Currently interest groups were being contacted to ascertain if they wish to be part of the process.

C Latham raised a concern that people did not seem aware of the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Strategy. S Worthington acknowledged that at the moment only the groups that were involved in the project seemed to be aware of it. She agreed that the project would have to be promoted to secure broader buy in.

Councillor T Fulton advised that the Council was currently undertaking a review of the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw, which aimed to manage recreation by enhancing environmental values whilst minimising any negative impact along the Northern Pegasus Bay strip. He noted that the updated By laws should be taken into consideration during the drafting of the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Strategy.

C Latham noted that Dr J Roper-Lindsey from the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust had previously indicated that a discussion would be held on the coastal wetlands as part of the Biodiversity Winter Lecture Series. She suggested that the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival and human behaviour in the estuary and could be mentioned as part of the discussion.

S Worthington reported that Environment Canterbury (ECan) was also conducting a River Rating Scheme review and she was liaising with the project group to ensure alignment with the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Project. Councillor T Fulton suggested that ECan may wish to interact with the Council's Drainage Advisory Groups, as members had substantial historic knowledge about drainage.

S Worthington highlighted the challenges of securing iwi by-in for the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Project. Ngāi Tahu had some questions on the project and ECan's Science Team were currently addressing these. However, there was no timeframe for the finalisation of consultation with Ngāi Tahu.

Councillor T Fulton noted that the priorities in the Action Plan included the '*promoting and improved community understanding of land and water use*' measured by encouraging improved understanding. He questioned if there was a mechanism to actually test the improved understanding periodically. S Worthington commented that the Action Plan priorities were usually measured via feedback from community groups which ECan dealt with. R Gill-Clifford suggested that a good indicator of improved understanding may be an increase of people participating in biodiversity projects, i.e. an increase in volunteer numbers.

C Latham noted that the impact of the proposed Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Strategy on landowners along the Ashley/Rakahuri River should be clear to the landowners. S Worthington undertook to ensure that the matter was addressed during public consultation.

J Cook requested an update on the Rangiora Reach Project and S Worthington undertook to provide feedback at a subsequent meeting. She noted that the Climate Resilience Project was funded with COVID funding. Hence, this would be a good time to reflect on ECan's learnings and what it meant going forward. J Cook agreed and requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee should also be advised if there would be sufficient funding available going forward.

The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee had an extensive discussion on future public consultation on the Braided River Revival, to ensure that the public was sufficiently briefed on the aims of the strategy. It was agreed that consultation should focus on only a few main issues to ensure healthy consultation and guard against 'consultation burnout'. The Committee requested that updates on the Braided River Revival Strategy be included as part of the regular standard Committee updates.

Moved: R Gill-Clifford

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021/24 Acton Plan priorities in the Ashley / Rakahuri River catchment.

CARRIED

Councillor T Fulton noted that eminent accomplished scientists throughout New Zealand was working on well-funded science projects, which included water management and sustainable land use. He therefore believed that there was a concerted effort across the scientific community to deal with these challenges, and local government was not being negligent in dealing with these matters nor was there a void of information.

4.2 **CWMS Action Plan Budget Initiatives 2022/23** – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

As she previously declared a conflict of interest, E Harvie sat back from the table for all discussion pertaining to Waimakariri Landcare Trust – Water Quality Gap Analysis.

C Latham commented that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee had held a workshop in advance of this meeting to review information and to considered supporting the following five initiatives

- Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group – Estuary Shorebird Monitoring \$ 9,000
- Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group – Nesting Area Weed Clearing \$ 5,000
- Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust – Wetland Restoration Daiken property \$20,00
- Waimakariri Landcare Trust – Water Quality Gap Analysis \$28,050
- Waimakariri Biodiversity Working Group – Environmental Awards \$ 3,000

C Latham noted that the total amount applied for was \$65,050, which meant that the fund was oversubscribed by \$15,050. The fund would have been oversubscribed by \$20,050, however, one of the applicants was able to secure plants and plant protectors directly from ECan for riparian planting. She further noted that the Estuary Shorebird Monitoring Project would only be undertaken in the summer of 2024, she therefore suggested that the project be pushed out for funding from the 2023/24 Action Plan Budget. M Griffin was requested to confirm the amount of potential funding available in the next financial year. The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed that funding of the Estuary Shorebird Monitoring Project should be postponed to early in the 2023/24 financial year.

C Latham advised that the Wetland Restoration Daiken Property Project included a contingency of \$4,400, which could be applied for at a later date, once there was a clearer understanding of what the contingency funding would be used for. The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee concurred that Wetland Restoration Project should be funded from the 2022/23 Action Plan Budget, excluding the \$4,400 contingency funding.

The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed that the Environmental Awards and the Nesting Area Weed Clearing should be recommended for funding from the 2022/23 Action Plan Budget

C Latham requested that the Waimakariri Landcare Trust would ensure that the Nitrate Sensor Project be retained as part of the Water Quality Gap Analysis, even though the trust may be receiving less funding.

Moved: Councillor C McKay

Seconded: Councillor T Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information provided on the proposed CWMS Action Plan Budget project initiatives to support for the 2022/23 financial year.
- (b) **Agrees** that consideration of the application from the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group for the Estuary Shorebird Monitoring Project be laid on the table until the Committee's July 2023 meeting.
- (b) **Supports** the allocation of funding for project initiatives listed below from the CWMS Action Plan Budget allocated for the 2022/23 financial year:
 - i. Waimakariri Landcare Trust – Water Quality Gap Analysis Project, provided that the Nitrate Sensor Project be retained as part of the project \$26,400
 - ii. Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust – Wetland Restoration Daiken Property Project \$15,600
 - iii. Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group – Nesting Area Weed Clearing Project \$ 5,000
 - iv. Waimakariri Biodiversity Working Group – Environmental Awards \$ 3,000

CARRIED

4.3 **Review of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-24** – M Griffin (ECan, CWMS Facilitator)

M Griffin advised that the aim of the report was to provide the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee with an opportunity to review it 2021/24 CWMS Action Plan and priorities.

C Latham requested that the priorities be numbered. She noted that the recreation use could lead to damage to the natural environments, and she therefore suggested that the key action of 'Protecting and enhancing of recreation in the zone' should be amended to read as follows:

"Protection and enhancement of recreation in the zone in a way that was in harmony with nature."

However, subsequent to discussion the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed to the following amendment:

"Protection and enhancement of environmentally sustainable recreation in the zone"

Councillor T Fulton recommended that a priority reflecting on climate change should be added to the Action Plan. Councillor C McKay concurred that combating climate change was important, however, she believed that it should be embedded in all the priorities and should therefore form part of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee purpose.

C Latham noted that when applying for funding from the CWMS Action Plan Budget, applicants were requested to indicate how their projects aligned with the 2021/24 Action Plan. She therefore agreed that a priority reflecting on climate change should be added.

J Cook and R Gill-Clifford thought that combating climate change was already implied in all the 2021/24 Action Plan.

Councillor T Fulton commented that climate change was having an impact on the natural environment, such as the insertion on brackish water into estuaries and there may be groups that specifically targeted solving such problems. He therefore believed that climate change should be made more explicit in the Action Plan

However, subsequent to discussion the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed to the following statement should be added to the 2021/24 Action Plan:

"XXXXX" (MURRY PLAESE ADD)

Moved: E Harvie

Seconded: C Aldhamland

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the following amendments to its 2021/24 CWMS Action Plan for the 2023/24 financial year:
 - (i) Priorities to be numbered.
 - (ii) Priority four to read as follows:
"Protection and enhancement of environmentally sustainable recreation in the zone"
 - (iii) The following statement be added:
"XXXXX" (MURRY PLAESE ADD)

CARRIED

E Harvie supported the motion as the amendments aligned with the current thinking of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)

5.1 Zone Committee Working Groups.

The Working Group updates were taken as read.

5.2 Hurunui Mahinga Kai and Biodiversity Workshop 2 - 15 March 2023

R Gill-Clifford reported that Lockerbie Farm, hosted a workshop on Wednesday 15 March 2023. A site visit to John Faulkner's farm at Mouse Point near Culverden had been arranged where he was converting part of the farm as an indigenous habitat which would be open to the public in future.

5.3 Kaikōura Wetlands as Farm Assets Tour - 16 and 17 March 2023.

Councillor T Fulton advised that he had attended the second day of the Farm Tour in Kaikōura on Friday 17 March 2023. The day included visit to the Boyd's dairy farm near Kaikōura. They had done significant native plating on the property, which had been derelict when they had started. The farmers had seen the benefit of setting aside non-productive farmland to develop it with native plating as a recreational area. They also visited

Rakautara for a hands-on session about plant propagation with the Wai Ora Trust Team.

5.4 **CWMS Committees Forums - Northern and Southern Hui on 27 and 31 March 2023.**

M Griffin noted that engagement with the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would increase as the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival draft strategy development continued. It was also anticipated that the more Hui's would be held with CWMS Zone Committees in June or July 2023.

5.5 **ECan Water and Land Committee Meeting - 3 May 2023**

Councillor C McKay urged members to review the outcomes from ECan's formal Consent Review of water quantity in the Ashburton River/Hakatere. As a result of the review the Ashburton River/Hakatere minimum flow would be increased on 1 July 2023. She highlighted the high cost of the review needed to be taken into consideration in the planned Consent Review for the Ashley/Rakahuri River and Silverstream.

5.6 **Where Next for Catchment Groups? - Cawthron Guidance Report published**

No discussion emanated from this point.

5.7 **How long will it take? - Environment Canterbury Science Summary information about nitrate time lags in Canterbury**

E Harvie questioned if future ECan reports on the state of ground water would include some of the information regarding nitrate time lags. M Griffin undertook to follow up and report back to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

5.8 **Further Information Links**

No discussion emanated from this point.

5.9 **Action points from the previous zone committee meetings**

M Griffin reported as follows:

- Realignment of the North Brook tributary and water quality sampling at Tutaepatu Lagoon – M Griffin to follow up with the Council about the realignment of the North Brook tributary, as it was a Council led project. However, water sampling at Tutaepatu Lagoon had been done by helicopter and would now be follow up on land.
- Testing for pesticides in the Kaiapoi River – It was confirmed that the work had been done and was targeted towards the Yellow Flag Water Iris.
- Kaiapoi River salinity logger data – ECan confirmed that the data logger still operated in the Kaiapoi River. However, analysis of the data had yet to been undertaken.

Moved: Councillor T Fulton

Seconded: M Jolly

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information.

CARRIED

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 6 March 2023

Councillor C McKay requested that paragraph 4.2 (Environment Canterbury Water and Land Committee Meeting – 22 February 2023) on page 103 be amended to read as follows:

“This decided that Ecan would develop an education campaign without water testing but would invite other agencies to work with them to have an education campaign for private well owners as well as well water testing.”

Moved: Councillor C McKay

Seconded: R Gill-Clifford

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the amended Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 6 June 2023, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor T Fulton advised that the development of the Lineside Road properties purchased by the Council would be led by the Council's Greenspace Team. It was agreed that this was area suitable for environmental and biodiversity projects. It was anticipated that the Council would use the next one to two years, to investigate the best use of the site.

C Latham noted that Kirk Blumers had not been attending CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee meetings and M Griffin would be contacting him to confirm if he wished to continue as a member of the Committee. If K Blumers did resign the Committee would only consist of four community representatives. The meeting refresh, where new members were appointed would only be finalised in September 2024. However, the next 18 months were important in terms of public consultation and work to be done. Therefore, C Latham suggested that a new community representative be co-opted to the Committee.

T Kunkel noted that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee may only co-opt expert or advisory members that it deemed necessary to ensure it was able to achieve its purpose. She therefore suggested that the Committee should first establish what expertise was required. The Committee's Terms of Reference referred to co-opting an additional community representative. In accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference community representatives should be appointed by the Council and ECan. The Committee would therefore have to request ECan to appoint a new member in conjunction with the Council.

KARAKIA

C Aldhamland provided a karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for Monday 3 July 2023 at 3:30pm, in the Waimakariri District Council Chambers, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.08PM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Carolyn Latham

3 July 2023
Date