

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE
CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 AT 3.30PM.**

PRESENT

C Latham (Chairperson), M Jolly, E Harvie, J Cook (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga), Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (ECan Councillor), R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative) (from 3.57pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

WDC Councillor P Redmond, S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), N Theinhardt (ECan Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri), J Grant (ECan CWMS Facilitator), A Smith (Governance Coordinator), J Benn (Department of Conservation), B Walton (Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd).

The following members of the ECan Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team were present for part of the meeting to speak on their roles (Agenda Item 3.1): James Schaap (present in person), the following staff attended via Teams: Kiri Kirkwood (Senior Incident Response Officer), Steph Scheirlinck (Incident Response Officer), Robert Anding (Resource Management Officer), Anna Veltman (Land Management Advisor), Sam Thompson (Land Management Advisor).

KARAKIA

Jaimee Grant provided a Karakia to open the meeting.

1. BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved: C Latham

Seconded: Councillor T Fulton

THAT apologies for absence be received and sustained from committee members A Reuben and C Aldhamland.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson C Latham welcomed all to the meeting.

1.3 Acknowledgments

Chairperson C Latham acknowledged the recent sad passing of committee member and former Vice Chairperson Michael Blackwell and former Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Runanga representative on the committee Clare Williams.

Michael Blackwell represented the community on the Zone Committee from 2017 and was Chairperson from August 2019. He was well liked and respected by all and passionate about the environment, particularly wetlands and waterways. Michael would be greatly missed and the thoughts of the committee were with all of his family.

Clare Williams represented Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga on the Zone Committee from its inception in November 2010 through to 2017. Clare was also well liked and respected by all and her collaborative leadership approach helped establish links between the Runanga, other organisations and community bodies involved with water and the environment. Clare was recognised with a Waimakariri Community Service Award in 2019 for her many years of service and dedication to the community. The thoughts of the committee go out to Clare's whānau.

ECan Councillor McKay added that Michael and Clare were both valued members of the community and made a significant contribution during their time on the Zone Committee.

1.4 **Register of Interests**

ECan Councillor McKay advised the removal of the following items from the Register:

Dairy farming/grazing
Woodfields Partnership
Water take and use consents CRC: 990908.1, 102890, 185900.
Effluent discharge consents CRC: 990910.4 210035.

WDC Councillor Fulton advised that he was contracted to write a book for Dairy Holdings Ltd.

2. **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

Brent Walton, Waimakariri Irrigation (WIL)

B Walton provided an update on the Wrights Road water storage project which had reached a point where there was a construction contract with Rooney Earthmoving Ltd and agreement on most of the terms of the contract. It was hoped that the contract would be signed and construction commenced by December 2023 with a final shareholders vote before then. It had become more apparent that environmental outcomes would not be achieved unless there was water storage available, as one of the tools in the kit. There still needed to be discussions held with some shareholders to get their understanding of this need.

Plan Change 7 – WIL had come up with a solutions package which would produce good outcomes in lowland streams and would provide a good step forward. The water storage project would be required to progress any Managed Aquifer Recharge and Targeted Stream Augmentation.

Currently there are 98% of farms in the WIL scheme with A and B farm audit grades. Two had C audits, one of which had now converted to a sheep operation. Issues associated with the other C audit was still being worked through. The target is to have all farms at A and B audit grades.

Regarding the Regional Policy Statement, ECan had approached WIL regarding consultation on the RPS, and particularly in relation to Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). There were currently two FMUs in the Waimakariri zone as a result of the long community consultation process for Plan Change 7 and there would need to be good justification to change this. It was noted that ECan's public consultation on the RPS would take place in several stages, and that there could be benefit in a broader community collaboration as the consultation proceeds.

ECan's winter crop grazing fly overs and subsequent farmer interaction had been received positively.

Councillor Tim Fulton enquired whether there had been any impact on farm practices, and were there fewer stock now grazing winter feed crops. B Walton said when the Farm Plans were introduced in 2016, winter crop grazing wasn't a specific topic at that time as it is now, but had still been identified as a risk, so farmers were already aware of this. The audit process in the last two years had helped to clarify the risks and identify actions for improvement.

John Benn – Department of Conservation

J Benn advised he had attended a meeting recently with ECan, Arowhenua Runanga, and Irrigators in Central Canterbury between the Rangitata and Rakaia Rivers to discuss Freshwater Management Units. Identifying FMUs was quite challenging as the irrigation scheme crosses a number of catchments.

3. REPORTS

The input of the public was valued by the Waimakariri Zone Committee, and to allow the public to ask questions on the reports presented, the Chairperson put the following recommendation.

Moved C Latham Seconded J Cook

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 to ask questions prior to the item being moved.

CARRIED
Cr Fulton against

To clarify this position, C Latham advised that once the Zone Committee members had discussed and asked any questions and prior to the motion being moved, the public would be invited to ask questions. Questions must be directed to the Chair and if the public wished to make a statement rather than ask a question, the place to do that, would be in the “Opportunity for the Public to Speak” section. C Latham commented that it was probable that this recommendation would be a standard item on future Zone Committee Agendas, and it would be a recurring exemption from the Councils Standing Orders.

3.1 Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team Environment Canterbury – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

N Theinhardt presented this report introducing the Waimakariri Zone Delivery team members who were responsible for attending pollution events, monitoring consents, land management advice and delivering biodiversity projects. They each provided an update on their roles and current priorities.

James Schaap, who was present at the meeting, spoke on his role as a Biodiversity and Land Management Advisor. He was involved with biodiversity projects and involvement with farmers regarding good management practices. He had worked in the Dairy industry for several years and done some research work prior to starting with ECan.

Via Teams, Sam Thompson (Land Management Advisor) spoke on his role with Zone Delivery in North Canterbury and as an instructor and mentor for the Hurunui SCAR (Soil Conservation and Revegetation programme), noting that as from 1 July 2023 this initiative would be commencing in the Waimakariri district. The project involved supporting landowners on their land with the tools to manage and mitigate erosion and sediment entering waterways. It was important to invest in partnerships with others in the community and all looked for the same outcomes.

Via Teams, Steph Scheirlinck (Incident Response Officer), worked closely with Kiri Kirkwood managing Hurunui and Waimakariri, looking at properties where there had been an event or incident that had consent and educated property owners on the appropriate consent process, if that was required.

Via Teams, Robert Anding (Resource Management Officer), noted he dealt with global consents for compliance regarding wastewater treatment and storm water for

Waimakariri and the Northern mega zone of Hurunui and Kaikoura.

Via Teams, Kiri Kirkwood (Senior Incident Response Officer), stated she responded to any incidents checking to see if it was compliant with the legislation or not, primarily under the RMA. This would be essentially anything that did not have consent and was non-compliant. This would provide an opportunity to educate the public or landowner. An example of this was in 2022 a campaign was run in the Selwyn area on who could or could not do outdoor burning which was deemed a successful campaign. Any property under two hectares are not allowed to have an outdoor burn. A similar campaign was held in Waimakariri this year, with leaflets being distributed in May advising what was and was not allowed in the area. Another successful campaign in recent years, was the removal of non-compliant white baiting structures in the Cam River. Some of these structures were poor quality and removal of them had improved the appearance of the river.

Via Teams, Anna Veltman (Land Management Advisor), informed the Committee she runs the Waimakariri North Primary Industry Network Group meeting and engaged with farmers who might require assistance with land use consents and helped people to reach the required standards for farm environment plans and audits. She worked alongside the sector groups, such as catchment groups and Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd, which may involve running field days, or drop in sessions on specific topics.

Councillor Fulton noted there was a range of roles covered by these staff members providing education on compliance. How would engagement be undertaken if there needed to be advice or education offered to a property owner on any activity on their property, suggesting that some property owners could become resistant to this. S Thompson advised the focus would be on early intervention and engagement with farmers and building the relationship. The response would also be relative to the issue – it would be a different response if it was a recurring matter as opposed to a one-off mistake having been made.

Councillor C McKay took the opportunity to acknowledge the work of ECan staff in their areas and stated she constantly heard positive comments from the Land Management Advisors.

C Latham advised that as this was now a new Action Plan Funding Year, there was \$75,000 funding available, and the Committee would welcome any advice from Zone Team members of any projects that could be eligible to apply for this funding.

Moved: Councillor T Fulton

Seconded: M Jolly.

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

3.2 **Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning Improvement Project Final Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and S Allen (Water Environment Advisor, WDC)**

S Allen presented this report which provided a report and final update on the Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning Improvement project. Waimakariri District Council received \$9,000 funding from the Water Zone Committee in the last financial year for Phase 2 of the Inanga Spawning Improvement project, which was used for planting. Guards were still on the plants so there would be more growth once the guards were removed. There was potential for this site to provide very effective inanga spawning habitat once the plantings were fully established. There were other streams that also had action planned soon and a report would be going to the Council's Utilities and Roading

Committee meeting on 18 July 2023.

C Latham enquired if it was still planned to undertake sediment removal in Taranaki Stream. S Allen replied that because of the shape, using an excavator was not possible and other options were being considered. The shape of the bays means that sediment would settle again. It was planned for the bays to continue to be surveyed every two years.

Moved: M Jolly Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this report for information taking into consideration the Committee's CWMS Action Plan priorities in 2023-24.

CARRIED

3.3 **CWMS Action Plan Budget Initiatives 2023/24 – for decision – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

C Latham presented this report, which sought support of the Committee for a funding application received from Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group for \$9,000, from the Action Plan funding for the 2023/24 financial year. Information on this project was received in April 2023 and the decision to carry this over was confirmed as part of the final recommendations for projects in the 2022/22 financial year.

There were no questions.

Moved: E Harvie Seconded: R Gill-Clifford

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information provided on the proposed CWMS Action Plan Budget project initiatives to support for the 2023/24 financial year.

CARRIED

Moved: C Latham Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (b) **Approves** its support for this project initiative based on the \$75,000 CWMS Action Plan Budget allocated for each CWMS Water Zone for the 2023/24 financial year.

CARRIED

C Latham advised that the proposed project builds on the previously funded work undertaken and aligns with Action Plan Priority Number 2, which was to protect and improve the indigenous biodiversity habitat or ecosystems in the zone.

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

4.1 **Co-opting an advisory member onto the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee through to the 2024 community member refresh process.**

Since the appointment of Kirk Blumers was made at the last community member refresh, he had not been able to attend any meetings due to a change in his situation. There had also been the loss of committee member Michael Blackwell. This had reduced the number of community appointed members of the committee, (currently four

out of a possible seven), just as an important consultation phase on the Regional Policy Statement was approaching and several other important projects approaching. The reduced community representation diminished the committee and there could also be issues with meeting a quorum at meetings. It had been suggested that a past community member could be co-opted on to the committee. The benefit of having an experienced person on the Committee was discussed. Options could be further discussed at the Zone Committee Briefing in August 2023 with a view to confirming any appointment at the September meeting.

C Latham advised that the 2024 refresh was originally planned for April, but this may be brought forward to February, however it would still be June before new member/s were appointed.

4.2 **Zone Committee Working Groups.**

Biodiversity Working Group update provided – meeting next Monday to discuss the upcoming Environmental Awards and the exact date of awards was still to be confirmed. Media communications are scheduled for July/August 2023 for applications and nominations, with judging likely to be in September 2023.

Lifestyle Block Working Group

A copy of the final draft of the Top Ten Tips for Lifestylers was included in the meeting agenda. The methods for distribution were currently being worked on, and members were asked to contact C Latham if they wished to make any suggestions for the document or would like hard copies.

Monitoring Working Group

E Harvie took the report as read and advised that there should be an update available this week on the initial monitoring analysis. Agreement for the funding had been received and signed by the Waimakariri Landcare Trust.

4.3 **Farmers Field Trip for Mahinga Kai – 21 June 2023.**

C Latham, Councillor T Fulton and E Harvie from the Zone Committee attended this field trip. The trip was very interesting, starting on a farm in the foothills at the top of the Cust River and finishing at the confluence of the Cust Main Drain, Silverstream and Ohoka Stream. The attendees learnt about the principles of mahinga kai and good management practices to protect water quality. On the way there was a stop at a lifestyle property to view the owner's planting project along the riverbank and an opportunity to feed long fin eels. Makarini Rupene hosted the field trip, and C Latham noted points of interest were the protection of mahinga kai, planting on the north side of waterways to provide shade for the waterway, reducing weeds, protecting biodiversity remnants, and avoiding nutrient loading of waterways.

Councillor Tim Fulton thought that the three locations for the field trip stops were well chosen and very educational. He observed that planting was beneficial, but that it was important to be planting the right plants in the right location. Referring to discussion that took place at one of the stops on this field trip, Councillor Fulton commented that that there would always be debate between different groups with different points of view on planting and natural restoration of streambanks versus using mechanical clearing of stream beds.

N Theinhardt observed the difference between scientific monitoring and mātauranga Māori monitoring, suggesting that the latter gave a more overall view. In conclusion, it was considered that this was a successful field trip and there may be further similar field trips arranged in future.

4.4 **Committee Communications Update – June Quarter 2023**

The update was taken as read and that the next newsletter would be coming out later in July. It was suggested that there could be advice included in the newsletter of the new Action Plan Funding available and a link included to an application. The July newsletter was already well populated, and it was suggested that this information could be included in the following newsletter.

4.5 **ECan Water and Land Committee Meeting – 28 June 2023.**

ECan Councillor McKay encouraged people to take the time to read the CWMS Zone reports and the groundwater responses to the Nutrient Reduction Policy. Another paper looked at lag times, with people asking when there would be some noticeable improvements from the actions that had already occurred. ECan had some evidence of land use change (e.g. border dyke to irrigation, or forestry to farming) but there was not yet any evidence of a decrease in pollutants. It was not just the wider community asking these questions, but people who were making the changes wanted to see that their actions were making a difference. Councillor McKay noted that there was also an overview of the SCAR project presented at the meeting.

Councillor Fulton referred the overview report provided by WDC staff on the land on Lineside Road. This provided a good balance of providing a technical overview and what was known about the land to date, and keeping people informed. The important point noted was that it was early days on how this land would be used and developed.

4.6 **Rangiora Reach – Masterplan Final.**

The plan was taken as read and there were no questions or comments from members.

4.7 **A New Regional Integrated Plan – Opportunities to Contribute.**

C Latham spoke on Environment Canterbury commencing with the first phase of the public campaign aimed at creating a new Regional Integrated planning framework. Councillor McKay noted that there were 17 papers going onto the Environment Canterbury website today as part of the new Plan. There were a series of webinars and the first one for the Northern Zone committees would be on 11 July. The consultation would be a mix of drop-in sessions, webinars, and meetings with sector groups. The webinars were about engagement, and provided an early opportunity for people to discuss visions and what their aspirations were for their areas as part of the development of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). There would be two rounds between now and the end of the year and two in 2024. J Grant highlighted the topics of these webinars, and it was envisaged there would be multiple opportunities for individuals and groups to engage in the development of the RPS. Erin Harvie noted disappointment that water security wasn't included in the consultation.

Following a question from Councillor Fulton, Councillor McKay confirmed that recordings of the webinars would be available online.

4.8 **Otuwharekai / Ashburton Lakes Lesson-Learnt Report.**

This report was received for information, there were no questions.

4.9 **Further Information Links.**

Links were received for information.

4.10 **Action Points from the Previous Zone Committee Meetings.**

C Latham noted that several points were still pending.

The 2023/24 CWMS Action Plan budget had been confirmed at \$75,000 for each Water Zone through the Environment Canterbury 2023/24 Annual Plan.

Moved: J Cook Seconded: Councillor Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

Moved: C Latham Seconded: E Harvie

- (b) **Requests** an option for co-opting an advisory member onto the Zone Committee to be confirmed at the 4 September Zone Committee meeting.

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 1 May 2023

Moved: M Jolly Seconded: Councillor C McKay

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 1 May 2023, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no items of general business.

KARAKIA

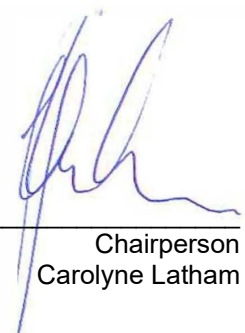
J Grant provided a Karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 4 September 2023 at 3:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.01pm.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Carolyne Latham

2 October 2023
Date