

**MINUTES OF 47TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL,
200 TUAM STREET, CHRISTCHURCH ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 2PM**

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KARAKIA
CLOSURE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT

Chair: Andy Pearce

Community: Hugh Canard, Nicky Hyslop, Ross Millichamp and Vicky Southworth

Zone Representatives: Matt Hoggard, Les Wanhalla, Karaitiana Taiuru, Ben Curry and John Talbot

Christchurch City Council: Cr Sara Templeton

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu: Rebecca Clements

Ngā Rūnanga: Riki Lewis

Territorial Authorities: Mayor Sam Broughton, Mayor Winton Dalley and Peter McIlraith

Environment Canterbury: Cr Rod Cullinane and Cr Claire McKay

Central Government Observers: Nick Vincent and Siobhan Ryan

CDHB Observer: Dr Alistair Humphrey

IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara Nicholas, Chairman David Bedford, Anita Fulton, Dan Olykan, Dennis Jamieson, Stephen Bragg, Chris Keeling, Tafflyn Bradford-James, Don Chittock, Ian Fox, Gerald Raymond, Cecilia Ellis, Hannah Dunlop, Monique Eade and Therese Davel (Environment Canterbury)

WELCOME

Andy Pearce opened the meeting at 2pm.

Stephen Bragg opened with karakia.

Andy Pearce welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2017.

ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cole Groves, Murray Doak, Michele Hawke, Jane Demeter, Nigel Harris and Bruce Murphy.

ITEM 2 - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest schedules were circulated.

ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 13 DECEMBER 2016

(Refer pages 4 - 9 of agenda)

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 13 December 2016, be received and be confirmed a true and accurate record:

Andy Pearce / Cr Claire McKay
CARRIED

ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING

None.

ITEM 5 – CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ITEM 6 – RECREATION AND AMENITY WORKING GROUP

(Refer pages 10 - 13 of the agenda)

Barbara Nicholas presented the report referring to the Recreation and amenity working group notes of its meeting of 13 December 2016. Barbara noted that staff were to work further on scoping with a report back due to the Regional Committee at the next meeting. It was confirmed a swimming report is in final stages of preparation.

Resolved by consensus:

That the Regional Committee notes the report of the Recreation and Amenity Working Group.

ITEM 7. – 2017 WORK PROGRAMME

(Refer pages 14 - 23 of the agenda)

Barbara Nicholas explained to the Committee that they were to receive presentations from staff on each of the proposed working groups. Afterwards they would be required to indicate which working groups they would prefer to be part of for the year. Barbara would collate the discussion and send out a draft to the Committee.

1. Infrastructure

Dennis Jamieson presented this to the Committee, noting that although Infrastructure was important for the achievement of all CWMS targets, it wasn't a target area in itself. In this context it was about good infrastructure processes. He commented on the change in focus from 2010 to 2017. For example in 2010 the focus was typically local while in 2017 it

seemed regional or multiple zone. Whereas in 2010 there was perceived isolation, there was now more cooperation, coordination and communication. Dam safety which seemed to be focused on large dams, now included the safety of smaller structures as well.

Discussion on the Rakaia led to a request for a proposition to be developed to look at outcomes of the Water Conservation Order (WCO) on the river, starting with an evaluation of the original reviews by ECan staff of expected outcomes in 2011.

2. Braided Rivers

Chris Keeling presented a report to the Committee on Braided Rivers. He referred to the 2040 targets and briefly outlined the work already underway. This includes work done by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and Department of Conservation (DOC); management plans in place for Ashley River / Rakahuri and the Waimakariri River; the work done by Zone Committees and the Regional Committee e.g. Immediate Steps funding and the Braided River Flagship Project; community-based river care groups keeping valleys broom and lupin-free; and several initiatives from NGOs such as Enviroschools.

Chris noted that it was important to achieve the right balance of protection and use with braided rivers and working alongside partners is a major component of ensuring this is successful. Lastly he noted that it would be crucial to develop and implement a best practice management of braided rivers if the 2040 targets are to be met.

3. Communication / education

Hannah Dunlop and Gerald Raymond presented the item, noting that it was crucial for the community to be engaged with Canterbury's current water resource use and protection for the future. Communication and education around the science and state of rivers and lakes would ensure people were informed of correct facts and get them into a 'solution' space.

Hannah told the Committee about the work of the Youth Engagement Team working with schools through resources as well as supporting the regional coordination of the Enviroschools programme. Funding constraints seem to be an issue though in regards to increasing capacity to meet demand.

The Committee was informed that it can play a large part in improving community understanding due to its reach and influence. It could be as far reaching as influencing bigger picture education bodies and also community understanding to improve engagement and understanding of the water issues.

In the brief discussion that followed the Committee discussed how it could be of assistance and heard that Ministry for the Environment will fund Enviroschools national capacity for the next 6 years; that SDC was already a funding partner as the issues are written into their annual plans; that local newspapers should be targeted for communications and not necessarily Regional papers; and that it was good to get the regional theme stories out there.

It was also agreed that this Working Group might have a short-term task to finish with a paper back to the Committee, who in turn would make recommendations to Environment Canterbury.

4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

Chris Keeling pointed to the five year regional freshwater biodiversity outcomes agreed to in 2016. These include:

- Supporting the protection, maintenance and restoration of Canterbury's braided rivers;
- Supporting the protection, maintenance and restoration of wetlands;
- Managing mahinga kai (longfin eel / tuna) in a sustainable way; and
- Supporting community-based organisations to be more effective.

He referred to some of the projects already underway and said that a key strategic focus will have to be on finding new opportunities to work with others to deliver.

There was a brief debate about combining this working group with the Braided Rivers working group due to the overlap of work. It was suggested that combining the two could lead to a larger group of people interested and getting involved. It was agreed to keep the working groups separate and time the meetings such that interested parties can attend both.

5. Recreation and Amenity

Dann Olykan presented the item, noting this was one of the key target areas of the CWMS. He mentioned some of the specific targets for 2040 including diversity and quality of water-based recreational opportunities; achieving environmental flows; fishing opportunities; and the restoration of at least one major fresh water recreational opportunity in each zone.

He also informed the Committee about the two reports on kayaking and jet-boating that were done and briefed them on the proposal for a project to better assess and apply the values associated with freshwater recreation in Canterbury. Scott Pearson and Doug Rankin are working with Dann to finalise the scope of the project.

In terms of future work the previous working group identified a number of directions e.g. scoping a study around information gaps for recreation and championing recreational and amenity values via engagement with the work of zone committees and that of the Department of Conservation.

In the general discussion that followed, staff indicated that the Committee will be briefed on work done to date in the work space of the Land Use and Water Quality (LUWQ) working group. This working group decided in early 2016 that they had come to an interim conclusion in their work. Should the Committee feel there is a need for ongoing work that will be discussed at the meeting in April 2017.

There was a brief discussion about zone committee reporting in the future and the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to allocate more time for zone representatives to report back. It could imply having zone reports every 4 months i.e. at every 2nd meeting.

Field trips were also discussed with the option of having a meeting on the bus there, maximising time spent as a Committee. Committee members expressed their interests in the various working groups. This will be collated and reported back to the Committee, with proposed meeting schedules.

Resolved (as amended) by consensus:

That the Regional Committee:

1. **Notes the work underway**
2. **Agrees that the working groups are:**
 - **Infrastructure**
 - **Braided rivers**
 - **Communications / education**
 - **Biodiversity and ecosystem health**
 - **Recreation and amenity.**
3. **Agrees membership of the working groups, as will be collated by the facilitator.**
4. **Agrees to the new structure for zone committee reporting, noting the Chair and facilitator would discuss the possibility of including field trips as a form of meeting.**

ITEM 8 – CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

(Refer pages 24 - 35 of the agenda)

Monique Eade presented the Committee with an update on Climate Change. As background it was noted that the Regional Committee received a presentation from Brett Mullan of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd (NIWA) at an August 2016 meeting. A paper from Environment Canterbury was presented to the Regional Committee at its October 2016 meeting where the Regional Committee asked for information detailing how Environment Canterbury are considering climate change in the sub-regional planning processes.

Monique noted that Environment Canterbury takes it into account under its statutory obligations and that its focus is on the consequences of extreme weather events.

Environment Canterbury does all of the work in collaboration with other agencies and organisations including Crown Research Institutes, Zone Committees, Territorial Authorities, Ngāi Tahu etc.

During the discussion there was a debate about mitigation viz adaption and the point was also raised whether the Regional Committee has a role in identifying ways to promote the issue of climate change. The Committee considered whether to ask Environment Canterbury why its focus was on adaption rather than mitigation although it was to be made clear the Committee did not assume that Environment Canterbury was not doing enough. With some members voicing their concern about such an approach it was agreed that the Regional Committee would ask for clarification from Environment Canterbury to understand exactly what it does in terms of each i.e. mitigation and adaption. Andy Pearce and Cr Sara Templeton (Christchurch City Council) would draft a request to send to Environment Canterbury after consulting with the rest of the Committee.

Resolved (as amended) by consensus:

That the Regional Committee:

1. **Note the various ways in which Environment Canterbury takes account of the potential impacts of climate change;**

2. Acknowledges the Regional Council's work in the water space; and
3. Encourages Environment Canterbury to review its position on mitigation.

ITEM 9 – 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
(Refer pages 36 - 37 of the agenda)

Barbara Nicholas presented the Committee with the draft report for approval before it would be submitted to Environment Canterbury.

During the discussion it was suggested to delete the last sentence on page 39 in the paragraph on "Funding infrastructure's public benefit elements" and rectify a spelling error on p 39 in the paragraph on "MAR infrastructure delivers multiple benefits", with Hekeao having been misspelt.

It was agreed that braided rivers will also be included in the future work programme.

Resolved (as amended) by consensus:

That the Regional Committee:

1. Agree that the annual report be approved for submission to the Regional Council, subject to the amendments agreed upon.

ITEM 10 - GENERAL BUSINESS

During afternoon tea the Committee acknowledged that this was Barbara Nicholas's last meeting as she had resigned. They thanked her for all her hard work and dedication, her advice and guidance.

CLOSURE

Andy Pearce wished everyone a safe journey and declared the meeting closed at 5.52pm.

Stephen Bragg ended with a karakia.

CONFIRMED

Date: 8/8/17



Chairperson