

# HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



**Meeting** Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

**Date and Time** 18 March 2019, 3.00pm

**Venue** Waikari Hall, Waikari

**Agenda** <http://www.hurunui.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/18-March-2019-HWZC-agenda.pdf>

**Members Present** John Faulkner (Chair), Josh Dondertman, Ken Hughey, James McCone, Julia McLean, John Preece, Cr Cynthia Roberts, Makarini Rupene and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

**In Attendance**

**Environment Canterbury (ECan)** – Ian Whitehouse (Zone Facilitator), Stephen Bragg, Ned Norton, David Just, Angus McLeod, Andrew Arps, Andrew Parrish, and Nadeine Dommissie.

**Hurunui District Landcare Group (HDLG)** – Josh Brown, James Costello

**Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC)** – Andrew Barton and David Croft

**Hurunui District Council** – Cr Marie Black, Cr Nicky Anderson

**Department of Conservation** – John Benn, Sandy Yong

**Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT)** – Lisa Mackenzie

**Rural Advocacy Network (RAN)** – Jamie McFadden

**Federated Farmers** – Lionel Hume

**Plain Irrigators Ltd** – Neville Brightwell

**Community** – Jane Demeter, Gwen Beavens

**Committee Secretary** – Michelle Stanley

**Recording Device** A recording device was in use for the accuracy of the minutes.

**Karakia** John Faulkner opened the meeting with a karakia.

**Te Reo Māori – Place names in the zone** Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash spoke to the Zone Committee on the meaning behind the name Waikari and asked that the Zone Committee consider what they would like to learn.

*Waikari meaning:*

- *Wai* means water and *Kari* means white tips of an ocean.

The name Waikari came by Rākaihautū who was the chief of Waitaha, an early nation that was here well before Ngāi Tahu. This chief went through the land, marking all the key water sites and linked them to the stars. Through this work, he was able to find any water source/place no matter where he was in Polynesia. He was really effective in his environmental management approach, in terms that his son, Rokihouia, identified where all the hāpua also were and linked them to the stars

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making it possible to pinpoint places like Lake Sumner or the Hurunui River Mouth, from anywhere in Polynesia.

Rākaihautū named Waikari because when he was on a high area, he looked down at the water hue, the mist that was sitting in the Waikari basin, looked like the surface of the ocean with the white tops. Therefore, Waikari was a reference given by Rākaihautū noting water evaporates from the surface of this place and in some situations, it looks like an ocean surface.

- It was queried as to what the Māori term is for Black-backed gull.
- It was asked if the Zone Committee would consider changing its name to include Waiau Uwha. It was noted that this would need to be done through a change to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

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**Apologies**

Mayor Winton Dalley, Cr Vince Daly, Michele Hawke.

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

Faulkner/McLean

CARRIED

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**Conflict of Interest Declarations**

Nil.

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**Urgent Business**

Nil.

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**Minutes**

It was agreed that the minutes be abbreviated for the future.

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2019 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 7, second paragraph, change the date of the last meeting to: '(10 December 2018)'.
- Page 11, fourth paragraph, change the first sentence to "... that a Cultural Impact ...)"
- Page 15, Recommendation, alter to read: "The Zone Committee, excluding the two Rūnanga Representatives, has agreed in principle to voluntary staged implementation of HWRRP minimum flows alongside an environmental package from Amuri Irrigation. A Cultural Impact Assessment is underway." And the end statement changed to "The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee agreed to the recommendation."
- Page 15, Jane Demeter's tabled document, add to the end of the first sentence "... how the Commissioners made their decision **on the flow regime.**" And change 'rational' to 'rationale'.

Faulkner/Roberts

CARRIED

**Matters Arising:**

*Recommendation for the Cultural Impact Assessment (page 15).*

It was noted and discussed that there is uncertainty around the contents of the report Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd (MKT) are providing. Andrew Parrish is meeting with MKT representatives and will report back to the Zone Committee.

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Jamie McFadden expressed concern that the presentation on the BRIDGE Project was not recorded in the minutes. Ian Whitehouse reported that he passed that presentation on to Jamie McFadden.

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## Correspondence

*Outgoing:* Letter from Zone Committee to Environment Canterbury

Taken as read.

The following correspondence was tabled:

- Email – Response to Zone Committee letter from Bill Bayfield, CEO ECan.
- Email – AIC notification of HWP takeover acceptance.
- Email – Hurunui District Landcare group clarifying its position on the proposed plan change to the HWRRP.
- Email – Apology from Wildlife International regarding the deferring of Agenda Item 7. In addition, two attached articles, one from the Freshwater Anglers website on “DOC Poisoning our Fisheries” and the other a response from DOC. Further information on the cull of the Black-backed gulls will be published once Department of Conservation has received the report from Wildlife International. ECan will provide a full response to the Freshwater Anglers’ article on its website.

It was agreed that the Zone Committee also draft a response to the article. Ken Hughey to action.

- Email – Lynda Murchison, Pyramid Valley response to comments in the minutes. (This is to be deferred to the next meeting of the Zone Committee).

All correspondence is available via request from the committee secretary, Michelle Stanley (Hurunui District Council).

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## 1. Public Contribution

- Jamie McFadden, spoke to a tabled document, available from Committee Secretary, on the recent activities of the Rural Advocacy Network (RAN). Jamie to forward, via email, further information on comments made on the BRIDGE Project process.
  - Further BRIDGE Project meetings to be held on the 29 March 2019. Ian Whitehouse has forwarded an invitation and document to the Zone Committee.  
  
Discussion was held around a previous statement made by RAN that Zone Committee members thought that the BRIDGE Project was a ‘sham’ and they lacked confidence in the project. It was stated that the Zone Committee has not given a position on this. It was agreed that the Zone Committee would not determine its position on the BRIDGE Project until after the upcoming BRIDGE meeting on 29 March 2019.
  - It was noted that there is a lack of understanding of mātaimai. Makarini Rupene has been working with landowners to explain that a mātaimai has no impact on the landowner. It is a fisheries tool governed by Ministry for Primary Industries to care for the fisheries which are in a poor state of health.
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- Josh Brown, Hurunui District Landcare Group, tabled a letter and asked that it be considered at the next meeting. The Zone Committee to consider at its next meeting.

The Zone Committee requested that future written updates from stakeholders be included in the agenda, no later than seven days before the meeting, in order to give sufficient time for the Zone Committee to consider the information. This does not preclude community members/stakeholders from raising urgent issues or voicing an opinion at a meeting.

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## **2. Update from Amuri Irrigation**

Andrew Barton, AIC, spoke to his email and media release (14 March 2019). The following was noted:

- AIC were successful in its takeover bid for HWP.
- AIC will progress with the 38 tonne Nitrogen offset on an aggregate basis from both AIC and HWP consents.
- AIC will progress with the planning for the Stage 1 scheme on the south side of the Hurunui River. Any future irrigation in the Waipara Catchment would need to be considered in the Plan Review.
- On plain storage solutions are being looked at as the most plausible option. AIC cannot justify the expense of the original Glenrae option.
- It was noted that there has been no pushback from AIC shareholders over the increase to the minimum flows even with the minimum flows being reached on the Waiau Uwha River this past summer.
- AIC are developing a scheme that would take 5 cumecs from the Hurunui River rather than 25 cumecs. AIC will be utilising all of the nitrogen load they have and dryland farmers will utilise the 38 tonne offset, therefore it will be a nil-sum game. The biggest win will be more water in the river.
- Concern was raised by Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash over the health of the Hurunui River. While monitoring data shows that the upper Hurunui River is flowing well, the Hurunui hapua is not. Observations of the Hurunui hapua are that it is had run at less than 4 cumecs and is more of a stream. It was requested that monitoring of the Hurunui hapua is undertaken.

## **3. Progressing a Plan Change to HWRRP to address the 10%-Rule issue**

Lisa Jenkins, ECan

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Andrew Parrish spoke to the report and apologised for Lisa Jenkins absence noting that she is unwell. The report was taken as read and the following noted:

- This report was made simpler due to the recent announcement of AIC's confirmation of the 38 tonne nitrogen offset.
  - It was noted that the benefit of progressing this under the Environment Canterbury Act is that this issue can be fixed faster than any other option. The Dryland farmers have waited long enough to be a permitted activity. It was noted that there will be an opportunity for submissions on the proposed plan change.
  - It was noted that this change under the Environment Canterbury Act will help to fix the current issue of the 10%-rule but will not address the issue created by grandparenting. The grandparenting issue is better addressed under a full Plan review.
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#### 4. Information on a review of water-take consents

David Just, ECan

David Just talked to his presentation on the review of the water take consents. It was agreed that the Zone Committee is more in support of the mitigation package and that this report is for the Zone Committees information in case this is a path that needs to be followed, especially in light of the confusion around the contents of the report from MKT. Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- David Just reported the HWRRP enables community and stock drinking water supplies to continue to abstract when the minimum flows are reached provided there is a Water Supply Asset Management Strategy in place.
- It was noted that the Ashburton District Council is undergoing a similar process looking at community water takes. The Ashburton Zone Committee has agreed that a review of water takes from Ashburton River would only review takes for irrigation and not takes for community water supplies.
- It was noted that the Ashley River minimum flows are an issue for managing a HDC water take and David is currently working with HDC officers to address the issue.
- The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee felt that issues about water takes for community and stock drinking supplies would be best dealt with directly between ECan and HDC officers.
- It was suggested that a cultural discussion of the rivers needs to be undertaken to identify and recognise Māori values versus grade A and B.

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#### Break

*The meeting adjourned for a break at 5.11 pm and reconvened at 5.25pm.*

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#### 5. Results of braided river bird monitoring and control of southern black-backed gulls

Kailash, Wildlife Management International

This item has been deferred until November.

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#### 6. Election of Officers

##### **Chairperson**

The Committee Secretary called for nominations for Chairperson with a nominator and a seconder.

- John Faulkner – Makarini Rupene/Ken Hughey  
John Faulkner accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee voted that John Faulkner be the Chairperson for 2019.

*John Faulkner resumed the Chair.*

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### ***Deputy Chairperson***

John Faulkner called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson with a nominator and a seconder.

- Ken Hughey – James McCone/Makarini Rupene  
Ken Hughey accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

The Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee voted that Ken Hughey be the Deputy Chairperson for 2019.

### ***Representative on Regional Committee***

John Faulkner called for nominations for the Regional Committee Representative with a mover and a seconder.

- John Preece – Makarini Rupene/Ken Hughey  
John Preece accept the nomination.
- Michele Hawke – Cr Cynthia Roberts/John Faulkner

Due to Michele Hawke not being present to accept or decline a nomination, it was agreed that the appointment of representative on the Regional Committee be deferred to the next meeting.

## **7. Developing the Zone Committees 2019 Work Programme – initial thoughts from Zone Committee**

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The forward work plan for the 2019 year was considered. Ian Whitehouse to work on a draft work plan for the Zone Committee to consider. The following was suggested:

- Progress implementation of minimum flows.
  - Investigation into the health of the Hurunui Hapua.
  - Treaty of Waitangi and Ngāi Tahu values understanding – go out and see the biodiversity projects and undertake workshops.
  - The review of the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee process.
  - Revisit of the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee vision after the review.
  - Look at ‘what is water’ in both a cultural and chemical way. Include values such as the life of the water, and mahinga kai. What does it mean and where to in the future.
  - Better and more thorough information on subjects such as the overall state of the waterway. The Committee requested more of a story and a discussion point to where it is heading and better interpretation of complex data.
  - Show case finished projects via updates and media releases.
  - Begin preparation for the 2023 Plan review.
  - Removal of the willows in the Waipara River.
  - On the ground actions such as:
    - Wetlands project,
    - Improving the Hurunui Hapua,
    - Weed infestation around the Waitohi River.
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- Field Trip suggestions:
    - Waitohi River.
    - Hurunui Hapua.
    - Marae.
    - Visit old and ongoing biodiversity projects.
    - Tied to the work program.
    - River birds nesting sites.

Andrew Parrish noted that he has some stories already prepared and will send these to the Zone Committee. These were prepared for the community.

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**8. Update on Regional Committee**

Taken as read.

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**9. Update from Zone Committee members on other activities and meetings attended that relate to the Committee's outcomes for the Zone.**

Nil.

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**10. Zone Delivery Update**

Marco Cataloni,  
ECan

Andrew Arps spoke to the report in Marco's absence.

The following was noted:

- Braided River Reach Project – John Preece and Ken Hughey have put their names forward for this.
  - Heath Melville and Zippora Ploeg will be starting with ECan as the new biodiversity officers. Both staff members will be invited to a future Zone Committee meeting. The Hurunui District Council will be notified.
  - EnviroSchools Project - The feedback from schools has been positive. It was noted that there is a very good Hurunui Youth Engagement Team and it would be good to collaborate resources. Simon Green, Amberley Primary School Principle, is the contact person for this.
  - The SCAR project is progressing well and they are working closely with Michael Bennett to ensure that it lines up with the Post-Earthquake Recovery Project.
  - Mahinga kai awareness and actions - Makarini Rupene held the first shed talk in Kaikōura. He reported that 27 people attended and it was mix of both community and farming interests. It was well received, and he is looking to roll this out over the Hurunui Zone. These meetings were open to the public and advertised in wide range of media sources.
  - Monitoring water quality – Andrew Arps to check to see if the information on the Hurunui and Waiau hapua is up on the LAWA website.
  - It was queried who bears the costs of the State of the Takiwā – Makarini Rupene noted that this is an old issue that is being readdressed in order to see what it is like and the wins gained.
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- Discussion was held on the Billion Trees project. The following was noted:
    - Andrew Arps noted that there is a real business opportunity to build a local nursery to complete the billion trees project. There will be funding available under the SCAR project to start a nursery. Land would need to be sourced and an indication of the costs involved investigated. The existing Balmoral nursery was discussed. Forward commitment for stock is the issue facing the nursery's currently.
    - At the end of March they will be clearer on the scope of the Billion Trees.
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**Urgent Business**

Nil

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**Meeting concluded**

The meeting concluded at 6.35pm with a whakamoemiti from Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

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**Next meeting**

Monday, 15 April 2019.

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