

Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee held in the Council Chamber, Canterbury Regional Council, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Tuesday 14 August 2018 at 1.00 pm

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Present

Chairperson	Hugh Logan
Community Representatives	
Hugh Canard	Jane Demeter
Ross Millichamp	Vicky Southworth
Zone Representatives	
Ted Howard	Kaikoura
Carolyne Latham	Waimakariri
Karaitiana Taiuru	Selwyn-Waihora
Les Wanhalla	Christchurch West-Melton
Fiona Nicol	Banks Peninsula
Sandra Hampstead-Tipene	Upper/Lower Waitaki
District Council Representatives	
Mayor Winton Dalley	North Canterbury
Cr Nicole Reid	Mid Canterbury
Christchurch City Council	Cr Sara Templeton
Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu	Rebecca Clements
Ngā Rūnanga	Riki Lewis
Environment Canterbury	Cr Claire McKay
Canterbury District Health Board Observer	Dr Alistair Humphrey

In attendance

John Benn (Department of Conservation)
Gerard Cleary (Waimakariri District Council)

Environment Canterbury: Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Stefanie Rixecker (Director Science), Caroline Hart (Programme Manager), Dann Olykan (Team Leader CWMS), Anita Fulton (Senior Strategy Advisor), Dennis Jamieson (Project Leader-Water Infrastructure), Barbara Nicholas (Contractor), Louise McDonald (Senior Committee Advisor)

Welcome

Cr Claire McKay welcomed Hugh Logan to the meeting. She explained that he had been appointed as independent chair by the regional council following consultation with the Mayors of Canterbury and the Ngāi Tahu Kaiwhakahaere.

Hugh Logan introduced himself and invited Karaitiana Taiuru to open the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Peter McIlraith, Cr Peter Scott, Hamish McFarlane, Ben Curry and Nicky Hyslop

For lateness: Dr Alistair Humphrey

2. Conflicts of interest

Hugh Logan reminded members of the register of interests held for the committee and declared his interests.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 12 June 2018

Refer pages 1 to 7 of agenda

The general consensus of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:

Confirmed the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 12 June 2018, as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendments to item 6 'Next ten years of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy':

Drinking water / recreation and amenity opportunities

The group considered drinking water only. Note that the CWMS targets relate to protection of the drinking water sources (ground or surface water) and not drinking water post-treatment.

- ***focus in the strategy is correct – existing targets for 2010, 2015 and 2020 are still work in progress so could roll them forward***

Questions/observations

- ***nitrate concentrations – nitrates in the system. Targets need to reflect the fact that in some areas it'll get worse before getting better. Provide annual N maps to keep track.***
- ***Should different contaminants be considered separately in the targets, e.g. Pathogens and N, are the risks different?***

- **Should private and community wells be considered separately, again are the risks different? Are the locations of all private wells even known?**
- **technology – what opportunities are there for more intervention, e.g. MAR, and what appetite is there for that from the community, affordability, etc.?**
- **need to know where to focus attention – is there sufficient monitoring and modelling to identify future risk areas/areas where existing treatment won't be sufficient?**
- **Source Water Quality Target 5 (Community Public Health/Drinking Water Standards) blurs into beyond source (source water targets and delivered water targets)**
- **Reduce duplication – the actions needed link to the environmental quality and flow limits**

4 **Matters arising**

It was agreed to keep on the agenda for future meetings discussion on adding biodiversity to Schedule 7 of the Land and Water Regional Plan that lists matters to be included in Farm Environment Plans.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5 **Urban Water – 3 Waters**

Refer pages 8 to 10 of the agenda

Stefanie Rixecker and Gerard Cleary presented this report with a PowerPoint presentation.

Stefanie explained that the Canterbury Drinking Water Reference Group included representatives from the 10 Canterbury territorial authorities, Canterbury District Health Board and Environment Canterbury. They have identified areas of responsibility and are developing a work plan. A stocktake of 3 waters, including budget information from the councils' Long-Term Plans has been drafted, as requested, for the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

Responding to a question about tangata whenua involvement in the Reference Group, Stefanie advised that tangata whenua are not represented on the Group, but the Group are very aware of drinking water issues for Marae.

Mayor Winton Dalley advised that the Mayoral Forum do make submissions to central government on matters they all agree with, but individual councils also make individual submissions. The Forum recognises that there are differences between urban and rural water issues.

There was discussion regarding what practical mitigation strategies were being considered and will the monitoring regime change as water quality changes over time. It was observed that the CWMS focus was the quality of ground and surface water that goes into the system.

Gerard Cleary explained that science is being obtained to have a better understanding and monitoring will continue.

Dr Alistair Humphrey joined the meeting at 1.50pm

Gerard then spoke about the work being done by the stormwater forum. This included establishing a vision and goals, sharing technical design best practice and providing advocacy and leadership.

Wastewater is also a key focus for councils but there are fewer issues at a regional level than with drinking water and stormwater.

The Committee considered what its contribution to 3 waters should be and agreed that it was important to keep abreast of national/regional/local momentum and identify any risks for the CWMS. The following comments were provided:

- Consider long and short-term action to prevent nitrates getting into aquifers.
- Facilitate education for urban communities about what people can do to help improve stormwater quality.
- Share information and knowledge obtained from the councils with the zone committees.
- The CWMS targets are a very good starting point.
- The role of this committee to provide advice to Environment Canterbury that will support the CWMS and its objectives.
- Share information with the rural community about what the urban community is doing and vice versa.
- Talk to other agencies, e.g. NZ Transport Agency about their work and how it impacts on water quality.

6 **Canterbury Water Management Strategy Fit for Future Update**

Refer pages 11 to 17 of the agenda

Dann Olykan introduced this report and provided some background on the work on targets that led to a project to develop goals for 2025 and 2030.

Hugh Logan commented that this was an opportunity to sharpen up the goals and make them clearer, meaningful and easier to measure. The Committee should be looking at the principles when reviewing the goals.

The following comments were provided:

- Some targets are duplicated.
- Need to refer back to the core quality and flow targets at the beginning of the targets report.
- Keep a watching brief on issues and changes occurring at the national level.
- Think about where the science is going.
- Allocate resources to get to 2040 targets, e.g. Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan
- When dealing with complex systems a lot of small measure are needed so that accurate results can be obtained.
- Reports on targets should include an explanation of why targets are not met due to budget constraints.
- The CWMS is aspirational, the regional committee provides advice to the regional council. The council then delivers through policy, policy statements and plans.
- The Resource Management Act is about effects, inputs are dealt with elsewhere.
- Look at the CWMS vision and what society demands.

The meeting adjourned from 2.50 to 3.10 pm

Item 9 was then considered

9. **Farming at Good Management Practice**

Refer pages 21 to 23 of the agenda

Hugh Logan introduced this item by stressing that farming at good management practice is a very important part of the CWMS and one of its key foundations.

Clare McDaniel spoke to a powerpoint presentation and provided an update on progress on the farming at good management practice campaign.

Advertising to the urban community what the rural community is doing was supported and it was suggested that it would also be useful to let the rural community know of the work being done in the urban community to improve water quality.

Cr Sara Templeton left at 3.55 pm

The point was made that minimum standards are not aspirational. A lot of farmers are doing better than good management practice but may not yet be documented.

7 **Updates from Wellington**

Refer pages 18 to 20 of the agenda

A copy of an email dated 14 August 2018 from Murray Doak, Ministry for Primary Industries. This included advice that water infrastructure projects are eligible for Provincial Growth Fund on a case by case basis.

Hugh Logan reported that a lot of work is underway in the Ministry for the Environment including input into the Land and Water Forum and working with the Maori Reference Group.

John Benn, Department of Conservation, presented his report (attached to the agenda). Since that report was prepared the Minister has released the NZ Threat Classification System report on freshwater (available on the Department's website). John also advised that a PhD student has completed a study on restoration of islands in braided rivers.

8. **Zone Committee Updates**

Christchurch West Melton

Les Wanhalla was pleased to report that Local Government NZ has passed a remit calling for central government to limit or eliminate the copper content of vehicle brake pads.

The zone committee now has a single point of contact at the Christchurch City Council. They are working with the Waimakariri Zone Committee.

Waimakariri

Carolyne Latham reported that the Waimakariri Zone Committee is busy with the ZIP Addendum. They have held workshops to get community views on issues including nitrates and winter grazing. Most of the attendees at these workshops have been farmers and the committee would like to see more urban residents and people with lifestyle blocks attend.

The zone committee is concerned about the lack of biodiversity and are looking to how that fits in to the ZIP Addendum.

Selwyn Waihora

Karaitiana Taiuru explained that the zone committee was working on relationship building. The Te Waihora Co-Governance Group attended a workshop with the zone committee on 7 August. Members of the Lincoln Youth spoke to the zone committee about the youth voice and the committee will invite them back to participate in a meeting.

Banks Peninsula

Fiona Nicol explained that an interesting issue in Banks Peninsula is that about 70% of drinking water comes from private springs through informal relationships.

Hurunui Waiau

Mayor Winton Dalley advised that a meeting of the Waiau River Reach Group was held to discuss the BRIDGE (braided rivers) project.

Kaikōura

Ted Howard referred the meeting to page 30 of the agenda with the NIWA article about the restoration of the Lyell Creek/Waikōau catchment.

Working Group Updates

Recreation and Amenity Working Group

Hugh Canard reported that as a result of the regional committee's recommendations Environment Canterbury commissioned Visitor Solutions to undertake work on understanding freshwater and amenity values. The scope included a literature review, identifying gaps in information and recommending a high level conceptual plan for how this information might be used to greater effect in the future.

It seems that developing the draft report and reviewing the scale of the data just hasn't been done before. The researchers couldn't find any template for what we are doing.

The steering group has received the draft report. It's still a work in progress as the consultant works through the working group's feedback. A key recommendation will be using existing and any new data needed to build on the current use of GIS resources. It will be an excellent foundation for future work to enable recreations to integrate more effectively with the CWMS fit for the future project.

The Recreation and Amenity Working Group will work with Environment Canterbury over the next 6 weeks to finalise the current draft, and to come up with advice to the regional committee as to the next steps and how it should be socialised. For iwi the distinction between recreation and gathering mahinga kai is blurred.

Hugh Canard said that although the issues are complicated, they should not be dumbed down. The next meeting of the regional committee will be an opportunity to access the implications for the CWMS and how the report is turned into action.

Infrastructure Working Group

Ross Millichamp reported on a briefing from the Ministry for Primary Industries. With the new government there is now a pause on funding for infrastructure.

The fish screen review group is looking at fish screen performance, to see if the screens are meeting consent conditions and if they actually function. Irrigation NZ with NIWA have put in a bid to the sustainable fund to fund science on native fish migration.

10. Facilitators Update

Refer pages 24 to 33 of the agenda

Lesley Woudberg presented this report and circulated draft information about the opening day for the Hekeao/Hinds River project on Sunday 23 September.

11. Other Business

It was noted that the Education Communication Working Group hasn't meet for a while. Instead of arranging meetings it was agreed that education and communication should be a regular agenda item for the regional committee.

Freedom camping (or irresponsible camping) was raised as a problem in many areas. A report on the what the Canterbury Mayoral Forum has done on this will be provided to the next meeting.

Other items for future meetings:

- the one billion trees project
- water efficiency update
- Environment Canterbury metering data and how this fits into the Office of the Auditor General report – 'Monitoring how water is used for irrigation.'

The meeting closed at 4.38 pm, with a karakia from Karaitiana Taiuru

Confirmed

Date

9 October 2018

Chairperson

