

MINUTES OF THE KAIKOURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.37PM ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2016 AT MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

PRESENT: T Howard (Chair), Commissioner D Bedford, Mayor W Gray, A Boyd, T Blunt, J Harnett, J Murray, T Sonal.

IN ATTENDANCE: M Griffin (Zone Facilitator), C Armour, J Hill, K Heays, R Poulsen, S Syme (Committee Secretary).

APOLOGIES: S Bragg, M Hoggard, N McArthur, S Palmer, G Solomon, Commissioner D Bedford (lateness), Mayor W Gray (lateness).

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 27/01/2016

Moved by T Sonal, seconded by J Harnett and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikoura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 27 January 2016 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

2. IMMEDIATE STEPS UPDATE

An overview of the Clarence weed control programme was provided. There was \$14,000 left to spend on this project. GPS had been used for spraying which had equated to some savings which could be used for additional work. Most of the scattered gorse and broom had been dealt with. All landowners as part of the project had signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to the project. A proposal was to be completed by the end of May regarding a future work plan.

Commissioner Bedford entered the meeting at 12.50pm.

There was \$116,580 of Immediate Steps funding to be allocated by June 2016. It was understood the funding would not be lost if it was not allocated by the end of June however it was felt it would be better if funding was allocated by the end of May. It was requested a poster regarding Immediate Steps funding be displayed in the Environment Canterbury tent at the Kaikoura A & P Show.

An update on the Black-Fronted Tern predator control programme was also provided. A number of pests had been caught at the Black Fronted Tern site throughout the season including 26 Cats, 41 Ferrets and 102 Hedgehogs. Islands would be created later this month which would maintain water flow around the sites and assist with keeping pests away from the nesting sites. A report was currently being finalised on outcomes from the project to date.

Three new projects were presented for consideration. These were;

1. Smith Lyell Creek Planting Stage 2

The Committee had previously funded Stage 1. The project was a native planting and fencing project of a section of Lyell Creek including drains. The project covered an area of approximately 300 metres. The project linked with other projects and fitted in with the priority areas set by the Committee. An ecological score of 16/39 had been given for the project. It

was noted the score would have been higher if the area had been a more natural wetland, however, the score was considered high for a creation project. Funding of \$5,678 was requested.

2. Lyell Creek Fonterra Restoration

The project was a native planting and fencing project of a section of Lyell Creek. The project was a joint venture with a local dairy farmer and Fonterra. Funding of \$3,230 had been requested. The project allowed for a buffer of several metres and was off Mt Fyffe Road.

3. Waimangarara River Restoration Project

This was a native planting project by Forest and Bird on Environment Canterbury land. The project would have long term protection due to land ownership and was in an area which was visible and accessible by the public. Funding of \$5,660 had been requested.

An assessment of the project against the Immediate Steps and the Kaikoura Zone Committee criteria was provided.

Moved by J Murray, seconded by J Harnett and resolved that the Committee support funding of the following projects, subject to Runanga approval;

- 1. Smith Lyell Creek Planting Stage 2***
- 2. Lyell Creek Fonterra Restoration Project***
- 3. Waimangarara River Restoration Project.***

3. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

K Robinson, Ecology Scientist Environment Canterbury, was in attendance to present this item.

The following indicators were used in water quality monitoring;

- Water quality index – rivers
- Trophic level index – lakes
- Suitability for recreation grades – contact recreation
- Invertebrate and habitat grades – rivers

The reporting of indicators were used to profile the general condition of the water body. They provided a “snap-shot” of water quality for that time period. The Water Quality Index was developed for use in Canterbury Water Management Strategy reporting to describe the general conditions of rivers and compared raw water quality data to guidelines. This was an annual monitoring programme. The key parameters were;

- Nitrate-nitrite-nitrogen toxicity
- Total ammoniacal nitrogen
- Dissolved inorganic nitrogen
- Dissolved reactive phosphorus
- Total suspended solids
- Escherichia coli.

A summary for the Water Quality Index in Kaikoura was provided. This showed that hill-fed and alpine rivers were generally good to very good

except for Blue Duck Creek which did not meet the phosphorous levels. It was unknown what the cause of this was. Spring-fed streams ranged from poor to good. This was driven by a number of influences, for example, E.coli in Lyell Creek and Nitrate in Middle Creek/Lyell Creek at Mill Road.

T Blunt entered the meeting at 1.27pm.

Lake Rotorua was the only lake monitored in the Kaikoura Zone. Lake Rotorua was supertrophic/hypertrophic which was indicative of nutrient enrichment or saturation with excessive fertile growth. A discussion was held regarding the need to be clear about what the distributions of nutrients were prior to human settlement and to what extent the condition of the Lake was human induced, and what was reasonable. It was suggested that using the term “excessive” was a very subjective value, and that there were naturally occurring highly trophic environments.

The “Suitability for Recreation Grade” was an indicator of the health risk from contact with water in the form of contact recreation. This was determined by monitoring of faecal indicator bacteria and the susceptibility of the site to faecal contamination. It was noted the Kahutara River was not suitable for recreation for 48 hours after a heavy rainfall and the Lyell Creek Lagoon was considered unsafe for contact recreation.

A discussion was held regarding when setting the rules in the Sub Regional Plan what the Committee would take from the information provided. M Griffin provided an outline of the planning process which would include the integration of the District Plan, Coastal Plan and the Sub Regional Plan. The suggestion was made that the Committee needed to consider whether the community thought the locations being monitored were a fair representation of water quality. It was noted one site missing from the monitoring was the Kekerengu River.

Mayor W Gray entered the meeting at 1.49pm.

It was generally felt that if there was a good understanding of what was causing a reduction in water quality at each of the sites and a plan of action could be put in place to fix it. It was noted a lot of action was already taking place along Lyell Creek. It was suggested some time be set aside at a future meeting for debate and to put actions in place around key issues.

M Griffin advised an infographic on water quality monitoring would be included in a newsletter again during the year. A discussion was held regarding behaviour change. It was suggested that more often than not rules got in the way of changes and the questions was asked regarding why more time was being invested in rules. The questions regarding whether their needed to be sub regional rules or whether there was room to work within the current framework was also put to the Committee.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Action Plan

The updated Action List was tabled.

Roof and Onsite Water Storage Brochure

The layout of the brochure had been finalised and distribution was the next step.

Clarence/Waiiau-toa Infographic

The Infographic was being customised of actions and outcomes from the work undertaken in the Clarence River.

A discussion was held regarding community engagement. It was felt it was hard to get the community interested until something happened which affected them and it was suggested the Committee needed to somehow make something happen. One suggestion was to use data and turn it into consequences. It was generally felt it was better to get conversations happening before a Plan was released.

A discussion was also held regarding old septic tanks and locations. It was noted the Zone Team had been identifying as many systems as possible with the assistance of the District Council and some landowners had been spoken to. J Harnett offered to provide information on different septic options currently available for the Committee to review.

J Harnett left the meeting at 2.48pm.

Meeting with Marlborough District Council

Environment Canterbury was meeting with Marlborough District Council the following week. Commissioner Bedford advised he would suggest that members of the Committee meet with Marlborough District Council to discuss the Clarence.

NZTA follow up on the Transport Corridor

It was suggested it could be appropriate for the Committee to provide a clear statement of expectations regarding what New Zealand Transport Agency should do when undertaking developments. Some suggested items were notification in advance of work taking place and an analysis of effects on waterways.

Nutrient Management and Water Efficiency Working Group

Two workshops had been held for sheep and beef farmers the previous week. One had been held in Kaikoura and the other in Clarence with approximately 12 farmers at each meeting. A Dairy NZ workshop was also held. Farmers who had signed up would receive help from a consultant to write their farm plan. The aim was to have all Dairy farmers in the zone signed up to benefit from the consultants visits which were scheduled for the end of March and beginning of April. It was suggested a story be run in the local media advising the Committee were really disappointed farmers were not taking up the opportunity to have help with their Farm Plans. The

suggested headline was “Farmers cannot farm next year unless they had a Farm Environment Plan.”

Love the Lyell/Waikōau

The next planting day would be held on the 13th of April with local schools. Planting would be undertaken at the site behind Mitre 10. A clean-up day was planned for the 8th of June. Funding options were being investigated with the intention of providing the money to D Hockey to plant and maintain an area along Lyell Creek. The Kaikoura Youth Council had held a working bee on their guardian site in March. It was noted the plants were doing very well without irrigation.

Kaikoura Water Zone Committee Annual Report 2015

The first version of the inaugural Annual Report for the Water Zone Committee was tabled. It was noted the report was created for elected members. The intent was to create regular reporting which could serve a formal purpose in terms of Council’s and also inform the general public.

Community Newsletter

A discussion was held regarding content for the next community newsletter which would be drafted prior to the March meeting. The following were suggested;

- Invite to planting and clean-up days
- Promotion of farm environment plans
- Immediate steps funding
- Zone Team update.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON & DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON FOR 2016

T Howard was nominated as Chairperson and M Hoggard was nominated as Deputy Chairperson. There were no further nominations.

Moved by J Murray, seconded by Mayor W Gray and resolved that T Howard be appointed as Chairperson and M Hoggard be appointed as Deputy Chairperson.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.45pm.