

**MINUTES OF 41ST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN HABGOOD LOUNGE, LINCOLN EVENTS CENTRE,
MEIJER DRIVE, LINCOLN
ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1.30PM**

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KARAKIA
CLOSURE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT

Chair: Andy Pearce

Community: John Donkers, Hugh Logan, Rochelle Hardy, Hugh Canard, Jane Demeter

Zone Representatives: Ben Curry, Claire McKay, Steve Lowndes, Ron Pellow, John Talbot, Barry Shepherd and Matt Hoggard

District Councils: Peter Scott, Mayor Winton Dalley

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Rebecca Clements

Ngā Rūnanga: John Wilkie

Environment Canterbury Commissioners: David Caygill and Tom Lambie

Central Government Observer: Nick Vincent (MfE)

IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Bayfield (Chief Executive Environment Canterbury), Christina Robb (Programme Manager CWMS), Barbara Nicholas (Team Leader Zone Facilitators), Dann Olykan (Principal Strategy Advisor Water), Ellie McNae (Senior Strategy Advisor Water), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Stephen Bragg (Tangata Whenua Facilitator) (and Therese Davel (Senior Administration Officer)

WELCOME

Andy Pearce opened the meeting at 1.30pm and welcomed everyone.

Stephen Bragg opened with karakia.

ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Alistair Humphrey, Mayor Angus McKay, Bruce Murphy, Kevin Steel and Hamish Cuthbert. Christina Robb noted that Cr Phil Clearwater had been in contact and because of his workload, the Christchurch City Council is revisiting how it is represented on the Regional Committee.

ITEM 2 - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest schedules were circulated.

ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of meeting of 15 December 2015

(Refer pages 5-18 of agenda)

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 15 December 2015, amended to read:

***Page 7, first paragraph: "Commissioners taking a lead beyond the CWMS"; and
Page 15, first sentence "... a public consultation meeting ..."***

be received and confirmed a true and accurate record.

Andy Pearce / David Caygill

ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING

Steve Lowndes noted the proposed NIWA presentation to the Committee on the issue of climate change (refer p 11, Item 12.7 of the minutes).

Andy Pearce and Barbara Nicholas assured the Committee there will be a presentation at a future Regional Committee meeting.

ITEM 5 – CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ITEM 6 – ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY

(Refer pages 19 - 23 of the agenda)

Steve Lowndes presented the item noting that a meeting was held on 9 February to discuss 5 year implementation outcomes for regional biodiversity. The meeting was constructive and Steve will report on this at the next Regional Committee meeting.

The Working Group was also engaged with a number of submissions, e.g. on eels. The Working Group will submit to MPI in support of long and short fin eel stocks in the South Island being managed separately.

Steve was asked about the reference in his report to the inclusion of biodiversity in Farm Environment Plans. It was agreed that including biodiversity into Farm Environment Plans will enable farmers to become familiar with issues of biodiversity and to become involved. It should be more of an information / enabling issue rather than one of compliance.

Peter Scott agreed, noting an example of river engineers clearing a river bed in an area which they would not have, had they been made aware of the significance of plants there. Mayor Dalley commented that there is need for a philosophy change, e.g. currently farmers may see the issue of protected area as a liability where in reality it should be seen as an asset to their land. Biodiversity works best when it's voluntary and not regulatory.

Andy summarised that it was an issue of education to farmers; viewing protected areas as assets, rather than liabilities; and the interrelationship various initiatives including biodiversity in FEPs.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee

1. ***Receives the report of BEWG; and***
2. ***Agree that the attached draft submission be sent to MPI on the separation of long and short fin eel stocks in the South Island.***

ITEM 7 – FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

(Refer pages 24 – 33 of the agenda)

Ellie McNae presented the item, reporting back on the findings of the Funding Working Group Report. The brief of the Working Group was to consider the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for environmental infrastructure. The Working Group reviewed and agreed to use the term environmentally beneficial infrastructure rather than environmental infrastructure. They also determined that a key test would be to assess who the beneficiaries of a project would be, as well as the nature and scale of the benefits. Using potential projects as case studies, the group came up with potential criteria against which to test projects for public funding.

Ellie noted the recommendations from the Working Group and a robust discussion followed.

To test whether there was support in principle for the use of public funding in carefully defined circumstances, the Chairman tested with the Committee a counterfactual proposition that “there could never be a situation where it would be appropriate for public funding to be used”. No member of the committee was willing to support the counterfactual proposition.

Key points made:

- Need to clearly distinguish between private and public funding and private and public benefit;
- This was about significant benefits at a lesser cost over and above any alternatives;
- The CWMS has always been about progressing projects that achieve multiple outcomes;
- The Local Government Act that governs Environment Canterbury would avoid funding at will;

There was a discussion about including a 7th criterion with a number of proposals put forward for consideration. The discussion centred around means to ensure that only those elements of a project that provided a clear public/environmental benefit were funded, rather than elements that a project proponent was required to do through their duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of a project. There was a tension around how to manage this risk, while still ensuring that projects that would benefit the greater good can proceed.

Two suggestions for criterion 7 were: *‘not to be used to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of a development proposal’* and *‘not to be used as a mechanism to fulfil the requirements of consent’*.

Resolved (as amended):

That the Regional Committee:

1. Note the Working Group’s conclusions that:

*While public funding should be a last resort, there **could** be a case for Environment Canterbury to provide public funding (through a rate) to **the** environmentally beneficial **elements of an infrastructure project** if the following criteria were satisfied.*

The project:

- 1. delivers significant, demonstrable **ecological, social and cultural** benefits over and above the alternatives, **including doing nothing***
- 2. requires only a one-off capital investment¹ (**not recurring**)*
- 3. is a cost-effective way to achieve goals*
- 4. benefits a group wider than the immediate users (clear test of beneficiaries required in the assessment project)*
- 5. **contributes to achieving** other governmental policies or strategies (**if relevant**)*
- 6. addresses a legacy issue (**if relevant**)*

and that:

Good investment principles should be followed when assessing the projects (including a risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis). In addition, an assessment of the scale of the benefits and the affordability of the project, including the ability of a local community to meet the costs, would help to determine the mix of funding and how to rate (targeted or regional).

2. Ask the Regional Infrastructure Working Group to review the proposals for inclusion of a 7th criterion and report back at the next Regional Committee meeting.

ITEM 8 – ANNUAL REPORT

(Refer page 34 of the agenda)

The Committee broke into their Working Groups to discuss what they thought were the key messages to be included in the annual report to Environment Canterbury. The areas they were asked to review were achievements to date; current and emerging strategic issues; and future work programme. They were all required to consider kaitiakitanga as well.

Andy Pearce and the various Working Group Chairs would review the draft report once Barbara Nicholas and the team have prepared it.

Feedback will be given at the next Regional Committee meeting.

ITEM 9 – RECREATION

(Refer pages 35 - 36 of the agenda)

Ellie McNae presented the proposed scope for a report into swimming values in Canterbury. One of the recreation and amenity targets of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy included the aim to see 'a positive trend in the availability and/or quality of recreational opportunities in each zone' by 2015/2020. Research was commissioned on jet-boating, kayaking and angling, however, swimming in freshwater still presented an information gap.

The report and data would be accessible to a wide range of users including hydrologists; planners; regional and zone committees; recreational user-groups; hearings commissioners and the public.

The scope includes factors such as identification of swimming locations; flow rates; scenic values; accessibility; and water quality monitoring.

¹ The Working Group determined that other funding mechanisms, such as the use of operational expenditure, would be more appropriate for ongoing activities i.e. the maintenance of stock-water races for ecological values.

In a brief discussion the following points were raised: to include testing for cyanobacteria; where swimming areas are remote consider public toilets, camping facilities and accessibility; and the physical creation of swimming holes where possible.

Ellie also updated the Regional Committee on the establishment of an independent Recreation Interest group, including membership from Fish and Game, jetboaters, kayakers and other recreational representatives. The group have been developing a mission and proposed work plan, which they will present to the Regional Committee at their meeting in April.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee

- 1. Note Environment Canterbury's intention to commission a swimming research report; and**
- 2. Suggest additional factors (if any) that they would like the research report to assess.**

ITEM 10 – CANTERBURY REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

(Refer pages 37 - 39 of the agenda)

Barbara Nicholas presented the item for information only. She informed the Committee that significant changes to regional pest management would happen as a result of changes to the Biosecurity Act, amongst others.

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Working Group supported the inclusion of Russell lupins as a new pest. On this note, John Talbot informed the Committee that the Department of Conservation commented that it could not be classified as a pest because it was considered trade – the seeds are bought and sold.

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee

Notes the Regional Pest Management Strategy Review

ITEM 11 - RESOURCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL UPDATE

(Refer page 40 of the agenda)

Ellie McNae presented the item, updating the Regional Committee that the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill is currently before the select committee for Local Government and the Environment. She noted that Environment Canterbury will submit on the bill, both independently and as part of the Canterbury Regional Policy forum, by the middle of March 2016. The Committee requested that a link to Environment Canterbury's submission be provided at their next meeting.

Resolved

That the Regional Committee

Receive an update on the preparation of Environment Canterbury's submission on the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill.

ITEM 12 – TARGETS REVIEW

(Refer page 41 of the agenda)

Dann Olykan presented this item, noting that a review of the CWMS Targets – Measures & Indicators will begin soon. The aim of the review is to ensure measures and indicators are

appropriate and reportable; identify data and knowledge gaps; and encourage partner organisations to review their programmes and projects so that appropriate data will be available by 2020.

The project will involve a desktop review; focus groups and a final report which will be shared with stakeholder groups, Regional Committee as well as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum. The project is due to be completed by 22 April 2016 and he will be contacting members of the Committee quite soon to take part in the review.

ITEM 13 - ZONE COMMITTEE UPDATES

(Refer page 42)

Verbal updates were given during the meeting.

Orari-Opihi-Pareora Zone Update (John Talbot)

- "Orari Opihi Temuka Pareora" ("OTOP") is now formalised as the name of what used to be "OOP".
- We are now starting into the processes for preparing a ZIP addendum and sub regional plan. We are using different language - "The OTOP Healthy Catchments Project is to come up with recommendations about limits (such as rules) and actions (such as practical projects) to achieve healthy catchments in the zone"

Ashburton Zone Update (Ben Curry)

- The first meeting for the Committee of 2016 was held on 26th January. New member Bill Thomas who farms at Longbeach, was welcomed.
- The Committee received a letter from the local representative of Forest & Bird who amongst other issues, raised what she saw as an imbalance in the committee's membership, strongly representing the farming / primary industry sector.
- The letter was discussed at some length and the chairwoman Donna Field suggested that the Committee needed to do more to engage with community groups.
- Donna Lill, the new Ashburton Team Leader, spoke briefly about her role and that of the team. The team has yet to be established.
- Variation 2 (or Plan Change 2) decisions were published on 4 February. The main points were the move away from a catchment load limit to a groundwater target (6.9mg/L).
- All farming activities are required to reduce the N leaching by a minimum of 35% by 2035.
- In the space of irrigation expansion the BCI consent was effectively prevented from further development in the Hinds area.
- The socialisation of the decisions has begun with several briefings scheduled over the coming weeks.

Hurunui – Waiau Zone Update (Vacant)

Lower Waitaki–South Coastal Canterbury Zone Update (Bruce Murphy)

Plan change 3 is currently in Technical caucusing with the view to simplify the planning provisions to better support the community's wishes recommended to the Zone Committee. Narrative options are being explored for the flexibility and maximum caps that would better accommodate changes in nitrate loss figures in future overseer versions.

On the 13th of February plan change 5 to the Canterbury land and regional plan was notified. This includes region wide rules these do not have legal effect, rather they take effect when they are made operative following a full consultation and hearing process. There is a further round of community meetings scheduled for 22nd and 23rd of February and submissions close on March 11th with hearings scheduled likely for August. Also community members are starting to get a look at GMP farm portal and how it integrates into the subregional plan and the likely effects it may have on their farming operation.

We are in the process of looking at the Waitaki integrated monitoring framework for water quality so we can measure the effectiveness of our plan by coordinating data collection along the Waitaki valley.

Our last meeting saw Robin Murphy stand down as Chairman with a huge vote of thanks and Kate White elected our new Chairperson and Mark Giles elected Deputy Chairman.

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Update (Ron Pellow)

The Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee met last week, 2 February 2016 for its inaugural 2016 meeting and the only meeting held since the last report to the Regional Committee [15th December 2015].

Key aspects from this meeting and related activities include:

1. Appointment of Officers and working groups:

- a. Allen Lim was reappointed as Chair, Bill Lambie has replaced Charles Crofts as Deputy Chair.
- b. Ron Pellow has been reappointed as Regional Committee Representative.
- c. Allen Lim will also join the Te Waihora Agencies group on behalf of SWZC
- d. The bio-diversity working group was reconfirmed, and two new groups were established, a group to aid refinement of the 5-year delivery Outcomes and Milestones, and a PC1 Implementation Working Group.
- e. Victor Mthamo was welcomed to the zone committee as a new community member. He is a water engineer and environmental consultant operating across Canterbury.

2. Selwyn Waihora Plan Change (PC1):

- a. As noted at the December regional committee meeting, appeals to the Selwyn Te Waihora sub-regional section have been resolved and the plan became operative on 1 February 2016.
 - b. After various name changes, including Variation 1 and PC1, the Selwyn – Te Waihora subregional section is to be known as Selwyn-Te Waihora Plan Change (PC1).
 - c. Public meetings are likely at the end of February / beginning of March to inform the community of the outcomes, requirements, and timeframes. A meeting is also proposed for the 'Focus Groups' that contributed to the scenario discussions early in the Zone Committees deliberations.
 - d. The Zone Committee and ECAN are working closely with a range of predominantly Agricultural sector organisations on communication and implementation. This includes a Zone Committee working group (as above)
 - e. ECAN have been asked to promptly compare the N-load of farming at 'GMP' as defined in PC1 with GMP as defined in PC5 via the ECAN portal. The timing of PC1 prevented it directly referring to GMP as now defined in PC5.
3. Two immediate steps projects at Lake Lyndon were funded. This is a popular high country lake on the main road heading from Christchurch to Arthurs Pass.
 4. A presentation on the draft Muriwai / Coopers Lagoon Management Plan was provided. This is a small lagoon south of Te Waihora.

Waimakariri Zone Update (Claire McKay)

- 2016 is underway with the first meeting held last week. The Committee changed its name to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee.
- Four IMS funding applications were approved by the committee.
- The Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust manages two of the projects being stage 6 funding Tutaepatu Lagoon weed control, and Stage 2 weed control of the Pines Beach wetland.
- The Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare group received funding for predator control – both four and two legged variety! – to assist braided river bird nesting. Funding was for trapping, creating predator proof islands, signage and restriction of 4 wheel drive access to the river.
- The fourth project sought funding for restoring a spring fed wetland in the Oxford foothills. Funding is to be applied to fencing to exclude stock replanting with natives, weed control and creating a habitat suitable for mudfish.
- The committee considered its work programme of mid-year. It was acknowledged that as sub-regional process is due to start then, member workload and commitment will increase.
- It was agreed to schedule a regular workshop between meetings for working groups and updates from science team.
- The committee received briefings on Overseer and consent planning and processes.

Upper Waitaki Zone Update (Barry Shepherd)

- The Zone Committee has met once since the last report.
- The Meeting consisted of a workshop / field trip to look at developments over the last 12 months in the lower part of the Zone and how they fit with the Zones targets.
- Two storage and two centre pivots developments were viewed along with one immediate steps project and a sewage disposal improvement, Environment Canterbury staff explained some of the consenting issues.
- Members concluded the projects viewed fitted well within their expectations.
- The next ZC meeting is on the 19th February and there will be community meetings on the 22nd February to explain the process of the LWRP from here.
- A meeting was held with the Lake sensitive zones farmers (9 properties) to explain the Plan and the help available to them to obtain consents to farm in the Lake sensitive zones by March 2016.

Kaikoura Zone Update (Matt Hoggard)

Kaikoura Zone Committee had its first meeting in 2016. Later this week farm environment plan workshops will be held for the dairy, sheep and beef farmers. Continued support exists from Kaikoura Youth Council and Fonterra for Lyell Creek restoration.

Banks Peninsula Zone Update (Steve Lowndes)

Banks Peninsula ZC 1st meeting of the year will be at Living Springs, Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour Tuesday 16 February.

The ZC will be catching up on what has been happening around the Peninsula over summer including;

- The latest water quality monitoring results from Wairewa/Lake Forsyth – warning of cyanobacteria were issued for

- Anabaena bloom from early October to early December
- Current Anabaena and Nodularia bloom from mid-January
- A new Wairewa Drainage Rating District was established in July 2015. Work to remove willows along a stretch of the Okana river is this month getting underway.
- An outcome of the Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan was to develop a catchment management plan by December 2016. The first step was to undertake a stock take of traditional and scientific knowledge. The committee will be reviewing progress on the stocktake and provide feedback. The stocktake will be accessible through the committee's website.
- Freedom campers, stock access and community drinking water supplies are all "hot issues" for the zone committee this summer.

Christchurch-West Melton Zone Update (Vacant)

Resolved:

That the Regional Committee accept verbal updates from representatives.

ITEM 14 - GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

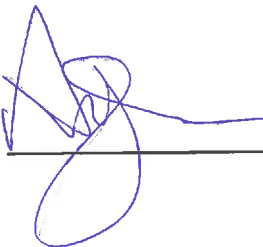
CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

Peter Ramsden closed with karakia.

Date:

12 April



Chairperson