

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2022 AT
3.30PM.**

PRESENT

M Blackwell (Chairperson), A Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative and Deputy Chairperson), E Harvie (until 5.48pm), M Jolly, C Latham, W Main, J Roper-Lindsay, John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative) and Councillor S Stewart (WDC Councillor).

ABSENT

Councillor M Hands (ECan Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE

A Wilson (Fernside resident) and J Benn (Department of Conservation).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), S Symns (ECan Communications Engagement Advisor), Emily (ECan Communications Engagement Advisor), L Jenkins (ECan Fresh Water Planning Team Leader), K Butterfield (ECan Resource Management Officer Regional Implementation), L McKellar (ECan Senior Planner), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided the karakia to open the meeting.

1 BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Nil

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present and requested all the members present to introduce themselves.

1.3 Register of Interests

Nil

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 A Wilson (Fernside resident)

A Wilson advised that several freshwater springs were located on her property in Fernside. The water from the springs on her property ultimately flowed into the Cust and Eyre Rivers. Therefore, she had endeavoured to keep the waterways on her property clean by fencing the wetlands and waterways and planting native plants on her property. She has found freshwater mussels in the waterways that need shade to survive, so she would have to shade the waterways. A Wilson noted that protecting the wetlands and waterways on her property had been a struggle, and she needed knowledgeable assistance to ensure that she was going about this the right way.

M Blackwell expressed his appreciation to A Wilson for realising that she had a duty of care as a land owner and thanked her for her work.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust would be able to assist A Wilson with the protection of the wetlands and waterways on her property. She also suggested that the ECan would be able to help with the protection of the wetlands and waterways. A Arp agreed and indicated that Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust and ECan could discuss the possible levels of assistance with A Wilson.

Councillor Stewart explained that the Council's Arohatia te awa Project aimed to create off-road ecological corridors along the streams and rivers across the Waimakariri District while simultaneously helping to improve water quality for our streams and rivers. A Wilson property may in future be liked with the Arohatia te awa Project. She congratulated A Wilson on the work that she had done so far.

A Wilson advised that the adjacent property owner claimed that his property was flooding because her waterways had not been cleaned. He was therefore demanding that she clean her waterways as soon as possible. The last time she had the waterways clean had been very upsetting, leading to some aquatic life's death. However, she agreed to remove the watercress with a water rake in one of the waterways. She needed advice on dealing with the matter with the least possible damage to the natural environment. A Reuben and J Cooke volunteered to assist A Wilson with the removal of the watercress. J Roper-Lindsay offered that the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust would co-ordinate the assistance provided to A Wilson.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2 Update - L McKellar – Senior Planner, ECan, and M Griffin, CWMS Facilitator – Waimakariri, ECan)

L McKellar and K Butterfield provided an update on Plan Change 7, by highlighting the following:

- Applicability of the operative Waimakariri River Regional Plan versus Waimakariri River Regional Plan Change 2.
- The process of developing Plan Change 7 since 2019.
- Five appeals had been lodged to the High Court of New Zealand against Plan Change 7 and non against Plan Change 2. Provisions not under appeal were treated as operative. Copies of the notices of appeal were available on ECan's website, along with documents identifying provisions that ECan considered to be under appeal.
- Nitrate Priority areas provisions were not under appeal and were therefore now operative.
- Regional Planning Framework
- Implementation of Plan Change 7 alongside the implementation of the essential freshwater regulations.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned how ECan would deal with the additional pressure that the Essential Freshwater Regulations would be placed on implementing Plan Change 7. K Butterfield noted that ECan was currently working on the matter.

Councillor S Stewart enquired how the main stem of the Waimakariri River and the areas to the south, which were not covered by Plan Change 7, would be included in ECan's 2024 review. L McKellar confirmed that these areas would form part of the 2024 region-wide Fresh Water Plan review.

Councillor S Stewart noted that there were people waiting to provide feedback on the scheduled review of the Alpine River Section of the Land and Water Regional Plan. She asked how the public would be advised that this review would now form part of the 2024

regional review. She expressed concern that this would reduce consultation on this section of the plan, which had particular importance to Waimakariri River flows and thus saltwater intrusion. L Jenkins explained that ECan would firstly be establishing its environmental partnerships with Ngāi Tahu. Once this had been done, they would proceed with engagement for the wider region, which would be catchment-based. She acknowledged that the public engagement might not be as detailed as in previous years.

In response to further questions from Councillor S Stewart, L Jenkins advised that the Communications Plan could not be established until ECan and the Ngāi Tahu's environmental partnerships had been established. It was currently unclear when this would be finalised, however, the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee (the Committee) would be kept updated on the process.

E Harvie sought clarity on how the Committee and other environmental groups could contribute to the monitoring of the implantation of Plan Change 7, thereby assisting ECan. L McKellar advised that ECan would focus on the monitoring once it had established its environmental partnerships with Ngāi Tahu.

C Latham asked how ECan would deal with the potential requirement for all properties 20-hectares plus to have a Freshwater Farm Plan. L McKellar undertook to report back to the Committee on this matter.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information, and with reference to the Committee's Working Groups, Action Plan, and Engagement Priorities in 2022.

CARRIED

3.2 **CWMS Action Plan Budget Initiatives – for decision - M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator)**

M Griffin highlighted the initiatives the Committee could consider supporting using the Committee's Action Plan Budget established in the Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2021/31. These initiatives included:

- Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning improvement,
- Sefton/Saltwater Creek Monitoring Programme,
- Northbrook Trail Project,
- Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust Visioning Workshop,

M Griffin explained that the proposed allocation to the Sefton/Saltwater Creek Monitoring Programme had been increased to \$6,640 to ensure the most significant impact on the motoring of the groundwater and to cater for years one and two of the Programme. After the previous Committee meeting, it was also recommended to support the following additional projects:

- Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Shorebird Monitoring project that would monitor the breeding of shorebirds around the Ashley-Rakahuri /Saltwater Creek estuary
- Pines Beach wetland willow control project would support the control of the willow regrowth occurring and enhance the establishment of indigenous wetland habitat in this area.

Moved: J Cooke

Seconded: M Jolly

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** information on the proposed CWMS Action Plan Budget projects to support for the 2021/22 financial year.
- (b) **Approves** its support for the following projects based on the \$50,000 CWMS Action Plan Budget allocated for each CWMS Water Zone in the 2021/22 financial year:
 - (i) Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning improvement,
 - (ii) Sefton/Saltwater Creek Monitoring Programme,
 - (iii) Northbrook Trail Project,
 - (iv) Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust Visioning Workshop,
 - (v) Ashley Rakahuri Estuary Shorebird Monitoring,
 - (vi) Pines Beach Wetland Willow Control Project.

CARRIED

3.3 **ZIPA Implementation – Second and Third Quarterly Update 2021/22 – S Allen WDC, Water Environment Advisor) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

S Allen and M Griffin took the report as read.

Councillor S Stewart questioned if the comprehensive monitoring equipment had been installed in the Kaiapoi River at the Mandeville Bridge. Also, if the data downloaded from the current salinity logger had been analysed. M Griffin advised that, to his knowledge, the results would be available at the next Committee meeting.

Councillor S Stewart sought clarity on who would receive the data on monitoring the water quality in Tutaepatu Lagoon. She also requested if the Committee could be kept updated on the data. M Griffin undertook to investigate the matter and report back to the Committee.

E Harvie requested an update on the investigation into nitrate lag times in the Canterbury region. M Griffin noted that the review of the available scientific and technical resources would be dealt with as part of the Plan Change 7 review. M Blackwell commented that resources for monitoring needed to be prioritised.

Councillor S Stewart advised that the Council would be requesting Ecan and the District Health Board to assist with the cost of the Private Well Study, which had been a ZIPA recommendation. Currently, only the Council contributed to the study, and the lack of resources limited the scope of the study. A Arp undertook to follow up on this matter.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that the Cultural Liaison staff was advising on Mahinga kai gathering areas. She questioned what the staff would be advising on. M Griffin acknowledged that the statement was vague and more information would be provided in the following report.

M Blackwell enquired when the data from the Council's Stormwater Network Discharge Consent monitoring programmes for the district would be accessible. S Allen advised that the annual Monitoring Report for Rangiora would be compiled after the end of the 2021/22 financial year. It was anticipated that the date would be available in either September or October 2022.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: M Jolly

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information, and with reference to the Committee's Working Groups, Action Plan, and Engagement Priorities in 2022.

CARRIED

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)

4.1 Zone Committee Working Groups

- Landcare Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Biodiversity Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Coastal Catchments Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Monitoring Working Group

E Harvie stressed the importance of actually starting with the monitoring process to have the data to feed into the plans.

Councillor S Stewart noted that in March 2021, the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was advised that ECan was working on the Water Data Project to 'clean up' its data sets. As part of the project, a Water Quality Data Viewer was being developed, which would enable the public to access the latest water quality data. She requested that the Committee be updated via a memo on the project's progress and when this information would be available.

4.2 WDC Land and Water Committee – 22 March 2022

A Reuben questioned if the recycler truck, to be used to suck and centrifuge out sediment for the emptying of a Greens Road sediment trap on the Tuahiwi Stream would have a screen to ensure that it did not remove tuna heke. He expressed a concern that autumn was the time of year that the tuna heke headed out to sea, and they would be easily sucked up by the recycler truck. Councillor S Stewart noted that emptying the sediment traps would be done as part of the drainage maintenance programme. She assumed that they would be cautious to protect any aquatic life. However, she would question the procedures and protocol and report back to A Reuben.

In response to a question, Councillor S Stewart explained that the Cam River Enhancement Fund would only be used for fencing when all other regulatory mechanisms had proven unsuccessful, and the Council could get a better environmental outcome by working with the landowner. However, they consulted with Anna Veltman from ECan to speak to the landowners, any fencing had to be permanent, and there had to be a Memorandum of Understanding with the landowners.

4.3 **Waimakariri Zone Communications Report (February 2022 and March 2022)**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.4 **Ashley/Rakahuri River – Braided River Revival**

M Griffin noted that the 'Rangiora Reach' public consultation was scheduled for 7 April 2022. However, Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga was currently busy with legal action against ECan about the commercial water bottling consent, which may delay the public consultation process for the Braided River Revival Project.

A Arp reported that the draft stage one of the project was being presented to the Rūnanga via Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd. It was hoped that the project would be presented at the next Kaitaiki Hui. There was still quite a bit of work to be done, particularly in the river reach section of the project. ECan would be requesting feedback from the Rūnanga and from the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on this part of the Braided Rivers Revival during stage two of the project.

In response to J Roper-Lindsay's questions, A Arp explained that there had been an Advisory Committee set up for the 'Rangiora Reach', which was a joint committee with members from the Council and ECan. The Advisory Committee had compiled the Engagement Plan, however, due to various factors, there had been some delays and gaps in the consultation process. However, CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would be part of that next phase, where the feedback from public consultation would be used to create the Master Plan for the 'Rangiora Reach'. Unfortunately, ECan could not speculate how the high court action brought by Ngāi Tūāhuriri would impact its public consultation process. However, it was hoped that the Braided River Revival Project could continue with the work already agreed to, such as the woody weed removal, boom transitions, fish passes etc. A Arp undertook to provide committee members with information about the ongoing Braided Rivers projects.

A Reuben noted that the Rūnanga participation in water processes and the work being done by water entities had been stopped. The opposition to the Tree Waters Reform by a number of councils had placed a strain on the relationships between Rūnanga and these entities.

4.5 **CWMS Zone Committee Refresh 2022**

J Roper-Lindsay reported that she would not be putting her name forward for the CWMS Zone Committee Refresh. Instead, she wished to concentrate on getting the Biodiversity Trust up and running.

4.6 **Further Information Links**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.7 **Action Points from previous Zone Committee Meetings.**

M Griffin provided an overview of the action points from previous meetings.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay Seconded: J Cooke

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information, and with reference to the Committee's 2021 Work Programme and Community Engagement priorities.

CARRIED

5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

5.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 31 January 2022**

Moved: W Main Seconded: A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 31 January 2022, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

6.2 **Matters Arising**

A Reuben noted that the pesticide levels in the Kaiapoi River had not been tested in five years, and the information was therefore outdated. Consequently, he suggested that new tests be conducted. Councillor S Stewart agreed that new tests should be done, noting that it was difficult to test for pesticide levels in the river sediment due to the chemistry in the Kaiapoi River. M Griffin undertook to follow up on the matter.

7. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided the karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for the 4 July 2022 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.58 PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date