

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET,  
RANGIORA ON MONDAY 6 MAY 2024 WHICH COMMENCED AT 4.00PM.**

**PRESENT**

C Latham (Chairperson), J Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), E Harvie, 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), Andrew Arps (Northern Zone Manager, ECan), L Baltrop (Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitator) and K Rabe (WDC Governance Advisor).

**KARAKIA**

C Aldhamland provided a karakia to open the meeting.

**1. BUSINESS**

**1.1 Apologies**

Moved: C Latham      Seconded: Councillor C McKay

**THAT** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Arapata Reuben.

**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:

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.

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

**2.1 Lucy Barltrop, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust**

L Baltrop provided the Committee with an overview of the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust's (The Trust) background. The Trust was formed following Waimakariri Water Zone Committee discussions regarding the lack of assistance there was for members of the community to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity on a voluntary basis. The Trust had gained charitable status in mid-2022 and had eight Trustees with J Lindsay-Roper as chairperson. The Trust received establishment funding from the Council's Land and Water Committee of \$20,000 and \$5,000 from Environment Canterbury's Zone Committee. It had also received an additional \$20,000 from the Council's Utilities and Roading Committee for operational and

Zone Committee project funding. The Trust had a vision and purpose to see vibrant, healthy, connected, indigenous ecosystems valued across the Waimakariri District and to provide the necessary information, education, and resources to enable the community to protect, restore, create and sustainably manage indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District. The Trust had worked with Compass FM and the media and were building relationships with existing groups such as the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group, the Hurunui Biodiversity Trust, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited, Waimakariri District Council and Environment Canterbury.

L Barltrop provided the Committee with an overview of the current projects the Trust was working on which included working with Rangiora High and Daiken on a wetland area, running the Winter Series 2, assisted with the Fernside Wetland and Hunter Stream initiatives, working with Enviroschools, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited, Kaiapoi East Residents Association and the Trust had also submitted an application to the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund to hopefully restore a pond in Waikuku Beach.

### 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 CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator-Waimakariri)

C Latham presented this report which requested approval for applications to the Zone Committee's Canterbury Water Management Strategy Action Plan budget for the 2023/24 financial year. Over the last six months, Committee members had visited each of these projects, where possible, to understand how these would align with the Committee's vision and action plan.

In total the Committee received 12 applications however three projects were declined as they did not align as well with the Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan priorities.

C Latham requested clarification regarding the Hunters Stream application and was assured that though the project was now to be staged the catchment component of the project would be completed.

Councillor Fulton queried whether the Lees Road projects were interlinked and was told that the projects were all self-contained and did not rely on the other surrounding projects to achieve their aims.

Moved: R Gill-Clifford                      Seconded: M Jolly

**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: J Cooke

Seconded: Councillor Fulton

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (b) **Approves** its support for the project initiatives based on the remaining \$66,000 available of the \$75,000 CWMS Action Plan Budget allocated for each CWMS Water Zone for the 2023/24 financial year.
1. Bittern Inanga Rushland – Air Charter Queenstown \$15,000.
  2. Hunters Stream – J & G Freeman \$5,285.
  3. Ketchum Cottage – A Wilson \$7,210.
  4. O'kair Lagoon – J Wakeman & M Stewart \$15,000.
  5. Pohio Wetland – N Auld \$11,700.
  6. Riparian enhancement project – Whiterock Mains \$6,000.
  7. Sefton Saltwater Creek Catchment Group Yr3 monitoring \$2,805.
  8. Waimakariri Biodiversity Working Group – Environmental Awards \$3,000.

**CARRIED**

### 3.2 **Wai Connection – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

J Halsey, Engagement Services Manager / Wai Connection Waitaha Regional Manager for EOS Ecology, was in attendance to update the Committee via a Powerpoint presentation (Trim Ref: 240507072176) on the Wai Connection programme underway across Canterbury and in the Waimakariri specifically.

J Halsey gave a brief background on how Wai Connection was set up to support local catchment groups by providing project support which included planning and network support, training, project reporting and guidance to provider organisations. They could also offer support on technical or scientific matters such as science-focused catchment information, project website and resources, community-based monitoring and data website and developing additional community-based monitoring programmes.

Canterbury had been divided into three areas namely North, Mid and South project regions with their own EOS Ecology 'Wai Connection Catchment Co-ordinator. A successful Canterbury regional hui was held on Monday 18 September 2023 at Dunsandel Community Centre.

C Latham queried if the Waimakariri catchment included the Ashley River and was told that the Ashley may be included at a later stage, however the current focus was the Waimakariri River and Waimakariri plains. C Latham also asked what the catchment mapping resource included and was informed that it was a high level document which did not focus on details however was a useful tool for catchment groups as a starting point.

Councillor McKay queried when funding for this project ran out and was informed that EOS Ecology had funding until June 2025. The focus was currently on community days, education and for the catchment groups to take ownership of the project. The project was also aligned with Environment Canterbury's (\*ECan) priorities and the team worked with ECan scientists to ensure there were no conflicts.

Councillor Fulton noted the comment regarding working collaboratively with ECan's scientists querying how community data would be accepted by ECan. J Halsey noted that community groups had been collecting data for many years and she and ECan

were working on how to include this valuable resource with ECan's official data. New Zealand Landcare Trust were assisting with this part of the project.

C Latham noted that she had been involved in the Saltwater Creek Catchment Group for some time and asked what assistance this group could expect. J Halsey noted that currently they had funding for 15 groups which were already identified but encouraged other groups not included in the project to attend community days and education sessions. She noted that the Saltwater Creek Catchment Group was included on their list for Canterbury and the group would be receiving further information at a later stage.

The Chairperson thanked J Halsey for her presentation.

Moved: Councillor McKay

Seconded: C Aldhamland

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the update for information and with consideration to the committee's CWMS Action Plan priorities.

**CARRIED**

### 3.3 **Te Tiriti Training – Presentation – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

R Gill-Clifford gave a presentation (Trim Ref: 240507072181) on her attendance to the Te Tiriti training she undertook in October 2023, noting that Te Tiriti o Waitangi was Contra Proferentum and a founding document of the country. By being 'Contra Proferentum' indicated that when dealing with the Treaty the indigenous language took precedence over English.

R Gill-Clifford stated that the training had a profound affect on her and her understanding of the history of the country, noting that there were big and small actions that pākehā could take to honor the treaty that could be done on a daily basis. It was important to apply te tiriti, pay careful attention to relationships above all else. R Gill-Clifford requested Committee members to comment on what this presentation had meant.

M Jolly agreed with R Gill-Clifford that she felt conflicted and guilty for the damage done however the feelings themselves were unhelpful. She believed that to be hopeful of a better relationship between all who lived in New Zealand would be a better reaction.

Councillor Fulton stated that the presentation was very thought provoking and to understand the cultural differences and understanding of phraseology which had led to misunderstanding throughout the years.

M Griffin noted that the next training course was scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June and queried if any of the Committee would like to attend. C Aldhamland asked if she could attend.

The Chair thanked R Gill-Clifford for her presentation.

Moved: M Jolly

Seconded: E Harvie

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for information.

**CARRIED**

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

##### 4.1 **Zone Committee Working Groups.**

- *Biodiversity Working Group – M Jolly*  
Evolved this year since we had ....(unable to hear M Jolly on the recording)
- *Lifestyle Working Group – C Latham*  
Top Ten leaflets had been distributed through rural real estate brokers and were well received, however the pamphlet required wider distribution than currently it was getting. The Waimakariri Biodiversity Group held a Workshop on Unlocking Nature on Your Land which included the top ten tips among other topics. Feedback on the tips was positive.

There was a query if any of the other districts had something similar to the top ten tips and M Griffin noted that Selwyn District Council had shown interest and there was discussion regarding the possibility of adapting the pamphlet to be regional.

- *Monitoring Working Group – E Harvie*  
Acknowledged the presentation by Wai Connect and gave a brief update on the monitoring and collation of the information will be released via a memo to be in the next few months.

Nitrate testing - There was a query regarding the hiring of a nitrate testing device in the near future and E Harvie agreed that there was budget for this however there were ongoing discussions on how best to manage the drop-in session with a suggestions that Wai Connect give a presentation so residents samples could be tested during the presentation to ensure that there was less waiting around for results. M Griffin suggested that there should be clarity on whether there was a demand for further testing of the communities water supplies and that consideration be given to including a scientist to attend the session to give information to residents on the test results. This had proved very popular at the Mandeville drop-in session. It was also suggested that the session be very explicit in that the testing was for nitrates and not ecoli or other contaminants.

Councillor McKay urged the Committee to keep discussions with WDC current in relation to any testing of water.

##### 4.2 **Waimakariri CWMS 2021-2024 Action Plan Review.**

M Griffin noted that the 2021-2024 Action Plan had been reviewed last year and noted that the current version was due to expire in June 2024 and he believed that there was not much that had changed, however this was an opportunity for the Committee to decide if there should be any changes made to this action plan. A new plan would be developed for the new long term plan term.

The Committee agreed to let the current version stand with an option to review later in the year via a workshop.

##### 4.3 **Environment Canterbury Updates.**

Councillor McKay noted the Memo from A Parrish on the Regional Policy Statement which was likely to be released in June or July of this year.

She also gave a brief update on the LTP hearings and process. The Council agenda for the Councill meeting included ECan submissions on central government reforms.

##### 4.4 **Waimakariri District Council Updates.**

1. Eastern Districts Sewer Scheme 2022-23 compliance report (forwarded to the WWZC from Utility and Roading (U&R) Committee – see attached report supplied by Kalley Simpson)

2. Avian Botulism report 2022-23 (forwarded to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee from U&R Committee – see attached report).  
The only thing to add to this report as a comment from Sophie Allen that a 2023-34 report would be written sometime in the coming months by Sophie, with a review of science and how the 2023-24 season went. She said “there was only a minor outbreak this year that was at the Kaiapoi Wastewater Treatment Plant, but only low bird deaths at other WDC Waste Water Treatment Plants that might have been avian botulism or other causes”.
3. Cam River Enhancement Report. A comment to add to the progress of the these projects in the report was that they had been delayed for implementation. WDC carried out consultation with Ngai Tuahuriri following a request from Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd earlier in the year. Some projects would happen in the next few months, a few would now be in 2024-25, and one fencing and planting project on private land had the landowner pull out.
4. Natural Environment Strategy - There had been some good support for the NES from the LTP consultation in terms of the majority of people preferred the preferred option (all actions funded) but there had also been submissions which discussed the need to halt work in the biodiversity space. This had been related to the governments instruction to stop work on the SNAs. We are yet to see which option the Council would adopt.
5. The Stormwater Network Discharge Consents for Oxford, Woodend and Kaiapoi should be granted shortly, as a commencement date of 1 May 2024 was agreed by WDC and ECan. An annual report for the Rangiora stormwater network discharge consent CRC184601 and annual water quality report for 2022-23 had been sent to ECan, and would be presented to U&R Committee in June, with circulation shortly afterwards to the WWZC.
6. There was a collaboration between Greenspace, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust, Canterbury Museum, Lincoln University and Wildlands in delivering a successful series of iNaturalist events across the District at the end of April. There were three mini BioBlitzs, a nighttime critter event and a bird event at the Ashley/Rakahuri.
7. Arohata te Awa (Cherish the River) – This programme of work has had a restart following a period of inactivity. An increased scope of projects now included beyond the Cam Ruataniwha River to the Lineside Road wetland area, and scoping of projects in the Ohoka Stream, Courtenay Stream and elsewhere.
8. Nitrates – A Greenpeace event in Rangiora on the 21 April netted about 250 attendees who wished to test the nitrate levels in their drinking water. Some samples were brought in WDC community drinking water supplies, which should slightly different results than what is published by WDC – this was likely due to testing methods, and natural variation in nitrate levels over time (e.g. annual cycles). Greenpeace had questioned the Maximum Allowable Value in the drinking water standards from research that it could lead to a slightly lower birth weights in infants from 5 mg/L Nitrate-Nitrogen. Greenpeace sent a letter to Te Whatu Ora, naming the Oxford supply (incorrectly named as the Oxford town supply, when it is the Oxford No.1 Rural supply) as over 5 mg/L Nitrate-Nitrogen. Regular WDC testing through an IANZ accredited lab shows that the Oxford No. 1 Rural supply average is under 5 mg/L (except for one sample that was just over 5mg/L). A report would likely come to WWZC in July regarding the private well study results from the spring 2023 sampling round which will also examine new research regarding nitrate effects on health.

Here were some links for the nitrate item:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/press-release/elevated-levels-of-nitrate-contamination-found-in-canterbury-drinking-water/>

<https://www.greenpeace.org/aotearoa/press-release/letter-to-te-whatu-ora-ecan-calls-for-response-to-high-nitrate-in-canterbury-drinking-water/>

1. Coffman VR, Jensen AS, Trabjerg BB, Pedersen CB, Hansen B, Sigsgaard T *et al.* Prenatal exposure to nitrate from drinking water and markers of fetal



6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**KARAKIA**


C Aldhamland provided a karakia to close the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for Monday 1 July 2024 at 4pm.

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

CONFIRMED



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Chairperson  
Carolyne Latham

1 July 2024  
Date