

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee [Unconfirmed Minutes]

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

Present

Commissioner David Caygill, Ben Curry, Cr Stuart Wilson, Gordon Guthrie, Chris Allen, John Henry (Arowhenua Runanga), Bill Thomas (Chair) and Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga) (1.24pm)

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Olivia Smith (Facilitator), Louise Glennon (Business Support Officer – minutes) and John Waugh

Approximately 2 members of the public attended the meeting.

- **Welcome and Karakia**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the opening karakia was offered by John Henry.
- **Deputations**
None
- **Apologies**
Jackie Wright
- **Extraordinary Business**
None
- **Register of Interests**
Ben – appointed Chair of Recreational and Amenities Working Group Committee
Chris – RMA and Biodiversity for Federated Farmers
- **Confirmation of Minutes**
Bill advised of an email that Jackie Wright provided in advance of the meeting which outlined some proposed amendments to the minutes. Discussion took place around suggested amendments and the below corrections were agreed.

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 28 June 2016, be taken as read and confirmed with the following amendments.

The Committee were informed that the selection working group met directly prior to the zone committee meeting to discuss candidates for the current vacancy. The group recommended the appointment of John Waugh. This was announced at the zone committee meeting however it was noted that formal confirmation of his appointment will follow once approved by Ecan and Ashburton District Council at their upcoming council meetings.

Jackie questioned changes in the CWMS strategic framework since its inception, noting some specific examples. For example, the in terminology used for management practice from ‘best’ (stated in 2009) to ‘good’. Jackie also noted the shift in focus from first and second order priorities to 10 equally weighted targets and suggested these change warrant explanation and discussion.

Bill/David

Carried

6.1 Matters Arising

The committee agreed that proposed committee appointee, John Waugh, participate in the meeting today but not participate in any decision making. Ecan has approved his appointment and Ashburton District Council will advise of their decision after the Council meeting on 28 July.

It was agreed that once John has been officially appointed to the group, he will present a brief overview of his background at his first committee meeting.

Stuart advised the group that KB & RA Townsend have requested an extra 45 litres in their consent application. It was noted that this would be discussed in more detail in during the 'consents update'.

Olivia advised that a response has been drafted to Kara regarding the committee's role. In addition an article had been placed in the press providing further details around the role of committee, including the committee's role in relation to the Lot 9 consents.

- **Correspondence**

None

- **Facilitators Update**

Olivia provided the group with an update on the use of the Hapua Fund. The fund was established as part of the negotiations for Lake Coleridge and includes \$2500 per year for river engineers to the reset the Rakaia river mouth. In the last few years the mouth has only resetting once. If it is not spend, the money rolls over for future use.

Olivia showed the group the MAR website – a link to the site is on the Ashburton Zone Committee webpage. The website has an interactive map with background information on MAR and monitoring information. Olivia is to circulate the link to the group. Ben informed the group that there is supposed to be an app which runs alongside the website which will be available in due course.

- **Election of Chair and Deputy Chair**

David called for nominations for Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee.

That Bill Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Allen/Curry

Carried

David called for nominations for Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee.

That Chris Allen be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Curry/Guthrie

Carried

Arapata attended the meeting at 1.24pm

- **Rakaia Enhancement Fund**

Olivia advised on Jackie's behalf that there is a meeting this Friday to confirm guidelines and alternate representatives. John Waugh suggested he would be happy to be the alternative for the group and this can be confirmed at the next meeting once John is officially appointed to the Committee.

- **Ashburton River/Hakatere Flow and Allocation Regime**

Don Vattala (Senior Planner) explained the key components of the Ashburton River flow regime and the collaborative process that was undertaken to develop it.

Don advised the plan provisions for the Ashburton River have been operative since February 2016. The plan was drafted to reflect zone committee recommendations which were developed in consultation with a number of other groups and agencies including Te Runanga O Arowhenua, Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga and Fish and Game.

The flow regime aims to address a key issues including river mouth opening, North Branch flow, instream habitats and fish passages, over allocation, reliability of supply for abstractors and water quality.

Expectations are for the river mouth to be open during key months, protection of North Branch flow (September – mid December), protection of catchment wide instream habitat, restoration of minimum flow to 6,000 L/S at SH1, no new consents until this 10,000 L/S SH1, shift from surface to ground water, efficiency gains and controls and transfers, maintain or increase reliability of supply and improve water quality.

Don advised that the river is over currently allocated. David advised that it is however it must also be noted that some of the consented allocation cannot be taken when minimum flow restrictions are in force.

Olivia handed out a table summarising key components of the flow regime and a brief overview of the current consented situation.

There was some discussion around the renewal process for existing consents. It was explained that no additional water will be allocated until minimum flow of 10,000 L/s in place and when consents come up for renewal they will be subject to new minimum flows. The majority of current consents don't have a minimum flow and few of these are due for renewal prior to 2023 or 2033.. David Just highlighted the issue that most of these will still not have minimum flows and this will still be the case in 2033. Further information on consent review is required.

There was also discussion around the uptake of swaps to deep groundwater. It was acknowledged that uptake has been limited to date however Green street irrigation have been granted a consent to swap their take to deep groundwater.

John enquired about what information is available on hydraulically connected groundwater takes. David Just explained that Ecan have an estimation of the number however pump testing would be required to provide certainty and this incurs a high cost.

Olivia suggested that a discussion could take place at the next meeting to identify priority actions that need to be undertaken to realise the new flow regime.

Chris proposed a small subcommittee from the Zone Committee and Ecan could be created to discuss solutions using Ecan's existing mechanisms. This could include community members/users. Ben recommended that Andrew Guthrie provide an update on where they are with irrigation companies. Olivia advised that she has been in touch with Andrew and he will update the committee when they have some new developments.

It was agreed to have a full committee discussion to discuss solutions rather than a sub-committee at this stage. An invitation to be extended to Andrew Guthrie to attend.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.45pm until 3.00pm.

- **RDR – Klondyke Storage**

Ben provided an update on the storage proposal. Characteristics of proposal are 53mm³ volume best fit, additional 10m³/high flow, ecological refuge area including native planting, wetlands and lizard recovery areas. Also white water recreations areas, redesigned fish diversion, realignment of Shepherds Bush Road and public foot access to Rangitata River.

Potential uses are to improve reliability of existing RDR shareholder, improve reliability for non RDR shareholder, provide water for new irrigation in Mid Canterbury and/or South Canterbury, hydroelectricity, recreation (white water facility), targeted stream augmentation (TSA) and managed aquifer recharge (MAR).

Ben advised that consultation has taken place with Ecan, ADC, DOC, Fish & Game, public meetings, various other agencies and organisations.

The consent was lodged on 15 June 2016 with public notification requested for 30/31 July or 6/7 August. Submissions due twenty working days after notification, and hopefully a hearing will take place in November. If all goes to plan, commercialisation, design and contract should take place in 2017 with construction commencing in 2018 with a 3-5 year build dependent on design. The consent has been applied for with a "consent big, build appropriate" aim.

13 Regional Committee Update

Barbara updated committee. Process to select new members ongoing and recommendations to regional council due next month. Working groups continuing and biodiversity ongoing as well.

14 Biodiversity – Immediate Steps Fund in the future

Review of immediate steps fund. Key changes are internal Ecan processes to make it an easier and quicker pathway for applicants. Widening of assessment criteria. Currently landowner fund one third but now the committee can suggest that 100% can be funded should the landowner be unable to fund, however this is only in exceptional circumstances. Unspent budget can be carried over up to 25%. Small projects to the value of less than \$5,000 can be approved by the zone manager. Donna Lill advised that she would keep the Zone Committee up to date with any new projects up for funding, regardless of value. The group agreed that they were happy with delegation of projects to the zone manager to the value of \$5,000 given the zone manager regularly updates the committee on the projects approved.

15 Implementation of Hinds Drains Working Party (HDWP) Recommendations

Donna Lill indicated that Peter Lowe and other working party members would like to keep championing the implementation of priority actions and seek the support of the committee to do so. Ben proposed supporting him and acknowledging the group as the Hinds Drain Implementation Liaison Group going forward. Bill suggests that John Waugh takes on a role on this group once he has officially joined the Zone Committee.

16 Zone Delivery Update

There was discussion around each Zone Committee representative being assigned one of the outcomes to liaise with Donna and her team to implement and increase profile of outcome, however it was felt that the group is nearly doing this anyway so happy to continue with status quo. Donna will continue to provide a summary to the committee on outcomes.

17 Reports for Committee Information

17.1 Canterbury Regional Water Use for the 2014/2015 Water Year

David Caygill noted that of the 500 consents, 130 were now compliant and 61 abatement notices had been issued in the last 6 weeks.

17.2 Consents Update

David Just advised that some new consents had been granted since the last meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held on Tuesday 27 September 2016, commencing at 1pm.

The meeting concluded with a karakia by John Henry at 4.14pm.

Dated this 27 day of September 2016 _____ (Chair)