

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE
CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023 WHICH COMMENCED
AT 4.00PM.**

PRESENT

C Latham (Chairperson), J Cook (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), M Jolly, E Harvie, C Aldhamland (via Teams) Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (ECan Councillor), R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond (until 5pm), S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), N Theinhardt (ECan Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri), Carys Marulli De Barletta (Land Management Advisor, ECan) (via Teams), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitator), A Smith (Governance Coordinator), James Sharp (ECAN), John Benn, (Department of Conservation), M Bate (Kaiapoi resident).

KARAKIA

Ruby Gill-Glifford provided a karakia to open the meeting.

1. BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved C Latham

Seconded Councillor McKay

THAT an apology be received and sustained from committee member A Reuben.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

1.3 Register of Interests

Committee members advised of the following additions required for the Register of Interests:

John Cook - member of the Kaiapoi Club executive

Erin Harvie – Director of Bowden Environmental

Councillor Clair McKay - dairy grazing

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

M Bates, Kaiapoi resident, expressed his concerns with the recent incident of pollution at Saltwater Creek. The business concerned had been operating for a long time in the same location (nearly 50 years), under several different ownerships, and M Bate thought they should have a bund in place to stop any pollutants getting into the waterways, or some back-up systems in place to prevent such events happening.

C Latham noted that there was some limited biodiversity in Saltwater Creek and believed that the concerns raised would be addressed as part of the investigation that ECan were undertaking. M Bates suggested that all big companies in Canterbury should be required to have back up prevention systems in place.

M Bates had visited Kaiapoi lakes recently, noting that the water is clear at the moment, but was concerned with the limited biodiversity evident. He was pleased to share some photos

of the birdlife, including swans, signets and many shags nesting in the trees at Kaiapoi Lakes. He considered the return of birdlife in the area was a result of the return of fish life in the lakes. He had met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor recently to talk about the native planting.

M Bate had visited Kaiapoi tributaries testing for biodiversity last week, advising that there was very little collected, with a total of one shrimp and one bully taken in six samples. Since 2012 the fish life had been killed off and had never recovered, and he believed this was a result of chemical spraying over the years. C Latham and S Allen responded that in recent years, the Waimakariri District Council had been using alternative methods of weed control. There would be some follow up on some matters highlighted in a report previously presented to the committee by Angela Burton. This report had provided a record of what had been happening in the district in this field.

M Bate also visited other sites checking on the biodiversity levels, including Cust Main Drain, Mill Stream and Silverstream, with very limited biodiversity evident at each site. Interested to point out that the test undertaken at Silverstream, by comparison, produced a slightly higher level of biodiversity, and this site had a higher level of nitrates. M Bate pointed out that he did not see one trout in this testing and he would like to see improvements in health of the waterways and that this would in turn increase the biodiversity levels present.

There were no questions from the committee members. The Chair thanked M Bate for speaking to the committee.

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 Cook

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

- (a) **Agrees** that Sections 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 **Waimakariri Zone Delivery Team, Environment Canterbury – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

Carys Marulli De Barletta (Land Management Advisor, ECan) provided an overview of the 2022/23 summer student programme run by Ecan and the Waimakariri fish screening and fish passage. This was undertaken over a ten-week period, involved assessing ECan structures that had undergone remediation across the region and any impact that these were having on fish passage. There were also some assessments undertaken on structures on private land, to assess any impact on fish passage. This followed on from work done by previous summer students.

Councillor T Fulton enquired if there were barriers experienced with staff and/or students dealing with landowners. Carys said it was important to let landowners know that the study was looking at the river catchment as a whole and fish passage. Carys spoke on the fish passage tool assessment app, which was accessible for anyone to use and encouraged landowners or farmers to use this themselves.

Following a question from M Jolly on the structures that were surveyed, and how many needed remediation to enable better fish passage, Carys advised that a lot of sites studied were low risk, but some culverts on roadside did present barriers. There were no trout caught during the survey.

Carys was thanked for her presentation.

Nerida provided an update on the recent industrial wastewater spill and incident response in Saltwater Creek. She advised that it was not possible to get shellfish tested for contaminants in New Zealand.

C Latham provided an update from the Catchment Group, that Pattle Delamore were assisting and had been advised that the catchment group had monitoring data from previous sampling which may be helpful. ECan and Daiken test the main stem of Saltwater Creek, the catchment group do sampling upstream of the estuary and had tested this and taken photos there, most recently just two days prior to the contamination spill. The group also monitors a spring on a tributary to Saltwater Creek so provided some data from here.

Councillor Fulton asked what the official comment was on this situation, and it was confirmed that the Ecan investigation was ongoing. Councillor C McKay said the Ecan website would be updated when further information was available. It was confirmed this was public record and these updates would continue to be circulated to the committee members.

M Bates asked if there had been any impact on the birdlife in the estuary, noting they would be eating shellfish. Though not able to be confirmed at the meeting, this would be followed up on.

James Sharp provided a brief update on the control of invasive plant pests for the protection of native plant species on the white rock escarpment at White Rock. This includes getting an abseiler to do weed control. There were several at risk plant species that live on this escarpment.

A second project that was highlighted was the Plains Dryland sites of kanuka in Canterbury. There were less than 200ha of kanuka forest sites left on the plains.

J Sharp also highlighted other projects that had been supported, including the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group using dogs for rat detection, Harts tongue fern eradication in a drain near the Eyre River Drain (the only known site of this in Canterbury), and there were a number of projects for woody weed control in Kaiapoi and multiple sites throughout the district. They were also supporting the QE11 Trust and landowners in retiring and covenanting land.

Councillor McKay enquired why the focus of the rat detection was on Norway rats and J Sharp said it was believed that these were the main threat.

Moved M Jolly Seconded E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021/24 Acton Plan priorities.

CARRIED

3.2 **Environment Canterbury Planning Programme – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

Z Smith (Principal Planning Advisor, Ecan) was present via Teams and provided an update on the Plan Change 7 amendment and the next round of consultation for the Regional Policy Statement review.

Plan Change 7 had been made partially operative but there were still some provisions that were under appeal. The sub-regional chapters were fully operative.

The First round of engagement for the Regional Policy Statement, which had been completed, was quite high level and the second round would be more direct, involving more specific conversation, with face-to-face workshops and one on one conversations. They would be looking at opportunities bring different types of stakeholders and community groups together to provide different perspectives and voices. The relationships that Zone Committees had developed with different groups would be beneficial with this next level of engagement. C Latham welcomed the opportunity for the Zone Committee to be involved in community consultation. M Griffin added that there had been the suggestion previously made to have an afternoon session for this zone on 30th October 2023. Each committee would have some guidance and suggestions on the best way to do this and C Latham said members should be thinking about what community groups should be invited.

E Harvie asked if there was any update or information for landowners on what the implementation of Plan Change would mean to them. Z Smith said she would talk to the appropriate staff involved and provide this information to the Committee members.

E Harvie also asked when information would be available on surface water takes and hydraulic water takes and minimum flows required. Z Smith advised that there would be a paper going to council later in the year seeking direction on prioritisation on where they could or should occur. It was pointed out that there were 2024 dates included in the Plan, setting the minimum flow for Ashley-Rakahuri and was there information available on what these dates would be. It was confirmed that this would be included in the report to Ecan Council for their decision.

Moved E Harvie

Seconded Councillor Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan and community engagement priorities.

CARRIED

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

4.1 CWMS Action Plan Budget 2023/24 – applications for projects now open.

M Griffin highlighted the copy of the advert that was being used inviting applications for funding from the 2023-24 CWMS Waimakariri Action Plan budget. These were being placed in the North Canterbury News and Northern Outlook

4.2 Zone Committee Working Groups.

Biodiversity Working Group

M Jolly spoke on the upcoming Environmental Awards, for which there had been nine nominations received. The Working Group will be assessing the applications shortly and decisions would be made for the three categories. These Awards would be presented in conjunction with the WDC Community Service Awards on 18 October.

Lifestyle Block Working Group

WDC Councillor N Mealings and M Griffin had arranged for 1100 Top Ten Tips pamphlets to be distributed with WDC rates notices.

A Biodiversity seminar was planned to be held in the Ohoka area in March 2024.

A Ten Top Tips event will be held with the Sefton Catchment area later this year, date still to be determined.

Copies of the Ten Top Tips brochure would be made available on the Counters at the Waimakariri District Council Service Centres.

There had been interest shown from other zone committees on the brochure and the benefit of the information it provided.

In addition to the brochure, C Latham advised that there was a link to a lifestylers hub now available on the ECan website.

Monitoring Working Group -

Erin Harvie took the report from the Waimakariri Landcare Trust as read. Councillor McKay commended the information provided in both the Next Generation Farming Milestone 12 Report and the Good Management document.

4.3 Co-opting an advisory member onto the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee.

M Griffin said having initially considered co-opting a former community member onto the committee (as discussed at the July Zone committee meeting), it was now considered that the committee was well positioned to be at the hub of the network of working with community groups, when facilitating the RPS workshop days. It was now considered that the committee would not proceed with the co-opting option. Regarding the format for these workshops, M Griffin advised these would be reasonably structured, with a similar format across the region. The committee would have the opportunity to have input on how it was run in this district. The Workshop would be held somewhere in the Waimakariri district.

4.4 Environment Canterbury Updates.

Councillor McKay referred to the agenda papers and took these as read.

Referred to recommendation from the Water and Land Committee to the Council that the Regional Committee be dissolved. This was agreed by Ecan Council at a recent meeting. Over the recent years, it was considered that there was no longer the same role for this committee, as there had been in the past, especially with more direction coming from central government.

Also relating to the Regional Committee, was the Fish Screens Technical Working Group. The NIWA information is good, but there was a lot more information required to get these fish screens working more efficiently. This could be challenging with different context for each situation depending on where the fish screen were located. This official group was also dissolved.

Regular updates are provided to the Land and Water Committee from each of the Water Zones Committee. C Latham and E Harvie provided the Waimakariri update on line to the previous Land and Water Committee meeting on 30 August.

Two Ecan reports were provided in full in the agenda to the committee. These are for the next Ecan Council meeting on 18 October.

Question from John Benn DOC, with the Regional Committee now disbanded, he suggested that there was isolation between the Zone Committees, as he usually attended meetings of all the Zone Committees. M Griffin responded that there was a possibility of re-instating the Zone Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs meetings in 2024, possibility meeting on a quarterly basis. Re-introducing these meetings would provide a connection between the committees, without the Regional Committee.

C Latham suggested that there could be invitations extended to members of other Zone committees to attend a workshop and have informal discussions.

Councillor McKay noted that there could be a review coming up of Zone Committees, and that the Mayoral Forum supported these until 2025. With possible changes in central government, the future is a little uncertain.

4.5 **Waimakariri District Council Updates.**

Councillor T Fulton spoke on two events he had recently attended - Food, Farming and Freshwater event held in Dunsandel. and also a Wai Connection event, relating to sustainable water management. A lot of information provided at these related to themes and matters discussed at this meeting today. Councillor Fulton noted that having attended these two events, there was a lot of overlap in these two groups. Councillor Fulton asked if it would be beneficial to have some of these speakers come to the Zone Committee meetings, presenting to the committee and its networks? In response, M Griffin added that these groups were outside Ecan and in particular the Wai Connection, which had presented to a number of Zone Committees and the views expressed had received a warmer reception in some areas than others.

Action Point: Could there be an opportunity to bring one of these speakers to our Zone Committee meetings.

C Latham noted that it was advised at these days, that in 2026 the European Union will not be supporting the use of glyphosate and so this could impact on the trading partners, including New Zealand.

Councillor Fulton spoke on the importance of the scientific work that had already been done on land and water programmes and that these remain visible.

Regarding private well study – Councillor Fulton recently attended a WDC consultation round for some proposed capital works in the Mandeville/Swannanoa area and observed that one of the recurring questions that came from residents in these lifestyle communities was how safe were their private wells, are they deep enough, what was the quality of the groundwater.

J Cook enquired if it was known whether any of the Revells Road property that the Council had recently purchased had been section off not for use. S Allen advised that the wetland area had been section off, and there had been some interested parties in leasing the property, which was just a one-year lease.

Following a question from C Lathan, E Harvey spoke on the nitrate sensor project and advised that it was still intended for it to be available to share at a community day. There was discussion on this matter, plus taking of samples during different times, for example, when land was being irrigated. Committee members would be available to assist at the community day. The nitrate sensor would be hired over this time, which was more cost-effective way, for a one to two month lease, at a cost of approximately \$300 per week. These machines come calibrated, and it is believed they provide a full proof accurate reading.

Councillor Fulton spoke on groundwater levels, noting that from information received, there was not a lot of correlation between the depth of ground water and the quality of the source of water to a public supply.

J Cook commented that there was significant stress in the community, particularly with the impact of chlorinating of drinking water supplies. The cost of installing water filters was too much for some residents. Councillor Fulton acknowledged this but also noted that the Council didn't have any option in this situation.

4.6 **Action Points from the previous Zone Committee Meetings.**

M Griffin had no further Action Points to add as from the previous meetings.

Moved C McKay

Seconded J Cook

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information provided as part of the Committee Updates.

CARRIED

5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

5.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 3 July 2023**

Correction in the minutes noted by E Harvie, to correct the spelling of her surname, and on page 191 of the agenda, under 4.7 – “border security” should read “water security”.

Moved Councillor Fulton

Seconded E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 3 July 2023, as a true and accurate record with the updates noted above.

CARRIED

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Councillor McKay highlighted the recent Country Calendar programme which featured many members of the committee attending a field trip, featuring Makarini Rupene speaking. This was an interesting episode and members were pleased to see their area featuring on national television.

C Latham spoke on the next significant events, the first being the Waimakariri District Council Community Service Awards function, which included presentation of the Environmental Awards, being held in the Rangiora Town Hall on Wednesday 18 October. Later in the month, on Monday 30th October, will be the second Regional Policy Statement community consultation workshop that the Zone Committee members will be supporting. The venue for this is still to be confirmed.

KARAKIA

Ruby Gill-Clifford provided a karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 6 November 2023 at 4pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.50pm.

CONFIRMED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CL', is written above a horizontal line.

Chairperson
Carolyne Latham

6 November 2023
Date