

# MINUTES OF THE KAIKOURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.41PM ON WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016 AT SUPPER ROOM OF THE MEMORIAL HALL, KAIKOURA

**PRESENT:** T Howard (Chair), Mayor W Gray, A Boyd, M Hoggard, N McArthur, J Murray, T Sonal, J Harnett and T Blunt.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** M Griffin (Zone Facilitator), K Heays, J Hill, C Armour, T Butterfield, R Hubbard, E Dangerfield, B Taylor (Committee Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** D Bedford, G Solomon, S Bragg, S Palmer.  
*Moved by J Murray, seconded by A Boyd and resolved that apologies be accepted.*

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 29/06/2016**

*Moved by J Murray, seconded by M Hoggard and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikoura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 29 June 2016 be confirmed a true and accurate record.*

## **2. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Love the Lyell**

Earthworks had been undertaken behind Gills yard and a path was being constructed. The next community planting day would be 14 September from 10am until noon and would finish with a barbeque. Lyell Creek was split into four areas as the areas required different types of work and were at varying stages of progress – the mouth (downstream from the foot bridge), West End (between the foot-bridge and State Highway), the Esplanade (State Highway 1 to Hawthorne Road) and the springs/flats which was the top of the catchment.

The Love the Lyell Committee would submit an application for assistance for the BNZ Closed for Good Day.

### **Nutrient Management & Water Efficiency Working Group**

The focus of the Working Group would be on areas in the Red Zone. The Group wanted to capture what improvements had already occurred over the last 20 years to illustrate the progress farmers had made. Non-dairy farm land owners potentially did not realise the impact they had on waterways or the new requirements. It was hoped a Beef and Lamb representative would attend the September Zone Committee meeting. Water efficiency had to happen and farmers would soon be required to demonstrate 80 percent irrigation efficiency.

### **Regional Committee Meeting**

T Howard and M Hoggard would attend a meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Clarence/Waiiau-toa Working Group**

J Hill advised there was an opportunity to have a Working Group meeting within the Zone Committee meeting. The draft Weed Management Strategy had been approved. There had been an agency meeting proposed in

Marlborough during August to review the draft. S Palmer would visit the farms in the catchment and talk with the farmers about the proposed strategy. It would then be brought back and finalised with the Committee at the September meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed name change of the Clarence River to also include the words 'Waiau toa'. It was noted that 'Waiau toa' could be confused with 'Wairau' and 'Waiau' which were two rivers relatively close to the Clarence region. Confusion could potentially be minimised by having 'Clarence' at the beginning of the River's name.

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by J Murray and resolved that the Committee support the renaming of the Clarence River to be the Clarence / Waiau Toa River.***

#### **Action List**

An updated action list was tabled.

The final version of the Clarence infographic would be ready for distribution in August 2016.

A letter to New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) regarding the transport corridor had been drafted. It was suggested NZTA should attend the Committee meeting when the transport corridor and waterways were being discussed.

S Palmer confirmed that there had been no damage to any species as a result of the weed spraying in the Clarence/Waiau-toa funded through Immediate Steps in the last two years.

### **3. ZONE DELIVERY – QUATERLY UPDATE**

In April 2015 the Zone Committee adopted a set of 5 year outcomes and milestones.

*Outcome 1: A safe water supply from all community water schemes. This action had been achieved – both Marae had safe water adequate to their needs. It was noted that the water supplies would need to be adequate for the whole community with regard to demand during a civil emergency.*

*Outcome 2: Maintain the unique wilderness and underdeveloped character of the Clarence/Waiau Toa through maintaining biodiversity, enhancing natural values and mahinga kai. A site visit of the Black Fronted Tern project had been undertaken in June and the islands in the river looked great and channels of water ran either side of them. Trapping would start again in October. There had been a presentation to the Zone Committee about the Black-billed Gull Management Project and preparation for the next breeding season was underway.*

*Outcome 3: Remaining wetlands in the zone are maintained, protected and restored to be suitable for mahinga kai. The IMS application for the Swan Creek Wetland planting was underway. Additional wetland projects were*

being scoped.

*Outcome 4: Nutrients are being managed to ensure the water quality outcomes on the Kaikoura Plains are at an acceptable level as defined by the Land and Water Regional Plan.* 100 percent of dairy farmers had completed Sustainable Milk Plans. Fonterra and ECan had formed a partnership. One consent had been received to continue to farm inside a Sensitive Lake Zone. There were 43 consents without the required certification. Nine of these were being worked on, two had abatement notices, one had a waiver and the rest were being followed up. There had been one dairy farm which had been classified as significantly non-compliant but it was fully compliant by the end of the season.

*Outcome 5: In-stream ecosystem health is improved to allow for safe mahinga kai and recreational use of the Lyell Creek.* The path along the Creek behind Gills along to ECan was underway. The next planting day would be 14<sup>th</sup> September in partnership with Trees for Travellers. 60 septic tanks had been identified as in need of investigation and the first to be looked at would be those older than 50 years.

*Outcome 6: Ensure Kaikōura EarthCheck status is not undermined by the declining state of waterways.* Waterways were not part of the Earthcheck criteria and it was proposed this outcome statement be refined to better focus on the Committee and Zone teams work programme. One of the Earthcheck benchmarks was water use per person which would go up as a result of watering the planted sites.

*Outcome 7: Environmental values of waterways are not undermined by the transport corridor through the Zone.* An inventory of all the waterways which intersected State Highway 1 was scheduled for September. A letter from the Committee to NZTA had being drafted.

*Outcome 8: To continue to broaden the Kaikoura Community's awareness and involvement in water management issues and initiatives.* This had been endorsed by 'Ted's Talk', media coverage in the Kaikoura Star and Youth Council involvement with the Love the Lyell project.

#### **4. DAIRY NZ - UPDATE**

Angela Harvey, Catchment Engagement Leader and also the Project Lead for the Sustainable Milk Plan (SMP) Project in Canterbury, was in attendance to present this item.

There were six key areas for SMPs: nutrients, effluent, water use, waterways, land and waste. Dairy NZ had contracted farm consultants who would do 3-4 hour farm visits to assist in the establishment of the Plans. A Harvey displayed an example of the risk assessment questionnaire for irrigation and water use which had been circulated to farmers. There was a questionnaire for each of the key areas. Once all areas had been completed a summary document was produced with key identifiers for the farm, such as title, legal description, area of land owned and consented effluent indicators. A list of agreed actions would be produced which included what

farmers were already doing well within the six areas and what they had agreed to work on going forward.

There were three key themes for farmers.

- Recording: Accurate record keeping of all resources used on the farm (how much, when, where, what method).
- Checking: soil types, irrigator performance, effluent irrigator performance, nutrient values.
- Training: up-skill the team in nutrient management, effluent management and irrigation management.

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

An update on G Collin's water-takes was provided. There had been low flow figures and G Collins had opted to not use one of the bores out of Lyell Creek until the consent was sorted. G Collins was going to engage a hydrologist. M Griffin suggested a shared briefing with the hydrologist.

T Howard felt that water storage for the community needed to be addressed. A damn was not suitable due to earthquake risk and he suggested water could be stored in the gravel at the bottom of the Seaward Ranges.

N McArthur advised the Hutton's Shearwater Trust had applied for more funding and she would have a report to present at the next meeting.

Kaikoura District Council had decided buildings within a specified area of the Kaikoura flats must connect to the Council sewer system rather than install their own individual septic tank.

## **6. REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY & IMMEDIATE STEPS BRIEFING**

The Immediate Steps programme had been active for six years. The targets of the five year outcomes were quite specific and were very positive. ECan wanted to see \$100,000 spent per annum.

T Howard advised unexpected droughts were a real challenge to deal with. He further advised that he would like to see the Immediate Steps process streamlined – particularly for the smaller applications. There was concern that perhaps some applicants were being put off by the level of information which was required especially for the low budget projects. It was generally felt that the Zone and Regional outcomes should be aligned and support one another.

## **7. RECREATION AND AMENITY FLAGSHIP PROJECTS BRIEFING**

Canterbury's rivers & lakes were highly prized for recreation they were used throughout the year by locals and visitors. Many overseas and New Zealand tourists came especially for recreational activities in and around Canterbury rivers.

The targets for 2020 were:

- A positive trend in the availability and/or quality of recreational opportunities in each zone

- Make progress towards achieving environmental flows.

The targets for 2040 were:

- Restored fishing opportunities in most lowland streams in each water management zone.
- Restored at least one major fresh water recreational opportunity in each zone that is not currently available in 2010.
- Achieve all environmental flows.

Ellie McNae, Senior Strategy Advisor, confirmed they would consult with youth to ascertain which waterways they swam in to make sure these were clean. Immediate Steps funding was for biodiversity projects not projects which encouraged recreational activities in waterways. If there was a recreational benefit in addition to improved health of the waterway then it would be given some weight.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.57pm.***