

# Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

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**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 26 April 2016, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

## **Present**

Donna Field (Chair), Chris Allen, Commissioner David Caygill, Ben Curry, Gordon Guthrie, Bill Thomas, Cr Stuart Wilson, Jackie Wright and John Henry.

## **In attendance**

Environment Canterbury: Olivia Smith (Facilitator), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Stacey McAllister (ADC Committee Secretary).

Approximately 15 members of the public attended the meeting.

### **1 Welcome and Karakia**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the opening karakia was offered by Peter Ramsden.

### **2 Deputations**

### **3 Apologies**

Craig Fowles, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Rununga)

### **4 Extraordinary Business**

#### **• Chair Resignation**

Donna Field has accepted a position working for the Ashburton Zone Implementation Team for ECAN. Donna's last meeting will be today and she will start her new position on the 16 May. She is very sad that she can't do both but it would be a conflict of interest.

### **5 Register of Interests**

No changes

### **6 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **• South Rakaia Bach Owners**

The minutes were amended to record that Jackie Wright had asked if Council had similar problems with the water treatment plant electronics.

**That** the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 29 March 2016, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.

Curry/Allen

Carried

### **6.1 Matters Arising**

Nil

## 7 Hinds Drains Working Party Recommendations

Peter Lowe, Chair of the Hinds Drains Working Party, thanked the Zone Committee for support over the last two years. Peter also thanked the other working party members for their hard work and dedication. He also acknowledged the input of other community members.

Peter summarised the main recommendations:

- Boundary drain trial
- Managed Aquifer Recharge trial
- Recharge of Hinds River
- Coastal strip recommendation
- Monitoring and effectiveness

Chris Allen asked Peter to highlight the key reasons why the committee should support this recommendation. Peter advised that this package of recommendations allows for more water and will enhance ecosystem health.

**That** the final recommendation of this plan be adopted.

Thomas/Allen

Adopted

The Chair thanked Peter Lowe and the group for the huge amount of hard work and time that was invested in creating in this large document.

Next steps with recommendations:

Olivia Smith explained that the next step is for the recommendations to be presented at ECAN and ADC Council Meetings. Following the formal adoption of the recommendations, the implementation phase will begin. Some recommendations will become part of a plan change to the Land and Water Regional Plan. Thereby becoming policies and rules. Other non-statutory recommendations, such as those which involve practical actions on the ground, will be coordinated by Donna Lill's zone team and delivered by ECAN staff, industry groups, landowners and the wider community.

## 8 Zone Delivery Update

Donna Lill was welcomed to the meeting and invited to provide an update on current Ecan recruitment for the Ashburton Zone Team.

Ben Curry queried how much RMA experience was required for the RMO Monitoring & Compliance role, due to concerns that this may put people off the roles. Donna Lill advised that training would be provided in this area if required.

Donna explained that compliance work will be done locally and/or from Christchurch. There is a requirement of 3 – 3.5 people to do all of the work in Ashburton District and there will be 2 appointed locally so the other 1 -1.5 will be sourced from Christchurch. She also explained that Ian Brown will continue to work one day a week in the Land Management Advisor role and that David Ashby will continue doing Sensitive Lakes work and Orange Zone farmers consent.

## 9 IMS Biodiversity Projects

Four projects were presented for consideration. The projects were sent to the zone committee biodiversity working group for consideration prior to the meeting.

- Donna Lill explained that it's recommended that if the committee are to fund a project over \$10k they must carefully consider a projects legal protection. In response to this, the biodiversity working group's recommendation is that three projects over \$10, 000 will be supported up to \$10k because there was no permanent legal protection such as a QEII covenant.

- Ben Curry asked if the committee can fund a project exceeding \$10,000 despite lack of permanent legal protection. Donna Lill explained that the committee could commit to funding over the \$10,000 limit and that in such case the legal protection length would be relative to project cost, up to a maximum of 25 years (e.g. \$10,000 could be 10 years, and \$15,000 could be 15 years).
- Ben Curry commented on what the implications would be if the Coldstream and Wetland project were to be scaled back to \$10,000. Donna Lill confirmed that this would mean that planting will be minimised to reduce cost and that further funding could be applied for the following year.
- David Caygill enquired about total funding allocated for this financial year and was interested to know if there are other projects coming in May/June. Donna explained that the current allocation is \$434,620 leaving \$65,438, this leaves sufficient funds to allocate originally proposed budget amount of \$59,218 for all four projects. Donna also explained that a project can be forward funded from the next budget if required.
- David Caygill proposed an option to committee for consideration. This included reducing the cost of two projects to \$10,000 whilst funding the Coldstream and Wetland project in full due to the projects nature and high ecological score.
- Stuart Wilson enquired as to whether the fencing involved in the project was a legal requirement under the current planning framework to exclude stock. Donna Lill advised that the fencing is undertaken at owners cost and that this funding is for plants and plant guards.
- After discussion the Committee agreed that the allocation of funds would be:
  - Flynn Stream Stage 2 – \$8,688
  - Coldstream and Wetland Stage 2 – \$20,450
  - Upper Flynn Stream Stage 3 – \$10,000 (reduction based on EOFY)
  - Smith River Terrace – \$10,000 (reduction based on EOFY)

Field/Guthrie

Carried

## 10 Farm Environment Plans

Ian Brown, Senior Resource Management Advisor provided a presentation on Farm Environment Plans (FEP) (hard copies were provided).

Jackie Wright asked what the process is once the FEP has been filed. Ian said that if the landowner is part of an irrigation scheme then the scheme handles it. FEP are submitted as part of the consent process and then the consent conditions specify that the plan needs to be audited. The frequency of auditing depends on the grade received- the lower the grade, the more frequent the review. Ian advised that the Auditor accreditation process is being created currently.

Stuart Wilson asked how much weight they give to nitrogen figure loss. In response, Ian said the figure must be looked at in conjunction with practices.

David Ashby (Land Management Advisor, ECAN) was introduced to the group and asked about the FEP he developed for his property in Waimakariri. He advised that as part of his water supply agreement he must complete a FEP. He explained that a consultant came to his property with pre-populated FEP template and that to gather the information it took 1-2 hours on farm and 1-2 hours around the table.

Donna Field asked how the “word” is going to get out around FEPs, particularly to landowners that are not part of an irrigation scheme. Bill Thomas said a group is meeting next week in Hinds areas, initiated by Irrigation NZ. Workshops are also being held by Beef and Lamb. Donna Lill also commented that her team will work with industry to get the “word” out.

The Chair thanked Ian Brown and also thanked Dave Ashby for allowing the Zone Committee to use his example.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.33pm until 3.00pm.

#### **11 CWMS infrastructure activities and opportunities in the Ashburton Zone**

Report has been tabled.

Ben Curry advised the Committee that there would be an opening ceremony at the MAR site on 3 June. Jo Goodhew will be invited as will Zone Committee members.

RDR are holding an open day on Klondyke tomorrow in Hinds: 11am-2pm and Mayfield: 4-8pm.

#### **12 Compliance and Monitoring Update:**

Richard Purdon, Principal Resource Management Advisor welcomed the group and gave a presentation on Environment Canterbury's Compliance Monitoring Annual Report 2014/15, particularly the results for Ashburton Zone.

Main topics of interest:

- Compliance Monitoring Annual Report
- Pollution Hotline Complaints
- Enforcement

Compliance: Discussion on what the "unable to determine compliance" status means. It was explained that in the context of a surface water consent, this could mean that a water meter was not installed and therefore it was not possible to determine if the consented volume/rate of take had been exceeded. Questions were asked as to what action is being taken to address this. It was explained that ECAN are currently calling and sending letters to all consent holders that do not have a water meter

Richard Purden commented that the response in 2017 will be different to this year. Real time water monitoring is being introduced rather than assessing water take data at the end of a season. Consents for higher usage will require real time data monitoring.

Ben Curry asked if compliance resourcing was considered in the LTP. There was some uncertainty as to whether additional resources will be provided for future compliance.

Richard Purden explained the abatement, infringement (fine) and prosecution process. He noted that ponding of dairy effluent is the most common non-compliance. This provides an opportunity to assist people to help them improve their practices.

Jackie Wright asked if groundwater testing was done for assess the adverse effects that could result from ponding. Richard Purden explained that groundwater testing is not usually done for one off ponding non-compliance.

John Henry commented on the high levels of non-compliance and low levels of infringements. He said it was disappointing to see and hopes for improvement.

Bill Thomas asked if the Zone Committee could be provided with an update quarterly on non-compliance in the zone. Richard Purden advised that the information can be included in the Zone Manager's report.

Chris Allen asked if that when discussing compliance, the language used should be 'consent holders' opposed to 'farmers'.

#### **13 E.coli Monitoring Ashburton River**

Olivia Smith tabled report. She provided a summary of the report and explained that six E.coli samples, collected over the summer period, were sent for faecal source tracking testing (FST). The FST was not effective as the E.coli levels were not high enough therefore it was recommended that the testing be undertaken again in Summer 2016/17.



The committee raised inconsistencies in the graph data. Olivia Smith will contact Adriane Meredith for further clarification.

David Caygill requested that the text on Page 29, second paragraph, be changed from seabirds to braided river birds.

Chris Allen has asked for information specific to Ashburton at the next meeting on what swimability means and how it is graded.

#### **14 Update on Other Matters**

- **14.1 Regional Committee Meeting**

A short verbal summary was provided by Ben Curry and a written summary attached.

- **14.2 Plan Change 2 Appeals**

Please refer to attached.

- **14.3 CAREX Field Day**

The Canterbury University Freshwater research team hosted a field day to update the community on their drain management research. The day was well attended and information was provided on practical tools for improving drain management.

#### **15 Meeting Summary/Action Point**

#### **16 Reports for Committee Information**

- **16.1 Ashburton River monitoring results**

- **16.2 Consents Update**

David Just, Team Leader

David Caygill requested that we ensure pages are dated and include a CRC number.

#### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held on Tuesday 31 May 2016, commencing at 1pm. A zone committee workshop with the Canterbury Primary Sector Group will be held in the morning) prior to the public zone committee meeting.

Due to the Chair's resignation and the Deputy Chair being absent at the next meeting, Chris Allen will chair the next meeting. Chair selection process will take place at the following meeting.

The Chair thanked attendees for their support during her time on the zone committee. The chair expressed how much she has enjoyed being part of the committee, since its inception, and was appreciative of the diverse knowledge she had gained. The Chair was regretful to leave the committee but excited at the opportunity to continue contributing to this important work in her new role as part of the ECAN Ashburton zone team.

The meeting concluded with a karakia by Peter Ramsden at 4.25pm.

Dated this 31 day of May 2016  acting (Chair)