

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee

Minutes of an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held in Meeting Room 1, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 6 May 2019 at 1pm

Present Hamish McFarlane (Chairperson), David Anderson, Phil Driver, Sue Eddington, Glen Smith, Lucy Millar, Clr Richard Lyon, Clr Lan Pham, Luke Reihana, Herstatt Ulrich, and Mark Webb

Karakia The Chairperson opened the meeting with a karakia

Apologies Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded David Anderson

“That apologies from Clr Anne Munro and John Henry be accepted.”

Motion carried

In Attendance Lesley Woudberg (Facilitator), Brian Reeves (OTOP Zone Delivery Lead), Hannah Duncan (Land Management Advisor), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Officer)(until 2.10pm), Tom Henderson, Prue Thirkettle

1. Declaration of Interests

There were no conflicts of interests declared.

2. Community Forum

In response to the issue on hydro activity on the Waitaki River, raised in the community forum at the last meeting, the Facilitator explained that the Fit for Future project, which the Regional Committee has been leading, is looking at infrastructure targets carefully, and is now placing much more emphasis on water use efficiency, including in the energy and irrigation sectors. The Upper Waitaki Committee is well placed to give consideration to these issues.

The meeting was advised that Meridian is willing to address any committee wanting to hear about its activities on the lakes and rivers, although it was pointed out it is more an issue for the Upper and Lower Waitaki Zone Committees.

Tom Henderson, who raised the matter at the previous community forum said it has been 60 years since the rules were put in place, and he believes it is important to relook at Meridian’s operation in the lakes and on the Waitaki and he asks that the OTOP Committee looks at the matter.

The Committee agreed to deal with the request in its Strategy session.

3. Urgent Business – Zone Implementation Programme Addendum

The meeting was informed that the OTO ZIPA was presented to the Waimate District Council last week and will be presented to the Mackenzie District Council on 7 May.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed Clr Lan Pham
Seconded Sue Eddington

“That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee meeting held on 1 April 2019 be confirmed.”

Motion carried

5. Implementing the OTO ZIPA

The Committee considered a report by the Facilitator on how ECan plans to report on zone delivery.

ECan will report to OTO in depth via the InZone reporting programme which will report milestones and outcomes. Once the OTO’s work programme is finalised the Committee will be in a better position to identify what it would like to see in a zone delivery report and the reporting period that will initially be quarterly.

It is important to remember that ECan is only one agency that can deliver on the CWMS, others being such organisations as LINZ, Canterbury District Health Board, industry and others.

ECan is continuing with the usual promotion/information sharing, Immediate Steps newsletters, but could do with more facebook input - any interested committee members who would like to help with the facebook media would be welcome. Facebook can be effective for example in attracting participants to catchment group activities.

It was suggested that at the end of every meeting, the Committee could take the time to reflect on any matters that could be highlighted in the media.

Two items for further reporting were noted – the stormwater programme and how it can contribute to OTO’s outcomes and the Timaru District Council District Plan Review and how the review specifically relates to OTO.

Proposed Herstatt Ulrich
Seconded Phil Driver

“That the reports on the ECan zone delivery reporting be received and noted.”

Motion carried

6. Post ZIPAs - What Other Committees are Doing

The Committee considered a report by the Facilitator providing examples of the work of other zone committees – Upper Waitaki, Ashburton, Selwyn Waihora and Waimakariri - that have completed their Zone Implementation Programme Addendums. The Committee discussed the value that zone committee work can have, citing examples in other areas (aquifer recharge, contaminants from brake pads, working with industry looking at headwaters of urban streams) and noting the importance of communication, education and trying to deliver actual outcomes.

The Facilitator tabled a list of non regulatory recommendations from the OTOP ZIPA as a reference point for the Committee to work from. It was suggested that it would be useful to order these recommendations by category eg cultural, ecological, on farm – to give the Committee a lead into who to talk to and which groups to talk to.

7. Regional Committee

Regional Committee representative Phil Driver reported on the Regional Committee meeting he had attended. He advised that he had not supported the work programme for the approved goals, as there is no evidence that there will be significant associated outcomes on the ground. The work programme seemed to be more focussed on producing more reports, rather than focussing on activities that will actually effect change in practices.

It was noted that there have been different working groups putting the programme together and the emerging work programme is not set in stone.

8. Facilitator's Update

The Committee considered the Facilitator's report providing an update on progress on issues, upcoming events and media reports.

Discussion took place on the process for Plan Change 7 and what opportunity might exist for the OTOP Committee to have input. The Facilitator clarified the difference between the ZIPA (owned by OTOP) and the Plan Change (owned by ECan). The OTOP Committee does not have ability to submit as a committee, however they could submit as individuals, or as representatives of other interest groups or through membership of a 1st schedule party. The OTOP Chairperson will have the opportunity to present the original intention of the ZIPA ('setting the scene') at an early stage in the hearing process. OTOP will be briefed at the beginning of June.

There was some disquiet expressed at the possible changes in the Plan to what was intended by OTOP through its ZIPA. The Committee has spent 8 years of work formulating the Zone Implementation Programme and its addendum, yet it could be altered at the Plan Change stage, without the Committee having the opportunity to speak to/influence any proposed change. While the Committee

knew its ZIP and ZIPA were only recommendations and that there would probably be changes, it was hoped these were not going to be significant.

The meeting was advised that as the Plan Change is 'owned' by ECan, any limits within the Plan Change must be enforceable and this could be why changes have been necessary.

It was suggested that any concerned Committee members should email the Facilitator, and she will follow up. An opportunity will be provided at the next meeting to look at the Plan Change and it was agreed to set aside 2-3 hours to go through it. Additional meetings in June may be necessary.

Ministry for the Environment report on Environment Aotearoa 2019 OTOP members should take the time to read the summary and the entire report on <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/environment-aotearoa-2019> with a view to discussing it at a future strategy workshop.

In regard to the invitation from the Orari River Protection Group, thank the group for its invitation but advise that the committee will be in a position to respond when the work programme is finalised.

The meeting concluded at 2.35pm.

Chairperson