

# MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 AT KAIKŌURA COUNCIL BUILDING – FUNCTION ROOM.

**PRESENT:** T Howard (Chair), G Solomon, A Boyd, R Roche, Councillor S Lowndes, G Solomon.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** M Griffin, T Butterfield, K Heays, H Melville (Kaikōura ECan), A Scott-Thomas, K Whitwell, (Kaikōura District Council), and N Muijsson.

**APOLOGIES:** J Murray, N McArthur, T Sonal, Councillor C Harnett, Councillor T Blunt

*Moved by G Solomon, seconded by A Boyd and resolved that apologies be accepted.*

## **KARAKIA**

### **1. COMMITTEE CHECK-IN & ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **URGENT BUSINESS**

Chris Gregory (KDC) will be joining the committee at 13.30 for approximately 15 minutes to provide an update on the drinking water status.

G Solomon would like to have a conversation about freshwater mātaītai before it is addressed as part of committee updates at 15.00.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2019**

G Solomon noted that she was not noted as being 'present' even though she had been, this is to be adjusted.

*Moved by R Roche, seconded A Boyd and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 3rd April 2019 be confirmed a true and accurate record.*

#### **TE REO PRACTICE**

G Solomon had prepared a Te Reo practice sheet with a focus on local geographical features for this meeting. A printed copy was distributed to all in attendance.

### **2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

There were no public in attendance at this meeting.

### 3. 2019/20 WORK PROGRAMME – REVIEW

M Griffin brought forward the Zone Committee's work programme as provided with the agenda to gain an overview of the calendar for the next months and to determine what should be the priority focus. The next WZC meeting will have a focus on the Waiau-Toa, with Steve Palmer (ECan Biosecurity Advisor – Special Projects) attending along with Mike Harding (riverbed weed control) and Mike Bell (predator control) presenting. The October and November meetings are to be confirmed, as this coincides with local government elections. The December meeting might be a field trip, though potential sites are to be confirmed. K Heays suggested this would be the opportunity to confirm a location for a 'memorial' for David Bedford as well.

With regards to the 2019/2020 work programme presented, G Solomon noted that in the Wetlands section, the value of wetlands to the community did not seem proportionately reflected, with a strong focus on land owners. K Heays acknowledged that the appreciation, care and value of wetlands to the community as a whole will be a Comms target.

G Solomon also enquired where it is up to with the water storage tanks work stream that Jeremy Harnett had worked on. M Griffin noted that an adequate size of water tanks and cost is to be confirmed, as the tanks that were earlier discussed are probably not large enough for some households. G Solomon wished to stress the potential benefit of this initiative to the whole community and noted she sees this as an opportunity to leave a legacy as a Zone Committee (member). As Immediate Steps funding is not available for this, other options for funding will need to be explored. G Solomon would like to see this happen. T Howard noted that National Science Challenge Resilience funding might be worth exploring, though more details and a better idea of what it would look like are required first. M Griffin noted that Wellington/Lower Hutt Council has previously worked on a similar initiative, which provides some precedent for this option in the community.

➔ It was agreed there is potential to investigate this further and the committee will revisit this as a topic for August meeting.

S Lowndes suggested numbering the work programme's priorities in order to clarify and relate them to each other in terms of specific funding and expertise, in order to spend the available money on the right things for the biggest impact.

In answer to a question from K Heays on how to go about adding things into the programme, M Griffin noted the programme is updated as the year progresses, while monthly updates will continue in the regular meeting committee updates.

G Solomon raised the suggestion of the creation of (safe) swimming sites in the District, particularly for the summer months; be added to the priorities. A discussion will be required around this.

On enhancing Mahinga Kai values, G Solomon suggested collaborative work between different local organisations, such as KWZC, the Mātaitai Management

committee of the Taiāpure, with the inclusion of community members and Rūnanga members/representatives. K Heays noted that as local WZC, there probably already is an obligation to work together with other local community groups; this was confirmed by M Griffin with reference to the Kaikōura ZIP recommendation 2.2.6.

The committee wished to address the recent issues and tension around freshwater mātaimai before visitors were expected to attend later in the meeting. S Lowndes noted that there seem to be a lot of worries and fear around lines on a map recently issued, and suggested these misunderstandings should be addressed before the issues grow. T Howard provided a brief run-down of the history of the freshwater mātaimai and the consultation processes that have taken place locally. While it has been talked about for a long time, the committee acknowledged that the consultations have mostly taken place in venues where farmers generally wouldn't go. The main confusion and frustration amongst community members, and political representatives, appears to be concerning the map that was issued and the land boundaries indicated on it. The committee was unanimous in its wish to clear up information in order to reduce stress on the matter; clarifying that the mātaimai aim to address in-stream health and is thus limited to the waterways within the boundaries drawn out on the map. R Roche noted that he has since spoken with local MP Stuart Smith, and had a chance to clarify the issues around the map with him directly. S Smith explicated to R Roche that the problem, in his eyes, lay with a piece of the law, and he will be taking legal advice on that.

➔ The Zone Committee could facilitate a presentation on freshwater mātaimai, possibly linked with information on Mahinga Kai (values) for the community, to help clarify what these are in practice.

*13.40pm – C Gregory, K Hunt, L Clifford, K Whitwell (KDC) arrived*

Chris Gregory (KDC) joined the committee at 13.40 to provide an update on drinking water status in the District and previous BWN (Town supply). He apologised for not attending earlier meetings; noting he had not received the invitations.

C Gregory confirmed that the recent BWN on the Town supply commenced mid-March following slightly elevated levels of coliform in the Mackle's bore readings. The initial BWN was a precautionary measure following the elevated levels, however this was raised to a mandatory BWN after a single E-coli was detected at the Fords Reservoir on March 11 and the DHB got involved. At this stage an assessment was made with a Medical Officer of Health and an elevated testing regime was implemented. Additional chlorine was added and daily local testing carried out.

KDC contracted Food&Health for the daily testing, who courier the samples to Christchurch to a subcontracted lab, accounting for a delay in results getting back to KDC. The investigation carried out highlighted weaknesses in the system due to construction and ageing of the systems, while the Mackle's Bore in particular showed weaknesses in the systems as a result of the 2016 earthquake. Works were scheduled to fix the leaking tank roof, resealing between the roof and tank walls, change the pipework and sterilize the walls. The aim was to have the works completed in three weeks and have the BWN notice lifted by Easter. Once the works

were completed and three consecutive clear tests were confirmed, the DHB gave permission to lift the BWN on the town supply just before Easter weekend. The Kaikōura Town supply is currently not on BWN.

C Gregory proceeded to update the committee members on the current status of other water supplies in the district:

- Town supply: currently clear (not on BWN).
  - East Coast: BWN remains in place (since 2016 earthquake). This is not a secure bore, though C Gregory noted it is virtually impossible to get a secure bore. It is currently in compliance with rural agricultural water standards, though this is under review in Central Govt. KDC is working together with DHB on this.
  - Suburban scheme remains on BWN. The water is treated though not stored; technically speaking it is able to hold enough water 20 days, but as many residents on the water scheme exceed the standard household use it often runs out within three days.
  - Fernleigh water scheme is currently on BWN. This scheme is owned and operated by the users; Council's involvement is limited to monitoring and reporting authority (via DHB).
  - Ocean Ridge: currently clear (not on BWN).
- ➔ Confirming: water supplies in the District currently on BWN are East Coast, Suburban, and Fernleigh.

In terms of Comms around the (recent) BWN, Council aimed to provide updates as soon as available via channels such as the Council website and Facebook page, newsletters and email. More vulnerable residents (hospital, schools, rest homes) were directly contacted.

G Solomon raised the question of a possible direct update from KDC to KWZC members, so that they can answer questions from community members better. Chris confirmed that his replacement (Rashid Saddiqui) is well aware and capable of doing so; direct communication lines will need to be confirmed (invitation to meetings, etc.).

K Heays noted that part of the KWZC aim is to support KDC in Comms and provision of safe drinking water to the community; in addition to links between ECan and KWZC, different organisations can work together and assist in getting the word out. Libby Clifford (KDC Communications & Engagement Manager) confirmed that KDC's building and expansion of Comms channels and information updates is still very much work in progress, and any feedback and help is welcome. As a result of the recent town supply BWN, the business contact list has been merged and updated, though it would be good to have different points of contact to spread the word consistently. Individual Water Zone Committee members have now been subscribed to KDC drinking water updates.

#### **4. Biodiversity – Immediate Steps update**

H Melville presented the committee with an update on current Immediate Steps projects carried out by ECan and the funding overview for the Kaikōura Zone. The fencing at Nagari ("Barb's site") has been completed, more weed control is required

at Nagari as well as the Hāpuku site. With a significant part of ECan funding (\$30,000) on hold, some of the planned works will be rescheduled for next financial year. This will primarily focus on weed control works. The zone team is currently in the process of acquiring a bridge from KDC, from Gillings Lane, to be used as a stock crossing at Hāpuku wetlands.

H Melville presented the committee with an overview of the Immediate Steps funding available and allocated for this financial year to 30 June 2019:

a. At the Boyd's site (Swan Creek, Waimangarara catchment), he is looking to implement the second stage to the Immediate Steps project that was completed in 2017. Given the success of the project, with the land owner having successfully maintained the plantings to a high level (Heath showed before and after photos of the site), it seems like a low risk use of the money with strong biodiversity outcomes. The second stage looks to expand plantings as well as fence off and plant two new wetlands adjacent to the site.

b. At the Frosts' site (Wood Grove, Kanuka Terrace - Hartnett's Creek Protection), the aim is to create a QEII covenant around the secondary Kanuka/mixed broad leaf alluvial forest. The diverse fern-clad understory has been identified as holding particular ecological value. The site will likely re-generate into Podocarp with many seed sources adjacent. There is potential for One Billion Trees to get involved to increase funding potential, as a way to assist with the initial financial contribution that would be required from the Frosts (mostly for fencing). Heath looked at combining the project with another project downstream from the site that was initiated, in restoring Hartnett's Creek through pasture/grazing. This would involve increasing the fence set back and planting giving the Frosts a greater physical contribution rather than money upfront. Heath is also looking to assist in setting up a trap-line so that predator trapping can be a part of their physical contribution also.

In terms of overland flow path remediation, the team is currently looking beyond the Lyell catchment, prioritizing dairy catchments around streams that have found to be Īnanga spawning sites. He has engaged with S Mackle and B Schroder in the Lyell catchment, and M Hislop in the Middle Creek catchment. In prioritizing dairy catchments, particularly where adjacent to freshwater eco-systems, the aim is to increase the impact and improve freshwater quality across catchments.

A key recommendation for Immediate Steps funding is required from the committee at this stage. This funding, totalling to \$56,320, is allocated for Swan Creek Restoration Stage 2 (\$14,000) as well as Hartnett's Creek protection work (\$42,320).

***Moved by S Lowndes, seconded by R Roche.***

***Motioned by T Howard, all in favour.***

## **5. BIODIVERSITY – KDC BRIEFING**

K Hunt (Biodiversity Officer at KDC) presented the committee with an introduction to

the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and its aims within the Landscape Restoration Strategy. Information is attached with the agenda. While all District Councils (involved) have ratified the strategy, it is not to be launched until June 2019, after ratification from City Councils.

Kate confirmed that the Alliance's strategy is not a statutory document, though it ties in with statutory requirements. It entails a long-term strategy spanning over multiple generations. The focus of the Alliance lies with collaboration and the sharing of ideas across (ecological) boundaries.

Kate is KDC's representative in the Alliance and will be the contact point in Kaikōura for any proposed projects.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS - BRIEFING

T Butterfield provided an update on the committee's communications action plan for 2019.

- BWN: See earlier update from C Gregory. Water Zone Committee members have been added to KDC drinking water newsletter updates to receive updates directly.
- Youth engagement: (more) specific details are required to launch any new proposals in the district on this front; Why do we want youth to be involved? What do we want to be doing with youth? What do we aim to achieve? R Roche suggested to spin it around and focus on what youth would like to do, though T Butterfield stressed that clarification is required around the specifics of *why* and *what* before any proposals (*when, how*) can be launched (to tie in with funding, projects, other ideas).
- T Howard's column for this month, focused on additional explanation and background around freshwater mātaimai, was published on the ECan website, KDC website and KDC Facebook page. The question was raised whether the committee wished to directly respond to Stuart Smith's column in the Kaikōura Star regarding the freshwater mātaimai 'announcement'. T Butterfield noted that there is potential to respond in the next WZC Newsletter, focusing on key facts and information. G Solomon thought it a sound idea for the committee to provide some easy-to-understand facts and information, though to let the legal dispute (initiated by S Smith) play out on the side and not get involved. The suggestion was made for T Howard's column for this month to be updated with some more specific details, such as when the mātaimai was gazetted, and the updated version to be updated and shared via Comms channels (incl. KDC Newsletter).

A discussion arose around use of Māori words in particular, as G Solomon noted use of particular terminology appears to ignite significant anger and resistance in a number of people. K Whitwell (KDC) wished to stress the importance of use of the right terms in the right context and providing the right information, thus not to shy away from use of Te Reo given the importance of this terminology particularly in the context of freshwater mātaimai. She also stressed the significance of opportunity that lies ahead in terms of getting the right information out to the public, providing an opening for certain conversations that need to be had.

→ **Action:** Ted's column on freshwater mātaimai to be updated with specific dates and

possible further information. The updated version is to be sent through to appropriate people in order to be shared via Comms channels, including a (paid) article in the Kaikōura Star. This may potentially be used in the next KWZC Newsletter.

- The next WZC Newsletter is now set for June, though it is unlikely to actually come out in June as Tania will be leaving soon. Regardless, she advised promoting Comms around this time; K Heays confirmed that ECan has some promotion and projects planned around this time too, focusing on wetlands, Mahinga Kai and mātaimai.

Tania also advised to utilise KDC Comms to increase engagement with the Kaikōura community. To ensure greatest efficiency in Comms supplementing the work program, M Griffin suggested adding the Comms program into the work program (provided with the agenda for future meetings).

- The Student Volunteer Army (UC) is coming to Kaikōura; applications should be in by May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- This was Tania's last KWZC Meeting, as she is leaving. The committee thanked her for her efforts and dedication over the past three years, and wished her well.

#### **7. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- BWN: covered in earlier discussion.
- ECan update: work stream mostly covered in H Melville's presentation. Peter Bradshaw will start next week as C Armour's replacement as Land Management Advisor.
- Freshwater mātaimai: covered in earlier discussion.
- Three Waters Update: Storm water & sewerage to be updated. Drinking water update covered in earlier discussion. M Griffin to contact L Clifford (KDC) to ensure most up-to-date information around any issue that is current and updated.
- K Whitwell and M Griffin to liaise regarding direct communication line between KDC and KWZC.

#### **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

No further business to address.

***There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.00.***