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Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

To the members of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Barry Shepherd
Mathew Bayliss
Jay Graybill
Lisa Anderson
Simon Cameron (Chair)
Russell Armstrong
Sandra Hampstead Tipene

Moeraki Representative (vacant)
John Sunckell
John Wilkie
Richard Subtil
Craig Dawson

Notice is given of the Meeting of the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Management Committee to be held on Friday 24 March 2017, at 9.30am

VENUE: Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel

BUSINESS: As per agenda attached

WAYNE BARNETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MICHAEL ROSS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

	Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Meeting Friday March 24th, 9:30am Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel	
9:00	Arrive / Cup of tea	
9:30	Karakia Standing Items: Apologies, Minutes, Correspondence, Regional Committee update, action plan update	
9:50	Implementation update – verbal update	Ian Lyttle; Michael Hide
10:00	Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where at with wetland protection? – verbal update • Trees for bees - presentation 	Mel Schauer Angus McPherson
10:45	Communications Plan – verbal update	Phil Roberts; Lisa Anderson; Richard Subtil
11:00	Morning tea	
11:20	Strategic discussion: Managing visitor impacts Attached paper for discussion	
12:00	General Business General Public	
12:20	In committee session	

**ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY
MACKENZIE AND WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCILS**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY INN,
TWIZEL, ON FEBRUARY, 2017 AT 9.31 AM**

PRESENT:

Simon Cameron (Chair)
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene
John Wilkie
Jay Graybill
Lisa Anderson
John Sunckell
Richard Subtil
Mathew Bayliss

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nic Newman, Zone Committee Facilitator
Keri-Ann Andrews, Committee Administrator, Mackenzie District Council
John Benn, Department of Conservation
Rick Ramsay, Aquaculture Group
Tania Harris, South Canterbury Regional Manager from 9:30am – 11:00am
Sally Smith, Environment Canterbury
Barbara Nicholas, Environment Canterbury
Sally Rae, ODT 10:30am – 11:05am
Rob Gerard, Jet Boating NZ from 10:30am – 11:25am
Zella Smith, Environment Canterbury
Brett Painter, Environment Canterbury from 10:45am

WELCOME:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Tania Harris provided an overview of her new role as South Canterbury Regional Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Resolved: that an apology be received from Craig Dawson, Barry Shepherd, Russell Armstrong and Peter Ramsden

Chair/ Jay Graybill

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2016, be confirmed and adopted as a correct record with the following corrections:

Page 4 should read

Craig Dawson informed the Committee the Waitaki District Council had meet with Omarama Residents to address the broom problem and a best way forward regarding a joint attack on the weed.

Should read

Murray Doak, Irrigation Acceleration Fund noted funding was declined from Ministry of Primary Industry for the Willowburn project.

Page 7 should read

Mr Graybill commended Mr Shepherd's service to the Committee and Regional Committee.
Chair/ Richard Subtil

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence received.

FACILITATOR UPDATE:

Nic Newman invited Jacqui Dean to attend the next Zone Committee meeting, and will extend the invitation to include the Hangi on 23 March at Omarama Station.

The Zone Committee's concerns regarding the ongoing problem of freedom camping in the Zone will be highlighted to Mrs Dean. Facilities and sanitation require funding from the Territorial Authority, but the small Ratepayer base could pose concerns. Signage and information to direct freedom campers to appropriate camping areas is essential.

ZONE COMMITTEE: FOCUS FOR 2017:

Mr Newman reported the context for 2017, including that ZIP implementation is underway from a range of parties, decisions on Plan Change 5 are expected, science investigations are ongoing, and lessons from integrated monitoring network pilot catchment will be forthcoming.

Mr Subtil suggested an action list of priorities to include identifying an organizational person, prioritizing actions required and establishing a timeline for completion.

The Zone Committee expressed concern regarding biodiversity; landscape needs not being met or prioritised in the Zone.

Action: Mr Newman will investigate options regarding a representative to be co-opted onto the Zone Committee with biodiversity expertise.

Mrs Anderson highlighted the Government had moved focus to climate change, water quality and biodiversity. She highlighted better communication was required, education via Schools, good news stories to the media via agencies, Zone members out in the Community assisted by Zone members taking control. She suggested a communications working group be formed.

Action: A working group was formed of Richard Subtil and Lisa Anderson to assist ECan regarding communication.

Mr Newman suggested the following points for focus in 2017:

- Management of Visitor impacts
- Environment Member/Representative – biodiversity and landscape
- Better communication

Mr Wilkie noted the Iwi Mandatory Plan for Waitaki will be distributed shortly for committee discussion.

ZIP COMMITTEE: TRACKING ZIP IMPLEMENTATION:

Mr Newman produced a formatted table looking at the delivery of key implementation work streams across a number of agencies. Some of these may require committee leadership and problem solving.

Mrs Anderson asked for a completion date for a “lead person” to be identified.

STRATEGIC BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION: MEDIA AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

The Chairman welcomed Sally Rae from Otago Daily Times to the meeting. Ms Rae spoke to the Zone Committee regarding media and effective communications, and invited members to contact her with good news stories and identify possible “people stories”. She noted social media is an important tool, however cautioned to only post positive images. She suggested building relationships with reporters.

STRATEGIC BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION: JET BOATING IN UPPER WAITAKI:

The Chairman invited Rob Gerard, Jet Boating New Zealand to address the Committee regarding Jet Boating in the Upper Waitaki. His PowerPoint presentation covered jet boating regulations and their environmental impacts on Mackenzie Basin Rivers.

He explained that Jet Boating New Zealand’s position was to establish and maintain harmonious relationships with other water users and share with them the same values. He said that there is partial uplifting in the Mackenzie Basin Tekapo, Pukaki and Ahuriri; Tasman had no uplifting and Hopkins, Dobson, Macauley and Waitaki have full unrestricted upliftings.

Mr Gerard confirmed that the Ahuriri River is uplifted for 12 days a year for Jet Boating and these days are established by Jet Boating New Zealand for its members only, although there are provisions for non-members to join on the day.

Rick Ramsay confirmed that the Irishman Creek Station owner is re-establishing the history of Irishman Creek and Jet Boating in the Mackenzie.

Mr Graybill noted that District Councils are receptive to adding regulations into the District Plans.

The Committee adjourned for morning tea at 11:15am and reconvened at 11:35am.

ZIP IMPLEMENTATION: UPDATE FROM ZONE TEAM:

Mr Newman on behalf of Michael Hide updated the Committee on the Zone Team membership and activities. He will circulate information regarding a field day at Tara Hills.

For members' information only, a campaign "farming for generations" is being implemented in Canterbury informing people when they require consents. This will not be introduced in this Zone at this stage.

He said "N Check" is only a stop gap until Plan Change 5 is introduced. Selwyn Waihora is currently using "N" check and further consideration at Environment Canterbury will take place before consent for use in other Zones would be initiated. Mr Newman will keep the Zone informed of any information regarding the Matrix of Good Management.

STRATEGIC BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION: WAITAKI ALLOCATION PLAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH CANTERBURY:

Ms Smith provided the history of the Waitaki allocation plan, and explained the derogation approval and Mackenzie Irrigation Company Limited agreement. A contractual arrangement had been reached between Meridian Energy and Mackenzie Irrigation Company (MIC) regarding water allocation for irrigation.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the recent sale of water shares from MIC to Duntroon. The allocated water shares will be transferred out of the Upper Waitaki Zone, with the water taken from above the Waitaki Dam via a water race to Duntroon.

Mr Subtil highlighted the transaction had taken place with no explanation and questioned the procedural requirements. He noted there was a possibility the arrangement had been sought to recoup costs MIC had accrued as a business.

Mr Bayliss said if Mackenzie Irrigation Company's decision making is of consequence to the Zone Committee, the Committee should be seeking to understand what greater inputs it could contribute to inform the decision making.

The Chair explained the arrangement. He said that of 25,000 shares, most were sold leaving 7,000 shares remaining. Over a 2-3 year period, with the approval of the current shareholders MIC tried to sell the remaining shares. It has now sold 500, with 6,500 still available for purchase.

Mr Wilkie stated that MIC are trading in water, which is against the law.

Mr Bayliss confirmed that the challenge the Zone Committee face is to confirm the correct information, to be clear what transaction had taken place, and the governance rules that Mackenzie Irrigation Company operated under regarding water allocation. He added that the committee needs to be focused on what effect this will have on the Zone for reaching the CWMS targets – principally cultural targets and irrigated land area.

The Committee suggested a representative from Meridian Energy, a representative from Mackenzie Irrigation Company and a representative from Environment Canterbury attend a subsequent Zone Committee meeting and explain how this fits within the Zone's framework, the legality regarding the transfer of water, how the transaction takes place, and whether it is consistent and compliant with the terms of reference or statement of intent for MIC.

There had been three plan changes to Waitaki Plan PC1, PC2 and PC3. Ms Smith confirmed the activity is now controlled provided that Meridian Energy meets the conditions

of the rule. She added that this does not undermine ECan's authority over them collectively or individually to try and address issues that had arisen over time; particularly the dry riverbeds. The consent will be granted, but there will be a process.

Mr Painter gave a presentation on what is happening in infrastructure in South Canterbury, informing members of current challenges the Orari, Temuka, Opihi and Pareora Zone Water Management Committee faces.

ZONE COMMITTEE: Election of Regional Committee Representative:

The Chair said historically one person had represented the Zone at the Regional Committee meetings and suggested that three representatives attend three meetings. Mr Sunckell replied that having several representatives may not provide continuity for Regional Committee business. Mr Graybill agreed, stating that continuity is important on the Committee.

Mrs Nicholas provided background information of the working groups: Communications; Education; Braided Rivers; Biodiversity Health; Recreation and Amenity; and Infrastructure. She asked the Committee to give particular thought to which working group(s) the Committee would like to join.

Lisa Anderson nominated Sandy Tipene-Hampstead, seconded by John Sunckell.

The Chair announced Ms Tipene-Hampstead Regional Committee Representative for the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr Subtill informed the Committee he would be inviting Environmental Groups to a non-confrontational forum/chat to be held at his property to start the process of gaining trust between different parties and to start working together. The Committee congratulated Mr Subtil on this approach.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Friday 24 March 2017 at the Mackenzie Country Inn in Twizel to coincide with the Hangi at Omarama Station.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1:48PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from John Benn of the Department of Conservation:

Nic Newman
Upper Waitaki Zone Committee Facilitator
Environment Canterbury

27.02.2017

Dear Nic,

RE: 2017 Upper Waitaki Zone Committee field trips.

Further to our discussion at the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee (ZC) meeting on February 17 in Twizel, about potential field trips in 2017: As mentioned, I noticed in list of potential field trips, there were no planned visits to any sites managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

With DOC being one of the significant managers of public lands, biodiversity/Project River Recovery, tourism and recreation in the Mackenzie Basin, this would be a great opportunity for the ZC to see first-hand, some of the things DOC is working on and its achievements/successes, or conversely, the issues and challenges faced by the Department.

Therefore, DOC warmly extends an invitation to the ZC, for a guided field trip to a site managed by the Department in the Mackenzie Basin. A discussion I had with Sally Jones and Dean Nelson (Twizel Office) prior to the ZC meeting, suggested one of the following sites:

- Kākī/Black Stilt aviary and artificial wetlands. An opportunity to see a large-scale Project River Recovery operation, and to see what is considered the world's rarest wading bird,
- Kākī/Black Stilt release site in the natural environment (Tasman River),
- Ahururi Wetlands – large natural wetlands (diversity of species and habitats),
- A site that has come to DOC through tenure review.

DOC is open to any suggestions by the ZC if it would prefer to see something different from the above. Please feel free to contact either Sally, Dean or myself, if you or the ZC would like to discuss this further.

Regards,

John Benn
Water Management Coordinator
Department of Conservation
Level 3, 161 Cashel St
Christchurch
Private Bag 4715
Ph. (03) 371 3729

REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY: DEC 2016 AND FEB 2017

The Regional Committee met 13 December 2016 and again in 14 February 2017. Further new members joined the committee in December 2016 – Sam Broughton (Central Canterbury District Councils), Peter McIlraith (Southern Canterbury District Councils) and Sara Templeton (Christchurch City Council). There are a number of vacancies for representatives from zone committees that will be filled by election in the next month.

Following the opportunity in December for each zone representative to provide an 'overview' report on the achievements, key issues and opportunities in their zones, the committee has decided to shift to more substantial reporting from each zone. Five zones will report each meeting, and this will be the first item on the agenda.

The committee has also reviewed the work of the current working groups, responded to the zone updates and agreed on the priorities for its work programme for the coming year. There will be five working groups:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health
- Braided Rivers
- Infrastructure
- Recreation and Amenity
- Communications and Education

In addition, there will be briefings at the April meeting on the implementation of water quality limits and on public drinking water, and a discussion about any future work to be led by the Regional Committee.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION: MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF VISITORS ON THE UPPER WAITAKI

Topics for discussion

1. The Upper Waitaki Water Management Zone Committee has been working since late 2010 developing actions and tactics to implement the Canterbury Water Management Strategy in the zone. We have resolved how to manage the cumulative effects of land-use on water quality and these recommendations are being given effect to through Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan. We have also funded over \$500,000 worth of projects to protect biodiversity with our local community.
2. While we have been focused on resource use and water quality, the districts which make up the Upper Waitaki Water Management Zone have seen a dramatic increase in visitor numbers in recent years. This increase in visitors, while it brings welcome income and diversity, has not been matched by an increase in facilities.
3. There is pressure on existing facilities, where these exist, and where they don't exist we are dealing with the effects of no toilets. In other places, sub-standard facilities mean visitors 'by pass' using these facilities. The costs of these lack of suitable facilities fall to the local people who have to endure human waste in their special places.
4. The management of freedom camping in Upper Waitaki is particularly challenging, given the diverse public land management. Thisacerbates the issues outlined above where large numbers of visitors congregate and stay where there are no / sub-standard facilities. With large areas of unoccupied crown land, not subject to freedom camping bylaws, this is a particular challenge.
5. Other industries which have an impact on the environment e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, and urban settlements are now operating under environmental limits and good practice requirements. These limits and good practice requirements have been part of a collaborative process and have strong community backing.
6. The committee acknowledges the recent funding announcement for facilities but believes there is a need for significant ongoing funding for facilities and that the revenue source is attached to the consumer of those facilities. For example, a bed tax would not meet this criteria as it would target the specific group who are actually paying for facilities, whereas an entry tax on non-residents could fund the cost of providing public facilities for those consumers.
7. The committee also believes there is a need for a cohesive and strategic approach to the management of freedom camping across agencies. With land administered by LINZ, DOC, District Councils, and Transit; it is very difficult to find a cohesive message, let alone provide one to visitors.
8. There is the opportunity to combine: cohesive freedom camping management, self-funded provision of facilities, and point of entry education, to mitigate the impacts of large visitor numbers on our environment and move our visitors 'up the value chain'. The role of central government in this is critical.