

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET,
RANGIORA ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2024 WHICH COMMENCED AT 4.05PM.**

PRESENT

C Latham (Chairperson), J Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), E Harvie (via Teams), Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (ECan Councillor).

IN ATTENDANCE

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), N Theinhardt (ECan Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitator), A Smith (WDC Governance Coordinator), L Baltrop (Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust), J Recker (WDC Stormwater and Waterways Manager), A Veltman (ECan Land Management Advisor) (via Teams) and M Bate (Kaiapoi resident).

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided a karakia to open the meeting.

1. BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved C Latham Seconded Councillor C McKay

THAT apologies for absence be received and sustained from committee members R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative), C Aldhamland and M Jolly.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

An opportunity was provided for introductions for all present.

1.3 Register of Interests

The following updates to the Register of Interest were advised by members:

Councillor Claire McKay – Remove –

No longer a shareholder of Balance Agri-nutrients Ltd
No longer holds Domestic Wastewater discharge consents CRC: 102594, 122318
and 144865

Although not to be included in the Register of Interests, Councillor Tim Fulton wished to declare that he had been contracted to write a book on the Central Plains Water Scheme. Although this was out of the Waimakariri district, he wanted to advise his involvement with this.

John Cooke also declared that he was now a Trustee on several Maori land blocks, but these were all located in Otago.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 Michael Bate

Noted the clearing of the willow trees from the banks of the Waipara River. Councillor McKay advised that these were sprayed last autumn and had now been chipped and the slash had been removed, from the SH1 bridge down to the mouth and there was some work being done by Hurunui District Council there. It was pointed out that the Waipara River was not in Waimakariri zone.

A Reuben commented on the tree removal along the Cam River, with any trees that were hanging over the river had been removed, which meant that any shade provided by the trees was gone and increased the water temperature. Affected watercress was already gone. It was suggested that there could have been some native plantings undertaken first before the willow trees were removed.

Regarding the Waipara River, in response ECan Councillor C McKay noted that there was information available on the ECan website and advised that the funding that was used to clear the willows from the riverbed was resilience funding from the Shovel Ready government funding.

M Bate showed some video and photos of Kaiapoi Lakes taken late in 2023. There was algal bloom showing. Photos were also shown of the Waimakariri River, noting the low water levels. Councillor McKay noted that the irrigation takes have all been restricted for quite some time and the climate conditions and lack of rainfall have impacted water levels in rivers.

M Bate raised his concerns on botulism and deaths of birds, noting that this had been a long-standing issue, for more than seven years. Councillor Fulton agreed to bring this matter up again at the Waimakariri District Council meeting the following day, in his portfolio report.

Councillor Fulton provided an update on Avian Botulism in the district, noting that Avian Botulism had been present at the Kaiapoi Wastewater Treatment Plant wetlands over the past few weeks. The number of birds impacted was currently still low, with 171 birds retrieved by ecological contractors from this WWTP this summer, with 149 of those within the past few weeks. The birds collected were a mix of mallard, paradise, shelduck and scaup. Three sick mallards were also seen at the Kaiapoi Lakes, which were suspected to have come from the Kaiapoi WWTP, but no other sites inspected by WDC contractors have definite avian botulism cases.

The Ecological contractors' site visits have increased from two to three times per week to retrieve bird carcasses that were able to be accessed from the sides of the wetlands to contain the spread of the toxin. The Ministry for Primary Industries had been notified.

Councillor Fulton suggested inspections be undertaken of other wetland areas nearby with waterfowl for signs of any sick or dead waterfowl e.g. WDC Greenspace reserves like Kaiapoi Lakes, Tuhaitara Coastal Park, Bromley WWTP and Courtenay Lake (Aqualand). Councillor Fulton confirmed that Avian Botulism was not an infectious disease, but rather a build-up of a toxin which can be prevented by removing dead birds (that other birds could eat maggots off or eat as carrion and then get sick themselves).

The South Island Wildlife Hospital had confirmed that they have some (limited) spaces for affected birds that could recover with treatment, but not for mallards (paradise, shelducks, scaup and any rare or endangered bird species would be accepted).

It was confirmed that Sophie Allen would keep the committee updated on any developments at Kaiapoi WWTP and other Waimakariri District Council sites over the next few weeks.

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 Cooke

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

- (a) **Agrees** that Section 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

3.1 Committee Appointments for 2024 – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

C Latham stepped down from the Chair and M Griffin assumed the Chair's position at this time and called for nominations for Chairperson for the Zone Committee for 2024.

Moved J Cooke

Seconded A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Appoint** Carolyne Latham as Chairperson for 2024.

CARRIED

C Latham was congratulated on her re-election to this role and assumed the Chair. Nominations were called for Deputy Chair for the Zone Committee for 2024.

Moved Councillor T Fulton

Seconded J Cooke

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (b) **Appoint** Erin Harvie as Deputy Chairperson for 2024.

CARRIED

E Harvie was congratulated on her re-election to this role.

Nominations were called for Youth Representative for the Zone Committee for 2024.

Moved C Latham

Seconded E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (c) **Appoint** Ruby Gill-Clifford as the Youth Representative for 2024.

CARRIED

R Gill-Clifford was congratulated for her re-election.

3.2 **Te Tiriti Training - Presentation – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

As R Gill-Clifford was not able to attend the meeting, it was agreed that this item would be considered at a future meeting.

Item 3.4 was taken at this time. Note that the minutes have been recorded in accordance with the order of the agenda as circulated.

3.3 **CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – Update – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

M Griffin and A Veltman presented this report, noting that it was hoped to reach agreement on the applications received for funding from the CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 by May 2024. Each Zone Committee had \$75,000 available in their budgets and were to best utilise this funding in alignment with the committees 2021-2024 Action Plan. An overview of the applications received to date or known to be coming, was provided to members. In the future, M Griffin agreed to provide copies of the full applications, which would be distributed individually to committee members.

Lucy Baltrop (Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust) who was present at the meeting, had assisted some applicants with their applications.

Councillor McKay noted that the committee needed to be cognisant of the regulations, making reference to applications for fencing of waterways. Landowners have a legal obligation to fence waterways in some circumstances.

Councillor Fulton suggested there were several different categories of applicants, noting that they were all worthy applications. He also pointed out that some of the applications for funding may relate to work that the property owner had an obligation to undertake.

The committee discussed some of the applications and the information provided in the summaries. Staff provided further comment on some applications as required. Councillor McKay suggested that the applications may need to be prioritised and then consider how they relate to the Zone Committee's Action Plan. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the committee members to undertake site visits for many of these applications.

M Griffin suggested having a workshop in April, with the suggested date of 15 April, 4 – 6pm, and this would be arranged and meeting invite sent to all committee members.

Moved Councillor McKay

Seconded Councillor Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this information with consideration to the allocation of CWMS Action Plan Budget available for 2023/24.

CARRIED

3.4 **Mandeville Resurgence Channel Upgrade – Update – Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and Jason Recker (Stormwater and Waterways Manager, WDC)**

Jason Recker presented an update on the consultation and options for providing additional capacity for the Mandeville Resurgence Channel upgrade. The Mandeville area had a history of flooding, including recent storms in 2014, 2017, 2022 and 2023. As noted in the report, the flooding was generally caused by heavy rain, but was also exacerbated by high groundwater levels and resurgence flow. Following the 2014

flooding, budget was allocated in outer years for this upgrade. This matter had gone out for public consultation with public drop-in sessions held in September 2023 in Mandeville and Kaiapoi, and a survey for residents to select a preference for the Stage 1 options. 107 surveys were completed and received back by the Council. Challenges were also highlighted during the drop in sessions and survey results, with significant comments suggesting the optimal approach to direct storm flows in the Eyre River, which then discharges in to the Waimakariri River. This was believed to have greater capacity and create less flooding impacts downstream. In January 2024 the Council approved the following two stages for public consultation as part of the draft LTP:

- Request Council approve the adoption of the Existing Drainage Path Upgrade Option (Option A) for Stage 1. This was spread over two years 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- Request Council authorise further assessment of an alternative Stage 2 Option that would divert stormflows into the Eyre River.

There had been initial discussions with some landowners regarding Stage 2 options and there would be challenges with Stage 2, with land acquisition, coordination with ECan and mana whenua, as well as making sure there were no adverse impacts downstream. There had been high level estimates of cost included in the draft LTP of \$21m. Stage two would involve:

- 2026/27 - design and consenting
- 2028/29 - land acquisition
- 2030/2031/2032 - three years of construction

It was advised that as part of the LTP public drop in sessions, there would be one at the Ohoka Domain on Thursday 11 April from 7 – 9pm, where Council staff would be present to discuss matters or answer questions specifically on this Mandeville issue.

Questions

Councillor Fulton asked if the Council had considered engaging an external hydrologist to investigate the link between groundwater levels and resurgence channel levels. J Recker advised that this hadn't been considered at this stage, but with the scope of this project, there may be some external advice for Stage 2. The Council does not have specialist hydrologists.

With the upgrade on the Bradleys Road culvert and Ohoka Stream, Councillor Fulton asked if there would be any downstream effects as a result of this. J Recker said it was proposed to upgrade the culvert on Bradleys Road, upgrade the bunding and potentially install a weir. It was not considered it would have a big impact on Ohoka. Staff would also be working with landowners to address any concerns.

John Cooke commented on residential developments where sometimes consideration wasn't given to where water would go once it had been redirected off the properties. He asked if the downstream effect had been planned for with Stage 2. J Recker said it would first need to be determined that the Eyre River had the capacity. Modelling would need to be done, to look at what the capacity was with alignment in Stage 2. There was no recourse on the developers of residential subdivisions and John Cooke noted his concern with the impact of developments in the future. He suggested that there was still no plan in place if there was a significant rain event and how to get the water from the land into the Waimakariri River. J Recker responded that the Council had done a lot of work in recent years with flood mitigation, modified stop banks and pumps to remove water.

J Cooke asked if there was any update on the Revells Road/Tuahiwi investigation. J Recker advised that this was still to be investigated by the Council Flood Team but agreed to provide an update on this to the Committee when this was available.

Moved J Cooke

Seconded Councillor T Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this information with consideration to the Committees 2021-2024 CWMS Action Plan and community engagement priorities.

CARRIED

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

4.1 Zone Committee Working Groups.

Biodiversity Working Group

No update available and the next Biodiversity Working group meeting to be set up in March.

Lifestyle Block Working Group

The Biodiversity Trust would be holding an “Unlocking Nature on Your Land Workshop” from 6 – 9pm on Wednesday 13 March, at the Fernside Hall. Carolyne would be speaking on the Top Ten Tips for Lifestylers at this workshop. Noted that there are more of these leaflets being printed and Carolyne encouraged members to share these with any appropriate groups or organisations/businesses.

Monitoring Working Group

Erin noted the report in the agenda could be taken as read.

There were no questions on these working group updates.

4.2 Environment Canterbury Updates.

Councillor McKay took this update as read.

Noted that it was mentioned that there would be a meeting or workshop set up to discuss the CWMS Zone Committee review and encouraged members to give consideration to this discussion and the future of Zone Committees.

ECan LTP consultation opens on the 13 March and closes on 14 April. The proposed rate rise was 24%.

The next ECan Water and Land Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 March.

Regarding “Our Future Canterbury” and the Regional Policy Statement, this document was currently being worked on and shortly would be going out for peer review. This document should be available by mid-year to stakeholders.

4.3 Waimakariri District Council Updates – Councillor Fulton

Cam River Enhancement Fund Works

Projects proposed for autumn 2023-24 were approved at the Utilities and Roding Committee in November. There were projects for fencing, native planting and in-stream cobble placement improvements which are located in Tuahiwi along the Tuahiwi Stream (Waituere) and a tributary into the Cam River. There was also planned maintenance to remove sediment from sediment traps on the Middle Brook, and native planting along the South Brook.

Stormwater Network Discharge Consenting

It is expected that the stormwater network discharge consents for Kaiapoi, Oxford, and Woodend would be issued in the coming month, with commencement from the 1 April 2024. The Council was engaging with Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd on reviewing the draft Rangiora Stormwater Management Plan and scoping projects for wahi tapu protection and mahinga kai enhancement to help meet the objectives of the consent.

Stormwater, Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2018 review

Janet Fraser (WDC Utilities Planner) had commenced work on the review of the Stormwater Drainage and Watercourse Protection Bylaw 2018 (to be amended by 1 January 2025). The Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was not able to submit on this bylaw review, as it was a committee of Council, however feedback can be received, and personal submissions can be made as part of the consultation process. The review includes staff workshops and informal stakeholder consultations being undertaken from now until May approval of the draft bylaw for consultation in May, followed by a one month consultation period in June. A hearing panel would hear submissions and then deliberate in August and the recommendation to Council to adopt the revised bylaw would go to the 1 October council meeting.

4.4 Action points from the previous Zone Committee meetings.

- Kaiapoi River Salinity logger data – this information is still to be sourced.
- Further update still to come back to the committee on the realignment of the Northbrook Tributary. – M Griffin and S Allen to coordinate providing this information to the committee
- The Wai Connection representatives agreed to come to a later meeting of the committee. M Griffin to arrange this.

Moved J Cooke

Seconded A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 6 November 2023

Moved Councillor McKay

Seconded J Cooke

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING

Councillor McKay advised that she was still waiting for a response from the Ecan Rivers Team regarding the spraying Willows, a matter raised by M Bate.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Regarding the Committee membership refresh for this year, M Griffin advised that it was planned to defer this until later in the year.

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided a karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for Monday 6 May 2024 at 4pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson
Carolyne Latham

Date