

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

on

Monday 2 October 2017

4pm

**Council Chamber
Timaru District Council
2 King George Place
Timaru**

ORARI-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee meeting will be held on Monday 2 October 2017 at 4pm, in the Council Chamber, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru.

Committee Members:

John Talbot (Chairman), David Anderson, Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Mandy Home, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, Anne Munro, James Pearse, Lan Pham, Ad Sintenie and Mark Webb

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2017

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Register of Interest**
- 3 Community Forum**
- 4 1 Confirmation of Minutes**
- 5 Facilitator Update**
- 6 Solutions package timeline**
- 7 Close**

**ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE MEETING OF 2 OCTOBER 2017**

Report for Agenda Item No 4

**Prepared by Barb Gilchrist
Facilitator**

Confirmation of Minutes – Committee Meeting 21 August 2017

Minutes of the August Committee meeting.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 August 2017, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MOCCA CAFÉ (MEETING ROOM), TIMARU, ON MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2017 AT 1.30PM

PRESENT John Talbot (Chairperson), Clr David Anderson, Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Ivon Hurst, Clr Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, Clr Anne Munro, James Pearse, Clr Lan Pham, and Mark Webb

APOLOGIES Mandy Home, Ad Sintenie

IN ATTENDANCE Barbara Nicholas (Facilitator), Barb Gilchrist (Facilitator), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Craig Davison (Senior Planner), Michael Hide (Zone Implementation Team Manager), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer) Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist), Kate Doran (ECan), Sue Eddington (Waihao), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Clr Peter Scott (ECan), Grant Hall (Timaru District Council Drainage and Water Manager), Julia Crossman, (Opuha Water Ltd), Fraser Ross (Forest and Bird Society), Elena McPhee (Timaru Herald) Christine Moffat (Timaru Rowing Club) Bill Weir, Jeremy Boys (Opuha Water Ltd), Marijke Bakker-Gelsing.

1 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no additional interests advised.

2 COMMUNITY FORUM

Fraser Ross, Field Officer from the local branch of Forest and Bird presented information regarding coastal erosion and suggested that the committee needs to consider water quality and quantity for the survival of the Washdyke lagoon. He advised that a sewerage pipe used to run through the centre of the lagoon, the poles can still be seen in the surf. The pipe has subsequently been shifted.

It was also suggested that there is a need to consider the sources that feed the lagoon and carry out full studies at source, as this would have an effect on the lagoon.

The question was raised if Forest and Bird had any suggestions in relation to the coastal erosion. Beach re-nourishment has been done in the past but was unsuccessful.

A paper was tabled for the Committee to consider.

The comment was made that sediment coming down the system needs to be looked into.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – COMMITTEE MEETING 12 JUNE 2017

Proposed Hamish McFarlane
Seconded Mark Webb

“That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee meeting held on 3 July 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

MOTION CARRIED

4 WAITARAKAO WASHDYKE TASKFORCE

The committee considered a report from the Waitarakao Taskforce.

The report advised that there are specific timelines that are being considered by the taskforce to enable planning.

The group has been focused on joint actions that can be carried out to improve Waitarakao. There are some short term gains that can be obtained. Work has commenced with some industries in the area.

It is expected that the Seadown drain would have a life of 30-50 years if it was moved further inland. It would eventually have no fall based on the rising sea levels. The timeline on the move needing to occur is expected to be in the next 5-15 years. There are a number of variations that could affect this.

Concerns were raised regarding the outlet for the drain if the drain is moved inland. Options for the outlet for the drain still need to be further considered.

The question was raised regarding how the work was to be funded, it was advised that Long Term Plans and rating districts were possible options for funding.

Proposed Cllr David Anderson
Seconded Kylee Galbraith

“That the Committee adopts the Washdyke Lagoon Taskforce action plan into its draft solutions package.

That the Committee seeks feedback on the action plan and future work through community engagement on its solution package.”

MOTION CARRIED

5 SALTWATER CREEK WORKING GROUP

A presentation was given by the Saltwater Creek Working Group, it was advised that this is a working draft and it will be developed into a final document. Recent experiences of the Timaru Rowing Club and a local farmer were provided.

The Board was informed that any development in the area needs to be notified to the local marae.

Timaru District Council recognises the interface between urban and rural and is looking at the stormwater management plan as part of ongoing work.

The question was raised if buffer strips would be supported and if they are recommended by the group.

It was suggested that the group need to work out what sort of fish passage there currently is and if there are other ways that won't require as much loss of water.

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Cllr Anne Munro

“That the following recommendations be accepted:

Recommendation 1) Form an Otipua- Saltwater Creek Catchment Group.

Noting that the catchment and its tributaries are experiencing bank erosion and local pollution ‘hot spots’ generating silt, a combined urban and rural Catchment Group would help focus public attention and encourage good management practices. This may have a long-term impact on reducing silt, bacteria and other pollutants washed into the lower reaches and thus improve water quality. Consent enforcement and pollution responses by Environment Canterbury, District Council education about protecting urban stormwater and the promotion of Farm Environment Plans would continue alongside such a voluntary group.

Recommendation 2) Investigate stream health immediately as a information baseline.

In support of Catchment Group formation, we recommend that professional invertebrate surveys and water quality sampling be conducted in Spring 2017 on the three main tributaries of Otipua-Saltwater Creek to provide baseline information which will inform discussion at its first public sessions. It may be possible to continue invertebrate and water quality sampling by volunteers in a catchment group and we also recommend (2b) **professional water quality and habitat monitoring by Environment Canterbury be undertaken annually, to look for long-term improvements.**

Recommendation 3) Councils begin formal process to establish a River Rating District for this catchment.

To identify resources for care of the catchment and for River Engineering/flood control, culvert quality and willow management, a River Rate would secure modest financial contributions from all landowners adjacent to and feeding the catchment, including part of urban Timaru. (for this see maps in appendix two)

Recommendation 4)a) Technical support for the Rowing Club to investigate silt excavation from the lower river reach, below SH1 and above the weir, to increase depth available for rowing.

We have conducted a survey to compare silt depth on three cross-sections of the River with data from 20 years ago, showing a broadly similar depth of silt lying on the clay base prior to 2017 floods and increased silt depth after these floods; although it was noted that there has been some previous excavation of unknown quantity during those 20 years. To increase the annual use period of the rowing reach by Timaru rowing club, we recommend some excavation of silt, informed by our laboratory analysis (appended) showing that de-watered silt would meet criteria for landfill acceptability, but not capping. Consent requests addressing potential environmental effects from the proposed works on in-stream water quality and ecology, and odour, would need to be submitted to Environment Canterbury and the Timaru District Council.

It is further recommended:

- b) that The Timaru Rowing Club organise and fund a small silt excavation, close to their boat launching area, subject to necessary consents.**
- c) that any redesign and future operating protocol for the Weir attempts to flush some of the accumulating silt by opening the weir in anticipation of high**

rainfall events and closing it after floods (unless effect on silt would be too local and small scale).

Recommendation 5)

a) A feasibility study and costing be made by Environment Canterbury of raising weir height from the current 1.5m to at least 1.6m, or perhaps higher, if it would create a deeper pool for rowing behind the Weir in summer.

This is subject to expert assessment of expected impact on flood risk to surrounding areas, effects on the plantings in the wetland, and to satisfactory provision of fish passage for the native species found in these waters. It is noted that on current protocols the northern mouth of Saltwater Creek can be opened by River Engineers once water level at Highway One exceeds 1.8 m and rain is forecast. There is already informal liaison between the Rowing Club and the Engineers about mouth openings during the peak rowing months of October, November and March –

(b) we recommend that this liaison continue.

Recommendation 6) any modification to the weir should include a structure that provides for seasonal fish passage, and a degree of water connectivity between the upper and lower reaches.

Fish passage is not required here for trout or salmon (from Fish & Game Council's knowledge) but for native fish species, reliable access up and down stream is only available during the 60% of the year that water level is above 1.5 m, and thus flowing over the Weir. We are unsure if existing fish passage slots within the weir function successfully, particularly for upstream travel. Engineer designs for any proposed Weir upgrade should be assessed for their ecological impact, including potential effect on water quality (including aesthetic impacts, plant growth, dewatering of the lower reaches, fish passage, and:

Recommendation 7)a) during summer 2017- 2018, water level be monitored downstream of the weir, frequently and preferably continuously, to allow comparison with available above weir heights (= SH1 water level telemetry). Further, (7b) it is recommended a piece of work is carried out to better estimate flow through the current centre-weir slots at a range of upstream and downstream water levels.

This will identify availability of fish passage that occurs when water levels on either side of the weir are the same, when fish can migrate through the timber fish pass slots provided. This will also assist with water flow and modelling monitoring of the catchment. Insufficient data on water flows into and out of the catchment have made accurate modelling impossible, but a comparison of estimated rainfall catchment run-off and water abstraction for irrigation, plus weir losses, shows that summer irrigation and rowing depth probably relies on ponding behind the weir rather than natural daily inflows to provide sufficient volume.

Recommendation 8) Temporary flow gauging be installed on at least three tributaries during summer 2017- 2018 to help determine the size of catchment in-flows.

This is an important step in assessing the effect of already-metered irrigation abstraction.

Recommendation 9) A joint Environment Canterbury and NZ Rail study be undertaken of local coastal erosion processes, to consider scope for any

remedial/protection action, or otherwise to plan for a managed coastline retreat and to consider its impact on this waterway.

We are concerned to note rapid coastal erosion at the northern mouth of Saltwater Creek, as has been noted also at Washdyke Lagoon (it might be a study relating to both sections of coast?). This may be influenced by reduced amounts of longshore drift shingle travelling northwards since the construction dams on the Waitaki River, and in the longer term by global sea level rise.

Recommendation 10) Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisors, Consent Monitoring Officers and a future Catchment Group encourage greater use of fenced ‘buffer strips’ along tributary waterways, especially below slopes, to intercept silt; and other aspects of farm good management practice.”

MOTION CARRIED

6 OTOP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The engagement plan proposal was discussed and meetings with other catchment groups. Clarification was provided around the wider public engagement. There are three types of engagement proposed.

Proposed Clr Lan Pham
Seconded Clr David Anderson

“That the public engagement plan be implemented using a combination of all options, involving:

- 1) Public workshops in the first half of the engagement period
- 2) Drop in sessions and drop in displays/open days in the second half of the engagement period.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 2.46pm.

Chairperson