

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM AT THE RANGIORA TOWN HALL, 303 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021 COMMENCING AT 1PM.

PRESENT

Councillors S Stewart (Chairperson), N Atkinson, K Barnett, A Blackie, N Mealings, P Williams, P Redmond and Mayor D Gordon.

IN ATTENDANCE

C Brown (Manager Community and Recreation), G Cleary (Manager Utilities and Roading), K Simpson (Three Waters Manager), S Allen (Water Environment Officer), D Lewis (Land Drainage Engineer) and T Künkel (Governance Team Leader).

Five members of the public attended the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Land and Water Committee held on Tuesday 20 July 2021

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and correct record, the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Land and Water Committee held on 20 July 2021.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

At this time, supplementary Item 6.1 was taken. The Minutes have been recorded in the order of the Agenda.

5 DEPUTATION/PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Northbrook Connectivity Trail – E Harvie (Waimakariri Landcare Trust), G Spark and R Stalker)

E Harvie from the Waimakariri Landcare Trust noted that the Trust was a farmer-led organisation developed to support sustainable agriculture by working in partnership with the industry, local authorities, and Iwi to address environmental concerns. The Trust had received funding under the Sustainable Food and Fiber Futures Fund from the Ministry for Primary Industries for a three year project seeking to identify, test and share on-farm practices to address environmental concerns. Four pod groups

had formed under the project and each pod group had a specific area of interest. The “improved community wellbeing group” sought to focus on community wellbeing, increased engagement between rural and urban communities and iwi engagement. The concept of a connectivity trail along the Northbrook stream was developed from within this pod group.

G Spark explained that it was envisaged that the proposed Northbrook Connectivity Trail would be a walkway/cycleway constructed on the Spark family’s land along the Northbrook stream between the Northbrook wetlands and Marsh Road. As the trail would be situated beside a working farm, the trail would be an opportunity to build connections between the rural and urban communities by showing sustainable farming practices. It was suggested that informative boards be erected along the trail highlighting the cultural and historic significance of the Northbrook area as well as farming in the Waimakariri area. G Spark noted that there was a possibility to extend the trail along the western bank of the Cam River in future. However, for the proposed Northbrook Connectivity Trail to be a community asset, the project would need to be supported by the Council and the community in general.

Councillor Blackie questioned as to why the engagement with Ngai Tuahuriri had not progressed. E Harvie acknowledged that the Ngai Tuahuriri input was critical. However, the Rūnanga had indicated that due to time constants they were not currently able to deal with this matter.

Mayor Gordon commended the Spark family for being willing to open their land for a community trail. The Council was keen to work with the Waimakariri Landcare Trust and the Spark family on this project, and he believed that the project needed to be progressed.

Councillor Atkinson enquired if thought had been given to the ongoing maintenance cost of the trail once it had been established. G Spark commented that, at present, the project was only at a visionary stage. As the Spark family would be providing access to the land there would have to be extensive discussion with the Council on the development and the maintenance of the trail.

In response to questions from Councillor Barnett, G Spark confirmed that the information contained on the proposed information boards would be discussed with all parties involved prior to installation. The core principle would however be to make the information boards as educational and interesting as possible.

Councillor Stewart thanked the Spark family for opening their land for a community trail. She highlighted the Council’s Arohatia te Awa initiative which was developing a track along the Waimakariri District’s waterways and the proposed Northbrook Connectivity Trail could link up with the Arohatia te Awa which was currently being developed from Kaiapoi to Revells Road. The Council had made \$1 million provision to advance the Arohatia te Awa project. Councillor Stewart suggested that staff should work with the Spark family on the development of the trail and submit a more detail proposal to the Committee for possible endorsement in a few months. She further suggested that the proposed Northbrook Connectivity Trail be presented to the Arohatia te Awa Working Group for input. The Rūnanga was represented on the Arohatia te Awa Working Group, which may assist with Ngai Tuahuriri, input into the proposed trail.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Zone Implementation Programme Addendum Capital Works Programme 2021/21 – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)

S Allen summarised the proposed Capital Works Programme for the 2021-22 financial year as developed from the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA). She highlighted the following:

- Budgetary provision had not been made in the 2021-22 financial year for fish passage improvements and the drainage maintenance and management projects as the Council would be undertaking the Forestdale Wetland fencing.
- Continuation of the South Brook beside the Townsend Fields Stormwater Management Area planting and also the continuation of the terrestrial plantings on the Kaiapoi River. There may be an opportunity to allocate funding to a watercress Mahinga kai project in the Cam River, however, the Rūnanga still needed to endorse the project.
- Re-grading of 105 meters of the right bank of Taranaki Stream directly above the tide gate was proposed, followed by planting with suitable native vegetation for inanga spawning. The Council had applied for co-funding for this project from the Environment Canterbury Regional Fish Habitat Fund, and a response was anticipated by mid-August 2021. If the funding was not received the project would have to be carried over to the next financial year or scaled down.

Councillor Williams enquired that if the deer fencing at the Forestdale Wetland was not delayed, would it have been destroyed during the May 2021 flood event. C Brown explained that the purpose of the fencing was to keep deer out of the larger wetland area, so the Council could therefore position the fencing so that it was not vulnerable to flooding.

Councillor Stewart questioned if the footbridge was the only requirement to enable the development of a loop path at Townsend Fields. S Allen advised that currently there was no walking track, however, people would be able to walk in the area as the Council had made provision for a rough track to be developed in the future. It was suggested that a smaller wooden footbridge could be installed to create a loop track.

Councillor Mealings thanked the Spark family for their 'community mind-set' and also the Land Care Trust for the work that they had been doing. She believed that it was important that communities should be shown how sustainable farming was being done.

Moved: Councillor P Williams Seconded: Councillor A Blackie

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 210401054395.
- (b) **Supports** the proposed 2021-22 Waimakariri District Council capital expenditure work programme, based on Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) recommendations.
- (c) **Circulates** this report to Council, Community Boards, WDC-Rūnanga liaison meeting and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee for their information.

CARRIED

6.2 **Wetland Area in the Lineside Road – Bramleys Road area – update on wetland definition and land owner concerns – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen noted that there had been some confusion regarding the National Environmental Standards – Freshwater (2020) definition of wetlands in general. Staff had therefore used the wetland area at Lineside Road as a case study for the implementation of the National Environmental Standards. This area had triggered ongoing concerns from landowners regarding drainage maintenance. Environment Canterbury (ECan) had been received pollution complaints from community members about sediment and other water quality contaminants viewed downstream. The Council had carried out drainage works within the area on a reactive basis over the years and staff intend to carry out works in summer 2021-22 within the area defined ecologically as a wetland for improvement of drainage for landowners.

Councillor Atkinson sought clarity on what maintenance the landowners were referring to that the Council had not done. K Simpson acknowledged that drainage maintenance in this area was problematic as it was a natural low-lying basin. The Council depend on the various Drainage Advisory Groups to advise the Council of what maintenance was needed in a specific area. The Council had consistency carried out drainage works in this area over the last 10-years. However, most of the work done by the Council related to sediment removal, as the area was prone to sediment build-up due to its low-lying nature. Due to the wet nature of the area the landowners were expecting the Council to do maintenance on a more regular basis.

Councillor Blackie questioned what work the staff was proposing to do in this area in 2021-22. K Simpson advised that the majority of the work would again be sediment removal. There was also some drainage maintenance work that needed to be done, however, the area was to wet for the machinery to enter at this time.

Councillor Mealings enquired what defined a wetland in terms of the National Policy Statement of Freshwater Management (NES-F). S Allen explained that the NES-F rules apply to 'natural wetlands' and did not include any area of improved pasture that was dominated by exotic pasture species and was being used for grazing. Councillor Mealings further enquired if this area was listed in the Council's District Plan as a wetland. S Allen confirmed that the area was not considered a nature wetland and as such had not been included in the District Plan.

Moved: Councillor S Stewart Seconded: Councillor A Blackie

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (d) **Receives** Report No. 210630106619.
- (e) **Notes** that Ministry for the Environment had released draft guidance on the definition of natural inland wetlands, however that this planning definition had not yet been applied to the Lineside-Bramleys Road basin area as to whether it was a natural inland wetland under the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (2020).
- (f) **Notes** the intention of WDC staff to carry out works to improve drainage in the Lineside Road Bramleys Road basin area this summer 2021-2022.
- (g) **Notes** that Environment Canterbury interprets the physical works proposed by WDC to be permitted under section (46) National Environmental Standards – Freshwater (2020) even if the area was to be defined as a natural inland wetland.
- (h) **Notes** that the Environment Canterbury wetlands GIS layer had been temporarily removed from Canterbury Maps, therefore WDC would continue to use a downloaded version of this map for determination of potential inland natural wetlands where the National Environmental Standards – Freshwater (2020) rules may apply.

- (i) **Circulates** this report to the Central Rural Drainage Advisory Group, Community Boards and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee.

CARRIED

Councillor Stewart advised that at the last few Central Rural Drainage Advisory Group meetings landowners in this area had complained rigorously about the lack of drainage maintenance. The landowners seemed to have difficulty in understanding the nature of the land itself. She believed that if the Council wished to improve the ecological value of the Cam and Kaiapoi Rivers the drainage problems in this area would need to be resolved. As this seemed that this area was the main source of the sediment deposits in the Cam and Kaiapoi Rivers.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1 Biodiversity – Councillor S Stewart

- Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust had appointed eight Trustees and had its first meeting to finalise the Trust's regulatory documents. It was anticipated that the Trust would request the Council for seed funding to get up and running.
- She encouraged members to attend the first Arohatia Te Awa public planting from 10am to 12:30pm on 14 August 2021 at the Cam River down Revells Road.
- The Biodiversity Champions had been required to complete questionnaire on the greenspace work that the Council was doing which had biodiversity components. It seemed that ECan wished to establish a regional baseline for biodiversity enhancement.

7.2 Land based Indigenous Reserves (Including River Margins) – Councillor A Blackie

No discussion emanated from this point.

8 QUESTIONS

Nil.

9 URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land and Water Committee was scheduled for 1pm, Tuesday 21 September 2021 in the Function Room, Rangiora Town Hall.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.43PM.



Chairperson

17 November 2021

Date

BRIEFING

Review of Cam River Enhancement Fund projects – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)