

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

on

Monday 7 May 2018

2pm

**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 7 May 2018 at 2pm, in the Council Chamber, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru.

Please note change of time

Committee Members:

John Talbot (Chairman), David Anderson, Phil Driver, Sue Eddington, Kylee Galbraith, Mandy Home, Ivon Hurst, Richard Lyon, Hamish McFarlane, Anne Munro, James Pearse, Lan Pham, Ad Sintenie, Glen Smith, Herstatt Ulrich and Mark Webb

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7 MAY 2018

- 1 **Welcome**
- 2 **Apologies**
- 3 **Register of Interest**
- 4 **Community Forum**
- 5 1 **Confirmation of Minutes**
- 6 Power point **Timaru District Council and Biodiversity**
- 7 **Flow and Allocation Working Party**
- 8 **Close**

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA WATER ZONE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE MEETING OF 7 MAY 2018

Report for Agenda Item No 5

**Prepared by Barbara Gilchrist
Facilitator**

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the March and April Committee meetings.

Recommendation

**That the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 26 March and 16 April 2018,
be confirmed as true and correct records.**

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU, ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2018 AT 1.00PM

PRESENT **John Talbot (Chairperson)**, Hamish McFarlane, Kylee Galbraith, Ivon Hurst, Cllr Anne Munro, James Pearse, Ad Sintenie, Phil Driver, Herstatt Ulrich, Cllr Richard Lyon, Sue Eddington, Mark Webb

IN ATTENDANCE Barb Gilchrist (Facilitator, ECAN), Craig Davidson (Senior Planner, ECAN), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer) Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner, ECAN), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist, ECAN), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator, ECAN), Kate Doran (Senior Communications Advisor, ECAN) Brian Reeves (Incident Response Officer, ECAN), Ian Lyttle (Land Management Advisor, ECAN), Georgina Hamilton (OWL), Cllr Lloyd McMillan, Frank Scarf, Alistair Midgley, Jim Anderson, Jan Finlayson and other members of the public.

1 **APOLOGIES**

David Anderson, Cllr Lan Pham, Glen Smith

Moved: Herstatt Ulrich.

Seconded: Mark Webb/**Carried**

The Chairperson calls the meeting to order and welcomes committee members and members of the public. States the committee has been meeting in an informal workshop and started day with karakia so one would not be said now. Asks that people speak up if they cannot hear.

2 **REGISTER OF INTEREST**

There were no additional interests advised.

3 **COMMUNITY FORUM**

Jan Finlayson speaks about economics as a priority, and believes that data is lacking. The Chairperson notes and acknowledges Jan's comments.

Update from Flow and Allocation Working Party (FAWP):

They have met six times since October and are very committed to their cause and will provide their recommendations in due course. Their role is to assist the Zone Committee.

The role of FAWP is discussed, along with the opportunities for public consultation following presentation of their recommendations in April.

The Chairperson thanks the working party for their ongoing work.

Jim Anderson informs the committee that safe drinking water is the prime responsibility of this committee and ECAN and that it must be a public water scheme provided by council.

Alistair Midgley states there needs to be better monitoring of good management practice, as he sees breaches of consents on a weekly basis. Examples include incorrect fertilizer application and irrigators that are broken down and leaking. He feels threatened by the potential of being targeted to lessen his water take and believes that five years to claw back the water that's been taken in the past 30 years is not long enough.

The Chairperson states that these issues are being considered by the committee and a lot of thought has gone into addressing over allocation. Winter grazing is also a topic of interest.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES -COMMITTEE MEETING

"The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record".

Moved: Sue Eddington.

Seconded: Hamish McFarlane /**Carried**

The Facilitator to circulate the Annual Report to the committee.

The Chairperson now alerts everyone to a change in timing to today's meeting. Item number 8, feedback from Forest and Bird will now happen at 4pm to accommodate a funeral.

5 FACILITATOR UPDATE

The Facilitator, Barb Gilchrist, has been busy with feedback and workshops, and reminds committee members about the Watershed Symposium, and the value in attending this.

6 EXTENSION FOR FINALISATION OF THE DZIPA

A timeline has been circulated, and there is concern that an extension will be required. Craig Davidson explains this is due to NIWA's report and to accommodate two extra workstreams. Final date will be 11th June, to work in with zone committee meetings as best as possible.

A member of FAWP states that they will be unable to meet this timeline and asks for 20 working days for submission, rather than the ten available, and they feel that there is a public duty to give more time. The ecological data is very important to consider - also those 10 days fall around other major things happening, therefore FAWP request more time.

FAWP acknowledges the support they've had as they try to address the impact that any change in flow and allocation would have on the community.

Discussion about extension continues, and Craig Davidson states that the work of the science and planning teams would need to be re-scoped. When asked how important the NIWA report is: it's a modelling study that can predict habitat for certain species that is critical from an ecological standpoint to provide flow recommendations that will have multiple levels to them. Comment is made that it is essential to have the numbers on which to base decisions and if there is an appetite for change, this needs to be based on evidence.

Shirley Hayward states that the study is important, as it would help inform the discussion around minimum flow. However there have been some figures already put forward that are unlikely to differ much from the NIWA.

Discussion continues regarding the NIWA report, and whether this is critical.

Several people state the 10-day feedback period is insufficient, and the chair asks for a formal resolution of this.

Resolution: To ask ECAN to rescope the time frames to allow reasonable time for feedback. An extension of 10 working days on the current proposal is requested.

Moved: Hamish MacFarlane.

Secunder: Herstatt Ulrich/ **Carried**

7 **SELECTION OF OTOP REPRESENTATIVE ON REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Current Chairperson, John Talbot, calls for nominations for the role of OTOP representative on the Regional Committee.

Kylee Galbraith nominates Hamish McFarlane.

Secunder: Phil Driver.

The Chairperson asks are there any other nominations? Nil.

Mr McFarlane elected, position accepted.

8 **FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ZIPA -AnnaBeth Cohen, Forest & Bird**

Deferred until 4pm.

9 **ROLE OF THE INCIDENT RESPONSE OFFICER - Brian Reeves, IRO, ECan**

Brian Reeves now talks about his role with ECAN Timaru, stating that the role of the Incident Response Officer (IRO) deals with a broad range of incidents that come via Incident Response Team, from members of public or staff and from relationships built over time.

He describes several recent incidents, such as heli-spraying, and the priorities, which include stock in waterways and culturally sensitive issues.

A committee member asks industrial oil being illegally stored onsite in Washdyke, and the response to that. Brian states that there is ongoing work with the company. Further discussion about this.

10 SHiFT PROJECT – Ian Lyttle, LMA, ECan

Ian Lyttle now presents on the SHiFT Project. SHiFT stand for Sustainable Hill Farming Tool. It is being designed to help farmers reduce the amount of sediment leaving their farm and entering waterways, and help farmers figure how they can best manage winter feed.

There is discussion about the timeframe; Ian states it should be ready by June 2019. Beef and Lamb NZ are working with ECan on the survey, and Federated Farmers are very keen on this project.

11 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED

The Facilitator states that feedback about the engagement has been very positive, particularly the open sessions, and thanks everyone involved.

The Chairperson comments the best way to interact with farmers is one on one and on their patch, and these sessions were an effective way to consult with the public.

12 The meeting adjourns at 2.38pm and the public are invited to return at 4pm for Forest and Bird presentation.

8 FEEDBACK ON DRAFT ZIPA -AnnaBeth Cohen, Forest & Bird

High level points covered are the importance of climate change, the need to move faster, and the need to go further. The importance of groundwater ecology is also noted. Resilient ecosystems are the best defence against climate change. Forest & Bird are not in favour of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), and suggest caution be exercised when evaluating economic data, which tends to ignore externalities.

Other points covered include the importance of considering the groundwater as an ecosystem, rather than a resource, as it is dynamic and connected to surface water. Stock exclusion rules may miss smaller blocks, whose contribution has a cumulative effect. There is a lack of context about High Naturalness Areas within the recommendations, and a biodiversity corridor is important in forming a strong ecosystem. It is recommended that wetlands be defined and mapped, with landowners taught about their value. There are many fish species closer to extinction, and three things to prevent this further are water quality, adequate habitat and safe passage. Care should be taken with minimum flow and allocation decisions, and the methodologies used included in the ZIPA.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm

**John Talbot
Chairperson**

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2 KING GEORGE PLACE, TIMARU, ON MONDAY 26 March 2018 AT 1.00PM

PRESENT **John Talbot (Chairperson)**, Hamish McFarlane, Kylee Galbraith, Ivon Hurst, Cllr Anne Munro, James Pearse, Ad Sintenie, Herstatt Ulrich, Cllr Richard Lyon, Sue Eddington, Mark Webb, Mandy Home, Cllr Lan Pham

IN ATTENDANCE Barb Gilchrist (Facilitator, ECAN), Craig Davidson (Senior Planner, ECAN), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer), Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner, ECAN), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist, ECAN), Dan Clark (Technical Lead, ECAN), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator, ECAN), Chris Eccelston (Zone Manager, ECAN), Laurence Smith (ECAN), Dr Phil Jellyman (NIWA), Stuart Ford (Agribusiness), Charlotte Irving (Agribusiness), Cllr Peter Scott, Peter Shutt, Andrew Mockford (OWL), Georgina Hamilton (OWL), Milne Horne and other members of the public.

Welcome & opening of the meeting

The Chairman opens the meeting at 10.34, and welcomes members of the public, reminding them of the poor acoustics in the room.

Apologies: Phil Driver, Glen Smith

Moved: Sue Eddington

Seconded: Mark Webb/ **carried**

Confirmation of Minutes

As minutes only circulated evening prior, seek to defer confirmation of minutes to next meeting. Agreed.

Community Forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

Minimum flows on the Opihi and Temuka (additional to agenda - presentation attached)

Dan Clark, technical lead, aims to give context for the presentations to follow; he provides a brief overview of the process so far regarding minimum flows in the Opihi and Temuka catchments, the 150-day pumping test, and the process over the coming months. He reminds the committee of their initial thinking, and the use of desktop assessment based on studies undertaken in other parts of the country, and refers to cultural preferences being the aspiration in places where these are not being met.

Ecological Flow Assessments – Dr Phil Jellyman, NIWA (presentation attached)

Dr Phil Jellyman acknowledges the water issues in South Canterbury. He then presents the findings of ecological assessments undertaken in the Opihi catchment to inform decision-making around minimum flows and allocation.

Dr Jellyman discusses the work filling gaps in species information at different sites, which is used along with knowledge of habitat requirements for modelling minimum flow. He reminds the committee that Cyclone Gita affected the work as sites were washed away part-way through the assessment and therefore needed to be set up again. As sites were different and periods of low flows no longer available, previous data had to be used.

Information is provided about physical habitat work occurring over several months, the crunching the numbers. Habitat suitability curves are used to show the effects of different flow levels on the habitat of different species. Sampling methods are detailed; survey tracks working across the river taking measurements and bank profiles, mapping the bed of the river along with the depth and velocity of the water. Reaches of 400 – 800 metres are used, and the aim is to work out the available habitat for species that like to live in that reach.

Key slide: “Values for modelling for presentation” – this describes the different values sought in the five assessment sites. The sites and results are described in the slides.

Dr Jellyman reminds the committee that only key values presented today, and the full report will provide greater detail. When asked about the wide ranges, and if the middle of the range is the optimum, Dr Jellyman replies not necessarily as some curves will increase quite rapidly, and you could maximise the optimum based on those graphs provided.

Mark Webb states his interest in the way the various species respond to the different flows, and asks how quickly would a species restore itself after a low flow?

Dr Jellyman responds that it will vary based on species e.g. Canterbury galaxiids, which are non-migratory, will be slower to respond as there will be no influx of fish coming in. Whitebait stocks, however, will replenish quickly. This is just modelling habitat, and shade and pools that would occur naturally are important; cover is critical to eels for example, the modelling doesn't consider. But if the river gets too low and the water gets too warm, the fish won't be there. Likewise, if there's a dam and they can't get past it.

Hamish McFarlane notes the difficult conditions, and asks if the report is robust. Dr Jellyman agrees that it was challenging, but believes it is robust, and that the substrate remains the same. It's not optimal, but it's still robust.

Richard Lyon asks if there was an increase in minimum flow, what would the impact on the tributaries be? Dr Jellyman replies that we would expect that if the flows increased we would see springs bubbling up and we would include in our report that there is habitat there.

Economic Assessment of draft ZIPA – Stuart Ford and Charlotte Irving, Agribusiness

(presentation attached)

Stuart begins by stating that these are interim results only, as flow data was received just last week, and that data has not yet been received from the Flow and Allocation Working Party (FAWP). There is discussion about the short period of time for analysis, and whether farmers can mitigate losses.

Mark Webb sees the period of data availability; in that period to 2015 it was only in the 14/15 season there was drought - other than that there were sixteen years of normal rainfall. 2015/16 was another bad drought and he wonders if that would have made a difference to the data. Comment is also made that there are no figures in this data for the 80's and 90's. Missing Temuka data will be available tomorrow. It is reiterated that this is interim data. It is confirmed that there will be further discussion during the workshop in the afternoon. Stuart confirms that he is confident the results are robust, within the bounds of the assumptions they have made.

John notes that concerns have been raised, and that these will be discussed later in the day.

Catchment group update – Rhys Taylor (paper attached)

Rhys provides an update of the work of catchment groups in the area, and suggests this is an opportunity for the Zone Committee to formally record their appreciation of the work that has gone into this. The groups have been well-supported by industry.

A question about Saltwater Creek is posed; Rhys answers that the working group has made good progress. He then asks if the committee wish to see this group resourced in the future. Mark Webb is supportive, and suggests that it could be part of a wider review of the Timaru catchment.

Rhys is thanked for bringing this up for discussion. Lan Pham notes that Catchment Groups have been immensely valuable, and this is a great opportunity to make it clear that the committee fully support catchment groups and the ongoing resourcing of these. Mark states that he hopes the groups will continue, but perhaps some could combine. Anne Munro comments that resourcing is very important, and that there needs to be alignment amongst all the groups and they are aware of their purpose.

John Talbot asks if a proposal is required, and Lan Pham asks what that would look like, and the availability of formalised partnership funding. Lan also states the need to record their appreciation of the catchment groups and flagging that they can have further discussions about a more strategic work and funding plan for the groups.

John states the committee supports the continuation of the groups in principle, but there is a need to review their role and structure and suggests that the committee acknowledge of assistance of catchment groups, recommend that there be ongoing support, and that a review be undertaken to ensure they remain “fit for purpose”.

Moved: Anne Munro Seconded: Hamish / Carried.

Timeline for completion of ZIPA

The chair asks the FAWP if they can provide their figures to the committee on the 4th of May, rather than the 11th, to allow further time for evaluation of these. Herstatt Ulrich, member of Committee and FAWP, states that the group will do their best, and that the group are pleased to be working in collaboration at last.

Extension of timeline to October: Resolution:

To uphold the principles of the CWMS and collaborative process the OTOP Zone Committee request a further extension and aim to finalise their ZIPA in October 2018.

The purpose of this extension is:

1. To allow further time for public consultation on the ecological and economic information
2. For technical evaluations of figures provided by the FAWP
3. To allow for further consultation on flows and allocations

Proposed: Richard Seconded: Mark/ carried.

Lan Pham outlines for the public why this has happened, and that timelines have been now been pushed out several times around therefore completion in October is critical.

Lan provided a karakia to close the meeting.

Meeting closed at 12.44pm