

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET,  
RANGIORA ON MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 3.30PM.**

**PRESENT**

M Blackwell (Chairperson), C Aldhamland, E Harvie, M Jolly, C Latham, Councillor S Stewart (WDC Councillor) and Councillor Megan Hands (Ecan Councillor) (arrived at 3.50pm and left at 5.13pm).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), W Main (Resident and farmer), J Roper-Lindesay (Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust), D Shelander (Christchurch City Council), J Benn (Department of Conservation) and D Hill (North Canterbury News).

D Lewis (WDC Land Drainage Engineer), H Proffit (WDC Water Safety and Compliance Specialist), T Davie (Ecan Director: Science AND Environment), A Veltman (Ecan Land Management Advisor), K Whitwell (Ecan Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor), I Weepu (Ecan Tangata Whenua Facilitator – Kaitiakitanga Targets Ecan), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

**KARAKIA**

M Griffin provided the karakia to open the meeting.

**1 BUSINESS**

**1.1 Apologies**

Moved: M Blackwell                      Seconded: M Jolly

- (a) **Apologies** were received and sustained from K Blumers, A Reuben, and J Cooke for absence and Councillor M Hands for late arrival.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present and requested all the members present to introduce themselves.

**1.3 Register of Interests**

Nil

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

**2.1 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident**

M Bate showed various photos of the Taranaki Stream and the Cam River and raised concerns about the stream's lack of aquatic plant life for the last two years. In addition, he pointed out the algae in the waterways, which was a sign that toxic chemicals were poisoning the waterways. He, therefore, stressed that the methods of weeding of waterways should be changed.

M Bate noted that aquatic life, such as Inanga and bullies, could not survive without plant life. If the aquatic plant life became a problem, it needed to be cut and scooped out and not sprayed. The funding spent on the native planting on the banks of waterways did not improve the water quality and therefore did not contribute to the health of the waterways.

In conclusion, M Bate stated that, to his knowledge, the Pegasus Golf course uses chemicals for weed control that runs off into the wetlands, hence there was virtually no aquatic life in the wetland—resulting in there being very little waterfowl in the Pegasus area.

C Latham asked what aquatic plant life would grow in the lower reaches of the Taranaki Stream, just above the floodgate, where the water was very salty. M Bate confirmed that not much aquatic plant life could survive in the saline water.

M Blackwell again commended M Bate for his passion for the health of waterways, noting that he shared his concern about the health of the Taranaki Stream and the lack of aquatic and bird life in other waterways.

### 3. **REPORTS**

#### 3.1 **Watercress in the Cam River Project Update - I Weepu (Tangata Whenua Facilitator – Kaitaikitanga Targets Ecan)**

I Weepu advised that in recognition of the Cam River being an important historical site of the gathering of Mahinga Kai for the whānau of Ngai Tūāhuriri, ECan and Ngai Tūāhuriri launched a project to establish a Watercress patch in the Cam River. The overall aim of this project was to increase the abundance, use and access to Watercress in the Cam River by minimising or eliminating risks and enhancing watercress habitat. It was agreed to establish the habitat near Bramley Bridge to propose a long-term management programme for Mahinga kai ki Tuahiwi. I Weepu elaborated on the programme achievements and the involvement of Rūnanga members, noting that the project was considered a success.

C Latham suggested that the Watercress patch be regularly monitored for Egoli, nitrates and phosphors. T Davie confirmed that ECan had a monitor site at Bramley Bridge that monitored water quality in the area.

Considering the community's concern about the lack of aquatic life, M Blackwell questioned what weeds were being removed from the Watercress patch. I Weepu noted that Rūnanga members were trained to remove the Monkey Musk from the Watercress. Unfortunately, he was unable to provide further information and undertook to request A Reuben to report back to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

M Blackwell asked if the Watercress grew better in sunlight or shade. I Weepu confirmed that the Watercress seemed to thrive in semi-shade.

Moved: M Blackwell

Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information and with consideration to the Committee's 2021/24 Action Plan Priorities.

**CARRIED**

3.2 **ZIPA Implementation – Fourth Quarterly Update 2021/22 – S Allen WDC, Water Environment Advisor), K Steel (WDC Council Ecologist) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)**

M Griffin took the report as read, providing a brief overview of the implementation of the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) recommendations for the fourth quarter.

M Blackwell acknowledged that ECan's monitoring of surface water was hampered by a lack of resources and staff time. However, he reiterated the importance of monitoring water quality and having reliable data available.

Moved: M Blackwell

Seconded: M Jolly

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information and with consideration to the Committee's 2021/24 Action Plan Priorities.

**CARRIED**

3.3 **Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Draft Strategy Update – S Worthington (Braided River Revival Advisor, Ecan) and A Arp (Northern Zone Manger, Ecan)**

M Griffin advised that S Worthington and A Arp were both ill and, therefore, unable to attend the meeting. It was, therefore, suggested that consideration of the matter be postponed to a subsequent meeting.

C Latham commented that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee were previously advised that Ngāi Tahu was now reviewing the Ashley/Rakahuri Braided River Revival Draft Strategy via Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd. She noted that ECan had agreed to give the Ngāi Tahu as much time as they may need. However, the Committee, as the community representatives, needed to know when the strategy would be available for public consultation.

J Roper- Lindsay sought clarity on the progress of the Rangiora Reach Project, which was part of the draft strategy. K Whitwell reported that the draft Masterplan for the Rangiora Reach had been finalised, and a public survey would be conducted in October 2022. From here, ECan would collate the feedback and update the draft Rangiora Reach Masterplan accordingly. J Roper- Lindsay requested that the public be advised if community planting day was being considered.

M Blackwell and J Roper-Lindsay agreed that the Braided River Revival Draft Strategy should not be solely based on the ZIPA recommendation, as these recommendations were four years old. In addition, CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members' understanding and thoughts on biodiversity and ecology had changed, and the Committee now also had new members with new ideas. It was, therefore, important that the Committee be provided with an opportunity to make input on the proposed strategy.

Moved: Councillor M Hands

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Agreed** that the report be deferred for consideration at the next Committee workshop.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)

##### 4.1 Waimakariri Water Zone Committee appointments for 2022/23

M Griffin noted that due to the upcoming Local Government election in October 2022, it was recommended that the appointment of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be postponed to the December 2022 meeting.

It was agreed that M Blackwell and A Reuben would remain Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson until the new appointments were finalised.

Moved: Councillor M Hands

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Approves** the deferring of the 2022/23 appointments of CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson until the next meeting of the Committee on Monday 5 December 2022.
- (b) **Agrees** that M Blackwell and A Reuben would remain Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively, until the new appointments had been finalised.

**CARRIED**

##### 4.2 Zone Committee Working Groups

- Biodiversity Working Group

M Jolly thanked J Roper-Lindsay for her leadership and knowledge in successfully establishing the Waimakariri Water Biodiversity Trust. A trust coordinator had been appointed, and the liaison between the Working Group and the trust was being formalised to ensure good communication.

- Lifestyle Block Working Group

C Latham noted that the working group had a meeting and had almost finalised the ten top environmental tips for Waimakariri lifestyle block owners for taking good care of their land and waterways. The draft pamphlet would be circulated to all CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members for input before publication.

- Monitoring Working Group

M Blackwell explained that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee facilitated a nitrate testing day in Mandeville in August 2022 in conjunction with Dr Tim Chambers from the Otago University Health Researcher. Dr Chambers was leading a study on the impact of nitrates in drinking water and babies being born underweight or prematurely. Property owners were allowed to have their private well water tested for free.

M Blackwell noted that the project was the first step in creating a country-wide database that mapped nitrates in drinking water. It would be advantageous for the Council and ECan to tap into this database for future monitoring. Dr Chambers had indicated that he would be available to return to the Waimakariri District in October 2022 to conduct further tests. He suggested that the free testing day in October should be better promoted within the communities. Also, the results of the tests should be explained to property owners and what steps to be taken to reduce nitrates in private wells.

C Latham concurred and suggested that people should also be advised that testing at various times of the year was necessary, as nitrates could fluctuate during the year and how to use filters to reduce nitrates.

M Blackwell recommended that ECan invest in equipment similar to that of Dr Chambers to enable the testing of drinking water on a more regular basis throughout the Canterbury region. T Davie advised that ECan was currently investigating the possibility of purchasing equipment for routine testing and monitoring. However, he noted a concern that the equipment only tested for nitrates, and the most significant risk in shallow wells was Ecoli.

- Waimakariri Landcare Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

#### 4.3 **Waimakariri Zone Communications Report (July 2022 and August 2022)**

No discussion emanated from this point.

#### 4.4 **Groundwater Quality Reports Release**

M Griffin advised that the Risk Maps of Nitrate in Canterbury Groundwater 2022 showed the risk of shallow groundwater exceeding the maximum acceptable values (MAV). The latest maps contain only minor changes from the previous version from two years ago.

C Latham questioned the accuracy of the map of "Risk of nitrate in drinking water from private wells in the Waimakariri zone". T Davie explained that people living in the moderate-risk area were advised to get their water tested regularly. The map indicated that ECan had identified a risk in this area, however, it was not above the MAV regularly. However, he noted that the report did explain what that moderate risk meant. T Davie proceeded to explain the difference between low, moderate, and high risks, noting that the measurements of risk were based on a MAV of 11.8mg/l as set in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand.

Councillor S Stewart noted that the map was only based on data collected from about 30 wells. She further stated that of the approximately 300 tests undertaken by Dr Chambers, 233 came from drinking water supplies, and five were over the MAV allowable value for nitrate in drinking water. A further 40 were over the 8mg/l level, which was high and problematic. Therefore, Councillor S Stewart also doubted the accuracy of the "Risk of nitrate in drinking water from private wells in the Waimakariri zone" map. T Davie advised that the risk assessment was based on regular long-term monitoring to establish trends and not once off testing.

#### 4.5 **Further Information Links**

No discussion emanated from this point.

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

M Griffin provided a brief overview of the action points from previous meetings, noting the following:

- **Ashley-Rakahuri River Clean-up day**

ECan was supporting the Ashley-Rakahuri River Clean-up day on 18 September 2022. The day was being hosted by the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group and the Waimakariri Youth Council.

- **River Gravel Management Strategy**

ECan was reviewing its River Gravel Management Strategy for managing gravel extraction from rivers across Canterbury. To begin this process, ECan sought views on river-based gravel extraction from Rūnanga, stakeholders and other interested parties. He recommended that members complete the survey to have their say about river-based gravel extraction.

- **Waterways Conference 2022**

The 2022 Waterways Postgraduate Student Conference would be held on Tuesday, 8 November 2022, at the University of Canterbury. The Conference would highlight postgraduate students' freshwater-related research underway at both the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University.

#### 4.7 **Closure of Stockwater race R4-2.**

D Lewis tabled the memo and noted that the purpose of this memo was to provide information to the parties interested in the Waimakariri District Council's stockwater race scheme and associated proposed closures. Feedback was sought on an application from a property owner to close stock-water race R4-2, which traverses two properties. The property in question was on Carlton Road in Oxford and was beside the Oxford racecourse. The property owner owned quite an extended property that covered both sides of the road. The farm was serviced by thirteen kilometres of stockwater race, and this race ran through the centre of the farm and did not follow any natural feature like a driveway or boundary. The total race length to be closed was 3.6 kilometres, and there would be a 300-metre race constructed to connect the flow of the downstream end of the property.

Councillor M Hands questioned if the ecological impact of closing the stockwater race had been assessed. D Lewis confirmed that no ecological impact assessment had been done for this specific closure as it was only 3.6 kilometres. However, the Council and Waimakariri Irrigation had done an environmental impact assessment on the widespread closures of the stockwater races, which could be submitted to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee for information.

C Latham noted that more farmers may wish to close stockwater races in the future because they now have reticulated water from other sources. Therefore, farmers need to be aware of the role of stockwater races in nitrate dilution.

In response to a question from M Blackwell, D Lewis noted that only the Water Race Rural Advisory Group, Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, ECan, Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee were consulted on the proposed closure. M Blackwell suggested that affected neighbours should be advised when stockwater races were to be closed.

Moved: Councillor M Hands

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (c) **Receives** these updates for its information, and with consideration to the Committee's Working Groups, Action Plan, and Engagement Priorities for 2022.

**CARRIED**

## **5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- 5.1 **July to September 2022 Communications Report for the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee – K Whitwell (Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor, Ecan)**
- 5.2 **Risk of Nitrate in Drinking Water for Private Wells in the Waimakariri Zone – C Hanson (Groundwater Science Manager, Ecan)**
- 5.3 **Overview South Eyre Infiltration Trail 2018/21 – H Shaw (Surface Water Science Manager, ECan)**

Moved: M Blackwell

Seconded: M Jolly

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the Items 5.1 to 5.3 for information.

## **6. PRORPOROAKI – FAREWELL**

On behalf of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee, M Blackwell commended retiring members for their dedication during their committee tenure and their valued contribution.

J Roper-Lindsay thanked M Blackwell for his leadership, noting that the ten years she served on the Committee had been challenging but rewarding. She was proud that the Committee established the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust and hoped that the Committee would continue to champion the need for ecological science in planning.

W Main expressed her appreciation for the support from other Committee members. She believed it was important that the Committee listened to the people on the ground doing the work and not only the people making plans.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 7.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 4 July 2022**

Moved: M Blackwell

Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 4 July 2022, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

7.2 **Matters Arising**

Nil

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.1 **Stockwater Race System**

After discussion, the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed that the Council should be requested to reassess the ecological value of the stockwater race network as a natural system that assisted with diluting nitrates in groundwater. Also, noting that stockwater races had been undervalued as waterways that supported indigenous biodiversity.

8.2 **Youth membership of CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee**

The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agreed that local youths should be encouraged to join the Committee. It was agreed that C Aldhamland would work with M Griffin to identify possible candidates.

**KARAKIA**

M Griffin provided the karakia to close the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for 5 December 2022 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.43 PM.

CONFIRMED



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Chairperson

30 January 2023