

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022 AT 1PM.

PRESENT

Councillors S Stewart (Chairperson), N Atkinson, K Barnett, A Blackie, N Mealings and P Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond

C Brown (Manager Community and Recreation), G Cleary (Manager Utilities and Roading), K Simpson (Three Waters Manager), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor) and A Connor (Governance Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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 16 November 2021

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

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 16 November 2021.

CARRIED

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 DEPUTATION/PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

6 REPORTS

6.1 Cam River Enhancement Fund Review Decision – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)

S Allen summarised the report and highlighted the following:

- The Council sought confirmation for the allocation of the remaining \$179,758 of the Cam River Enhancement Fund on in-stream and catchment works from North Canterbury Fish and Game, and the Department of Conservation. She had subsequently received verbal confirmation from North Canterbury Fish and Game, however, had no feedback from the Department of Conservation.

- The Council were currently scoping catchment works rather than looking at what was happening in the waterway. One option was an argillite trial where a clay based gravel would be used opposed to a regular river run gravel. The advantage of this was that less dust would be produced. This trial would take place on Marsh and Waikoruru Roads.
- A policy had been proposed for funding of fencing for Cam River Enhancement Fund projects that aligned with stock exclusion requirements for Plan Change 7 of the Land and Water Regional Plan and the RMA Stock Exclusion Regulations (2020). The policy specifically enabled an exemption for funding of fencing for Māori-owned land.

Councillor Stewart asked of more information on the argillite trial. S Allen explained work would be taking place within the next few weeks. The trial was a part of projects the Roding Team were doing in the same area therefore the establishment costs would be shared. The Roding Team were installing \$8,000 of drainage improvements to ensure water did not sit on the road. Argillite would provide a more sealed surface, less dust and run-off than regular river run gravel would. The Marsh Road site was an Environment Canterbury (ECan) monitoring site and they had been taking clarity measurements for quite a while meaning there would be ongoing monitoring.

Councillor Blackie questioned what would happen when land owners requested compensation for fencing. G Cleary stated that compensation was not on the table as there was no funding in place for that.

Councillor Stewart sought clarity on the location of the bank stabilisation works taking place in Southbrook below the Rangiora Wastewater Treatment Plant, and why this would not be covered by the Drainage Budget. S Allen clarified that was rural land, of which the northern side was privately owned and the south side was an esplanade reserve, which was Council owned which was why the Cam River Enhancement Fund was being used.

S Allen requested that the following amendment be made to the staff recommendation contained in the report:

Recommendations (b) and (d) should be amended to read as follows:

- (b) **Notes** that the cost of sediment trap maintenance works would be provided from Drainage Maintenance Budgets or the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) budget.
- (d) **Delegates** approval of a fencing policy to the Land and Water Committee Chairperson and the Utilities and Roding Manager.

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 220111002069.
- (b) **Notes** that the cost of sediment trap maintenance works would be provided from the Drainage Maintenance Budgets or the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) Budget.
- (c) **Notes** that the fencing projects were intended to be carried out by the Water Environment Advisor role in 2022-23.
- (d) **Delegates** approval of a fencing policy to the Land and Water Committee Chairperson and the Utilities and Roding Manager.

- (e) **Circulates** this report to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee, the Rangiora-Ashley and Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Boards, the Mahi Tahi Joint Development Committee, and the Central Rural Drainage Advisory Group.

CARRIED

Councillor Stewart was in favour of doing some work on the ground with this fund. She encouraged the Council to take up ECan on their offer to help with consent when the instream works come up for scoping. The Council needed to exhaust all avenues, legislative or regulation wise, to ensure there would be an enhanced environmental outcome for the river if this fund was to be used for fencing.

Councillor Mealings noted the lack of funding for these type of projects, and this funding therefore needed to be used carefully. She also commented that this report should have included sustainability and climate change impacts, as the Cam River Enhancement Fund would surely have a large bearing on sustainability.

6.2 **Community Biodiversity Funding – ZIPA Recommendation 2.8 – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen noted that this was the first year the Council had been provided funding from the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) Budget. The fund was not contestable this year, however, in the next financial year it could be depending on staff resourcing. She also noted that this was an operational fund and was not for a specific project.

Councillor Atkinson sought clarity on how the fund would be contestable if it was only offered to one group. S Allen explained that the contestable fund was a recommendation for the next financial year. Due to Covid and resource shortages, staff did not have the means for the fund to be contestable this financial year.

Councillor Stewart questioned whether the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust would be able to meet the deliverables of “Mapping and detailing current biodiversity initiatives in the region” and “Website creation, hosting and web designer fees”. She also asked if deliverables conflicted with work already being done by staff. S Allen confirmed that the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust had provided those deliverables. She also noted that if any of the deliverables conflicted with work Council staff were already doing they could be removed.

Moved: Councillor Atkinson

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 211015166997.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$20,000 to the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust for operational and establishment expenses from the existing 2021-22 Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) Opex budget.
- (c) **Supports** creation of an open (contestable) funding round for 2022-23 and future budget allocations for ZIPA recommendation 2.8, if Waimakariri District Council staff resourcing was sufficient to administer an open fund.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee and the WDC-Rūnanga Liaison meeting for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Atkinson commented that this was a very worthwhile fund.

S Stewart stated that the Waimakariri District would benefit from a trust focused on increasing the biodiversity footprint.

6.3 Private Well Study – Results From 2021 – Sophie Allen (Water Environment Advisor)

S Allen summarised the findings of the Council's private well study done in 2021. She noted that as well as sampling in Cust and Eyreton the Council expanded the study to include Carleton and Swannanoa. The reason for expanding to Carleton and Swannanoa was based off ECan's modelling that showed these areas may have increased nitrate levels. She highlighted the following:

- There were three wells found that were over the Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) set for nitrate in the new Zealand Drinking Water Standards for new Zealand (DWSNZ 2005, amended 2018). One was in Cust which the Council had been aware of from the previous studies done in 2020 and 2019. One was in Carleton and the other was in the Swannanoa area.
- Carleton had a large spread of results. Some areas would get denitrification in the ground water giving results that showed almost no nitrate and then there was one well that was over the MAV.
- The owners of the private wells that did not meet DWSNZ had been notified to seek water treatment and had been provided with a list of water treatment suppliers they could contact. The Council was not recommending any of these suppliers the list was just a tool to provide support to the owners.
- A private well booklet was produced in 2021 to provide further support to owners, however, it needed to be updated with information on the Water Services Act 2021.
- There was a correction to item 1.8 in the report which stated the study would be repeated in 2022 with the same 39 wells. There was one well that had filtration for iron before they could take the sample meaning we needed to remove that well from the study. This well would be replaced.

Councillor Williams recommended that the report should also be circulated to Taumata Arowai. G Cleary concurred and undertook to ensure that the information was shared with Taumata Arowai as it would be helpful for them to understand some of the issues the Council had in the district.

Councillor Mealings questioned where the Swannanoa sampling area was. S Allen advised it was at the intersection of Tram and Two Chain Roads.

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 220222024399.
- (b) **Notes** the findings of the 2021 study, with three wells above the nitrate-nitrogen Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) set in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005, amended 2018). Of the wells sampled 67% in Eyreton, 89% in Cust, 30% in Carleton and 40% in Swannanoa sampling areas were above half of the MAV (5.65 mg/L).
- (c) **Notes** that the median nitrate concentration for Eyreton and Cust sampling areas, as sampled in the 2021 study, did not meet the limit of a median of 5.65 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen in Plan Change 7 of the Land and Water Regional Plan for private water supply wells. Swannanoa and Carleton sampling areas did meet this limit.
- (d) **Notes** that well owners of the three wells found to be above the MAV for nitrate had been contacted by the Council to discuss supply management or treatment, with the Cust property not currently in domestic use (ie. no one living at the house).

- (e) **Notes** that Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury staff would continue to raise awareness of the health impacts of high nitrates, and to encourage private well owners to test water regularly, including updating and wider distribution of the publication of a 'managing a private well supply' pamphlet for the District.
- (f) **Notes** that the Council propose to repeat this study in spring 2022 (with 10 wells in Eyreton, nine wells in Cust, 10 wells in Swannanoa and 10 wells in Carleton). Well owners from the previous sample rounds would be approached for repeat annual sampling, to allow for assessment of trends over time.
- (g) **Notes** that trends for nitrate concentration over time were not able to be concluded from data for only three years, or one year of data for Swannanoa and Carleton sampling areas.
- (h) **Circulates** this report to the Council, Community Boards, Waimakariri Water Zone Committee and Taumata Arowai for information.
- (i) **Requests** that Environment Canterbury and the Canterbury District Health Board honour the ZIPA recommendation and help fund the expansion of the water quality study to the 180 wells it was originally scoped to sample.

CARRIED

Councillor Stewart stated that the Council was paving the way for study of water quality in private drinking wells and were honouring the 2018 ZIPA recommendation by investing money to fund the study. There would be a much better understanding of the quality of water if other organisations contributed to the funding so that the sampling could be expanded.

Councillor Atkinson noted the importance of the study, however believed that the study should be funded by ECan in total.

Councillor Mealings agreed with Councillor Atkinson that the study should be funded by ECan in totality and not by Waimakariri ratepayers. The public who were using private wells deserved to know that the water they were drinking was safe.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1 Biodiversity – Councillor Sandra Stewart

- Biodiversity Champions meeting with ECan on 21 March 2022. She would like biodiversity implications to be included on all reports that serve at the Council and Committees.
- In 2021 a forum was held by the Council and ECan about the issues with biodiversity enhancement across the region. They had been talking about advancing a region wide skill resource unit for biodiversity to assist territorial authorities that do not have the ratepayer income to fund biodiversity. Also talked about regional GIS mapping that would be a resource for the whole region that would be publicly available.
- Suggested the Council make a submission on the Emission Trading Scheme and the Better Incentives to Encourage Indigenous Forest. Submissions close on 22 April 2022.

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

- One of the bridges in Silverstream had been funded through the Annual Plan and the other bridge had been donated by the city, meaning the Council would only have to pay for installation costs. Engineering for the donated bridge would also be either pro bono or at a minimal cost.

- Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Review Committee met last week as they were in their three year review. The car park in Kairaki was used by 40,000 cars per annum and a quarter of those cars accessed the beach. There would be a group of Auckland University students conducting a survey as part of a project to assess the Tuatua sustainability situation on the whole beach.

8 **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

10 **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Moved Councillor Stewart

Seconded Councillor Barnett

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public was excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item N ^o	Minutes/Report of:	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
10.1	Minutes of a public excluded portion of a meeting of the Land and Water Committee held 16 November 2021	Confirmation of Minutes	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution was made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public were as follows:

Item N ^o	Reason for protection of interests	Ref NZS 9202:2003 Appendix A
10.1	Protection of privacy of natural persons To carry out commercial activities without prejudice	A2(a) A2(b)ii

CLOSED MEETING

Resolution to Resume in open meeting

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Atkinson

THAT the Land and Water Committee:

10.1 **Confirmation of Minutes of the Public Excluded portion of the Land and Water Committee meeting of Tuesday 16 November 2021**

Resolves that the Minutes remain public excluded.

CARRIED

OPEN MEETING

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land and Water Committee is scheduled for 1pm, Tuesday 17 May 2022.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2.26PM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

17 May 2022

Date