

## WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LAND AND WATER COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET ON TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022 AT 1PM.

#### PRESENT

Councillors S Stewart (Chairperson), N Atkinson (departed at 1.35pm), K Barnett, A Blackie, N Mealings, P Williams and Mayor D Gordon (departed at 1.35pm).

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond

C Brown (Manager Community and Recreation), G Cleary (Manager Utilities and Roding), S Allen (Water Environment Advisor) G Macleod (Community Greenspace Manager), S Hart (Strategy and Business Manager), B Dollery (Community Greenspace Ecologist – Biodiversity), G Maxwell (Technical Assistant- Policy), E Harvie (Coordinator Waimakariri Landcare Trust) and A Connor (Governance Officer).

#### **1** APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Williams

**THAT** an apology for early departure be received and sustained from Mayor Gordon and Councillor Atkinson.

**CARRIED**

#### **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 22 March 2022

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Barnett

**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 22 March 2022.

**CARRIED**

#### **4** MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

#### **5** DEPUTATION/PRESENTATIONS

##### **5.1** Update on North Brook Trail – E Harvie (Coordinator Waimakariri Landcare Trust)

E Harvie introduced the Waimakariri Landcare Trust. The following points were highlighted:

- A lack of connectivity between trails in the district was highlighted as well as a disconnect between agricultural areas leading to a disjoint between

urban and rural communities. Also the degradation of indigenous ecosystems and lack of indigenous plant species.

- Concept was to have a trail with planting on one side and fencing of the active farm side as well as information boards and signage about different aspects of the walkway.
- Opportunity to use the existing structure Arohatia te awa had developed with local ruhanga and Fonterra who had verbally offered to provide the plants.
- Stage one of the project ran from Marsh Road to Boys Road and stage two from Boys Road to the Northbrook Wetland.
- Had received funding from Waimakariri District Council and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee

E Harvie asked for support from Waimakariri District Council staff for assistance with road safety, culverts and surveying as these would need to be part of the first step in stage one to ensure public safety. C Brown advised that the Utilities and Roothing Team would be able to assist with that and the Greenspace team would be able to help with further funding for the project. G Cleary confirmed that they would be able to help and were happy to provide any information to assist.

Councillor Williams questioned if there was any budget for long term maintenance. C Brown stated there was a standard budget for Arohatia te awa projects in the Long Term Plan which would cover this project , however there was still further work that needed to be done. However at present there was no budget.

Councillor Stewart queried what the next steps would be taken. C Brown noted that G Cleary would request the appropriate staff member to contact E Harive and B Dollery.

Councillor Barnett sought clarity on whether the end of stage one at Boys Road was located next to a milking shed or where the cows crossed the road and how the smell would be managed. E Harvie noted the milking shed was on Marshs Road and that the farm would have compliance requirements for effluent.

Councillor Mealings asked where the boundary for the farm on the north east was. E Harvie explained it was north of the trail and the land owner would be notified of the proposal.

Councillor Stewart thanked E Harvie and commented that this was an exciting project.

## **6 REPORTS**

### **6.1 Application to the Biodiversity Fund – G Maxell (Policy Technician) and G MacLeod (GreenSpace Manager)**

G MacLeod acknowledged that this had been the first application received toward the Biodiversity Fund. The landowner Mia Hofsteede was requesting \$5,204.62 to assist with the installation of a fence to protect the biodiversity of the planting. The application met eight points of the funding criteria.

Councillor Williams questioned what would stop animals from coming into the area as the fence would not fully enclose the area. G Maxwell advised that staff had spoken to M Hofsteede at length regarding this matter. The area being fenced was bordered by four properties. One of the properties on the right was



B Dollery commented that M Hofsteede's property had rare wetlands and was the only place in Canterbury that certain vegetation was found. The importance of the wetland on her property was significant And by taking small steps in the right direction would ensure the safety of stock and was the right way to go.

Councillor Mealings noted that the last time this fund was advertised was 2019 and had then only attracted one application which was granted since 2020. This land had been on the Council's radar which had been looked after since 1995 and had never received any funding. This was a great use of the fund and would hopefully encourage the surrounding properties to also fence the rest of the wetland.

Councillor Stewart stated the Council was putting together, not only a package of support, but also offering a rates remission. There was also access to a grant which was dependant on the size of the area to be protected. These benefits would hopefully see an uptake on this fund. There was less than 0.5% of indigenous biodiversity left in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Blackie questioned if the fence would be hot wired. G MacLeod was unsure however would enquire.

## **6.2 Zone Implementation Programme Addendum Capital Works Programme – 2022-23 – S Allen (Water Environment Advisor)**

S Allen noted there were many projects that would take place within this programme however she would be on parental leave and her cover would be leading the projects which might mean some of the details could change. The McIntosh Drain project would be in the same area as the flood improvement works for Kaiapoi. At the moment the proposed site was suitable for those plans however if something unforeseen happened, a new site would need to be chosen. Watercress and other exotic plants at the Jeffs Drain site had created a natural channel so that site may change in order to do the works in a more suitable location.

S Allen stated a significant recommendation was to discuss was the mahinga kai project which was led by Environment Canterbury. The watercress enhancement of the Cam River that started in 2021 had been successful and had been notified and was the best crop of watercress in many years despite recent flooding events. She had asked for a report from Environment Canterbury on the status of the project and how the capital expenditure budget would be best utilised. This report would either go to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee or the Land and Water Committee in August 2022.

Councillor Williams sought clarity on whether the flow bags would hold up in a flood. S Allen advised they had to investigate any constraints on the hydraulic capacity and whether the Jeffs Drain site had any pinch points. The pinch points were located further down the stream. There was also a project plant in Jeffs Drain to help constrain high flows rushing through as pukekos removed all the plants. Wire cages were used in the Kaiapoi River to stop pukekos however if they had been used in this situation more damage would have been caused in the floods. It is recommended to further investigate hydraulic modelling to identify possible pinch points. With the current culverts it would be unlikely to exacerbate anything.

Councillor Stewart questioned what provisions were in place to stop wildlife from getting into the pumps. G Cleary confirmed there were fish screens on the pumps, which were substantial structures to ensure they were suitable to prevent fish getting in.

Moved: Councillor Stewart

Seconded: Councillor Blackie

**THAT** the Land and Water Committee:

- (a) **Receives** report No. 220328045801.
- (b) **Approves** the proposed 2022-23 Waimakariri District Council capital expenditure work programme, based on the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) recommendations.
- (c) **Receives** an update on the progress of the Environment Canterbury watercress mahinga kai project on the Cam River before the \$5,000 of WDC ZIPA budget was allocated to this specific project for 2022-23.
- (d) **Circulates** this report to Council, Community Boards, WDC-Rūnanga liaison meeting and the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee for their information.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Stewart commented this was a good ongoing programme which was reduced due to Covid but the Council now had good targeted programmes. She would like to see something in writing about the watercress project.

Councillor Mealings noted it was disappointing to see lots of projects with zeros in the funding lines. She was pleased with the work the Council was doing but it would be good to see everyone involved doing their part.

Councillor Barnett noted that this funding originates from the whole district however the majority was dedicated to the eastern area.

## **7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES**

### **7.1 Biodiversity – Councillor Sandra Stewart**

- Attended Biodiversity Champions Working Group. Discussions around upping the profile of biodiversity. Tabled a biodiversity checklist:
  - Work regionally on biodiversity and remain in contact with other groups.
  - Identified structural support and higher profile needed for indigenous biodiversity.
  - Have space on every agenda where Council had an item whereby its effect on indigenous biodiversity would be noted.
  - Having advocacy through the mayoral forum.
  - Align key messages across the region.
- The Biodiversity Champions Working Group want to go from having a document to implementing the document.
- Draft National Adaption Plan assisting the New Zealand biodiversity strategy. Hoping for a briefing on what the Councils responsibilities were.
- Working on a way for GIS mapping showing all SNA wetlands and to be publicly accessible.

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

- The locations of the SNAs that were unknown had been located. One was down stream of McIntosh's hole and the other was halfway between the first location and the Yacht Club which was a bird sanctuary.
- Mahinga Kai project would start on 28 May 2022 with an official opening and a community planting day. Had spoken with Alistair Gray about upgrading the communications plan for the upcoming week as locals were unaware of the work being done until a social media post only two weeks before the date.

8 **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no urgent general business.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Land and Water Committee is scheduled for 1pm, Tuesday 16 August 2022.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2PM.

CONFIRMED

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Chairperson

27 September 2022

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Date