

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 31 May 2016, commencing at 1pm in the Council Chamber, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Chris Allen, Commissioner David Caygill, Ben Curry, Gordon Guthrie, Cr Stuart Wilson, Jackie Wright and John Henry

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Olivia Smith (Facilitator) and Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua Facilitator).
Louise Glennon (Business Support Officer – minutes).

Approximately 4 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 Apologies

Craig Fowles, Bill Thomas, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga), Gordon Guthrie advised he will be leaving at 2.30pm

3 Extraordinary Business

None

4 Register of Interests

It was noted that there is a need to clarify with Council how they wish to proceed in finding a replacement for Craig Fowles. Hope to have clarification on this by June meeting.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

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

Wilson/Caygill

Carried

5.1 Matters Arising

Copy of Donna Field's farewell comments requested by Jackie Wright.

The DVDs from Bill Southward to be passed to Jackie Wright for viewing in the first instance, she will then pass around the group for viewing.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to invite Richard Purdon (Ecan compliance) to the next zone committee meeting to discuss/confirm a monitoring and enforcement approach for the 2016-2017 year.

6 Correspondence

A resignation letter was received from Craig Fowles. It was noted that he had enjoyed his time on the Committee but due to work commitments he is unable to continue. A thank you letter to be sent from ECAN and also from the Committee. Craig hopes to attend the June meeting.

7 Hinds Drains Working Party Recommendations

John Waugh discussed a report he prepared on the groundwater levels in the Hinds area. He noted that the wells in Willowby and Lowcliffe areas are particularly low. The Glynchie and Westerfield graphs show that ground water levels have been high up until recently and are currently the lowest for 66 years. Chertsey wells water levels are also very low at present.

John Henry request information from records for groundwater bores from 1980s onwards to get an indication of how many wells have been drilled in this time period. In addition John and Jackie expressed interested in understanding the current consented volume of groundwater allocated versus the actual water used.

It was noted that irrigation consent conditions can vary, with some having specific timeframes for abstracting. Jackie Wright queried whether there a restriction on groundwater takes applies pending on groundwater levels (similar to a minimum flow restriction that would apply to surface water takes) It was suggested that there be an agenda item at next meeting which focuses specifically on groundwater including consent conditions and consented vs actual allocation.

Upper Hinds

A summary of statutory and non-statutory actions was provided for the Upper Hinds area.

Statutory: Plan Change 2 includes nitrogen and phosphorous limits which apply to the area. Water quantity provisions cap the existing allocation on the upper North and South branches of the Hinds River. There is also a requirement for landowners to comply with Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) and Schedule 24b.

John Henry raised his concern about the lack of rūnanga input into FEPs. He has found it very frustrating and advised that there is currently not enough funding to employ someone to be involved in this. John would like there to be processes put in place for this. He recommended that they should be involved in all the processes that are relevant. David Caygill believes that there may be a misunderstanding regarding how rūnanga are to be consulted with in Schedule 7 requirements. Clarification was sought on the current requirements for consultation and is to be provided at the next meeting.

Non statutory projects: Donna Lill provided an update to the Committee on the current IMS biodiversity projects. She advised that there are seven ongoing projects, all wetland and stream projects. There has been some extensive planting done and this is still ongoing.

A request was made to provide a summary of Plan Change 2 water quantity provisions at the next meeting.

8 Implementation Outcomes and Milestones

The Committee was asked for final feedback on the draft implementation outcomes and milestones as Donna Lill is now starting to draft a work plan for the zone delivery team. Jackie Wright raised a concern that the outcomes and milestones were drafted quickly and that there are some areas which are not covered. It was noted by the committee that there is a no milestone which specifically related to the urban environment/community. Olivia Smith encouraged the committee to consider a relevant milestone (s) for this. In doing so, John Waugh (community member) explained that there has been a significant increase in storm water from run off from paved areas in the urban environment. He also explained that water quality is reduced as it picks up debris etc. from surfaces. It was noted however that most new subdivisions have an area to collect rainwater. It was confirmed that an additional milestone relating to Carters Creek and

urban storm water be included. Jackie also suggested that rural drinking water should also be a milestone.

Donna Lill then explained that she will review the all the milestones (including the ones relating to urban environment and drinking water) and develop a work programme to deliver these. If any resourcing issues are identified, she will come back to committee to prioritise action.

It was also suggested that Donna Lill provides a quarterly report on progress with implementing the work programme. Donna explained that the committee could choose to have a 'champion' for each outcome. This would provide an opportunity for committee members to work with the zone team and champion the outcome including media conversations. It was agreed that the concept be discussed further at the next meeting.

That the amended outcomes and milestones be agreed.

Guthrie/Henry

Carried

9 Zone Delivery Update

Donna Lill advised the Committee that Sarah Heddell and Donna Field have recently joined ECAN. Two resource management officers have also been appointed and are starting in the next couple of weeks.

Sarah Heddell is currently working on implementing some of the Hinds Drains Working Party recommendations including the Mahinga Kai sites and Boundary drain trial.

10 Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Pilot Project

Ben Curry explained how MAR Pilot Working Group is comprised of a range of members who are focused on getting the trial up and running. The site is was tested last week with water put into site and it responded as expected. The site has now been switched off as further work due to be done today/tomorrow to dig further holes.

Official opening is on Friday, 3 June at 1.30pm at Tinwald Golf Club. As there is lots of interest from community, especially the farming community, a public open day will be held on 15 June.

Olivia Smith explained that Bob Bower (Golders Associates) is interested in talking with the committee in Spring to discuss initial findings. It was suggested that this would be a good time for the committee to consider the establishment of a MAR Pilot Governance Group. David Caygill reiterated the importance of including the word pilot in the title of the MAR Governance Group.

It was agreed that Ben Curry would be the representative from the Committee for the MAR pilot working group.

Gordon Guthrie left the meeting at 2.34pm.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea from 2.34pm until 2.51pm.

11 Rakaia Enhancement Fund

With the departure of Donna Field from the Committee, it was raised that a replacement representative is needed for the Rakaia Enhancement Fund Committee. Jackie Wright would be happy to attend but may have an issue with availability. It was agreed that the Committee will elect a representative at the next meeting and in the interim Jackie will try attend. If she is unable to attend to, Chris Allen or Ben Curry will attend.

There is currently \$472,000 in the Trust at present.

It was noted that meetings will be monthly for the next 3 months with the next one taking place on 24 June from 11am – 1pm, venue tbc.

12 Recreational Water Quality Monitoring and Guidelines

Kimberley Dynes, Ecology Scientist provided a presentation on the monitoring process and guidelines for contact recreation.

Jackie Wright requested the addition of markers on graphs for E. Coli to be included to make the graphs so they can be interpreted more accurately. A question was also raised regarding why Rangitata and Rakaia rivers are not being tested as part of contact recreation programme. It was explained that there is limited funding to cover all rivers in the district and therefore popular for swimming spots are prioritised for monitoring.

It was agreed by the Committee to arrange a meeting at the testing site at SH1 on Ashburton River during the summer. A date is still to be agreed on for December/January.

13 Swimming Values in Canterbury and Recreational and Amenity Flagships

Ellie McNae guided the Committee through her paper on swimming values in Canterbury. Ellie advised that she will come back and talk to the Committee in August about potential flagship projects for the Ashburton zone. It was suggested that the committee consider ways to include the community in this.

14 Reports for Committee Information

- 14.1 PC2- no update

- 14.2 Consents


Concern was raised around whether two consents were for extra water (Molloy/Townsend). It was thought that they are being swapped but clarification will be provided at the next meeting.

Olivia Smith suggested asked the committee if they may be interested in focusing on a different CWMS target(s) each month. The purpose of this is to link actions on the ground with each target whilst acknowledging the first and second order CWMS priorities.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held on Tuesday 28 June 2016, commencing at 1pm.

The meeting concluded with a karakia by Peter Ramsden at 4.06pm.

Dated this 28 day of June 2016  (Chair)