

# MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 AT KAIKŌURA MEMORIAL HALL.

**PRESENT:** T Howard (Chair), J Murray, N McArthur, A Boyd, R Roche, T Sonal, Councillor C Harnett, T Blunt.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** M Griffin, Tania Butterfield, G Stanley, K Heays (all ECan), A Scott-Thomas (Kaikōura District Council)

**APOLOGIES:** John Murray, Councillor S Lowndes

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

## **KARAKIA**

[Introductions]

### **1. URGENT BUSINESS**

- G Solomon will discuss freshwater mātaītai reserves.
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### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 6 MARCH 2019**

- R Roche noted under Committee Updates, section 4 part 3 (p.5), that he expected further kōrero and more information from Council regarding maintenance of the Lyell walkway area. He did not feel this was reflected in the minutes and expected to see a follow up report on this during the current meeting. T Howard suggested this report to be requested for the next meeting. When asked about the chances of a report from Council, T Blunt said to speak to those points in future meeting. G Solomon suggested to cover this off in the drinking water discussion.
- ***Moved by R Roche, seconded T Sonal and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 6th March 2019 be confirmed a true and accurate record.***

G Solomon raised the question of how the Zone Committee can influence the wilding pine problem in the community to ensure effective management of the issues around wilding pines and conifers in the region. While concerns have been raised in the past, she sees it important to act now before the problem gets any bigger with conifer and pines spreading through the Kowhai. T Howard noted that no MPI funding is available to address this at this stage, although there is potential for ECan funding and involvement. G Solomon suggested to follow up with MPI in order to increase awareness and recognition and obtain funding to address the issues. K Heays noted funding of \$1.3 million has been secured by ECan across the region (Hurunui, Waiau, Kaikōura) to address remediation of land that is no longer farmable and is primarily focused on fencing. M Griffin suggested follow up to confirm what exactly this fund addresses and how it related to the wilding conifer issue. It was also suggested to check with Steve Palmer (ECan Biosecurity) as lead agent in the management of wilding conifers. Steve has been requested to attend the Committee

meeting in June; providing an opportunity to discuss wilding conifers as well as weed control in the Waiau Toa / Clarence River catchment.

G Solomon wished to follow up where it is up to with the wider wetland strategy of the Kaikōura zone team (Wetland work program, P.5). K Heays advised that with the realisation that most wetlands in the zone have disappeared, this aspect has been given urgency, and tying in with conversations around farmland ECan aims to push protection of wetlands in the zone. The current focus is on landowners with (potential) wetlands on their property willing to protect and care for the wetland.

The approach is aimed to move away from a punitive or standardized approach, but rather to focus particularly on relevance to Kaikōura land owners and (mahinga kai) values. The local zone team is working closely together with ECan Communications on promoting wetlands as valuable resources, with a focus on the history of wetlands in Kaikōura. G Solomon suggested giving this more emphasis in the committee's and ECan's communications planning. K Heays noted that May – June – July will be a crucial time to start the conversations for next season as there is a bit more downtime farmers and it is generally more wet. He added the Zone Team are seeing more co-operation from younger generations on issues like wetlands and they are starting to influence decisions, creating potential to push the message through various channels.

G Solomon suggested a presentation be arranged from John Preece (Wetlands Ecologist who completed an inventory of Kaikōura wetlands in 2015) to talk about the potential options for farmers who have wetlands on their properties. K Heays noted that several shed talks have been planned for the region. G Solomon said that while she understands the economic benefits, she would like to see more words around "healing the land" in the committee's communications, and a stronger focus on cultural values, and on the current national and global changes. T Howard suggested following up with John, and perhaps in time coordinate a joint promotion between ECan, KWZC, Hutton's Shearwater, and any other local organisations with an interest.

R Roche requested attention to Lyell creek work (P.5, point 4) and particularly the action on the damaged esplanade area. He stressed the importance not to let this get away and has asked for a full report on the progress with the investigation. K Heays noted that Kaikōura Council was investigating, full details of what happened are yet unknown.

**Action:** To follow up on update on the report with Kaikōura Council (K Hunt).

M Griffin noted that while a biodiversity focus was intended for the current meeting, K Hunt (KDC) was unable to make it today, so this briefing has been moved to the KWZC Meeting in May 2019.

G Solomon on the topic of biodiversity; she is of the opinion that a full-time position with a focus on biodiversity is required for the region. K Heays has an update on this at later point in the meeting.

R Roche enquired whether the 3 Waters update report (P.6-7) in the agenda is current, it was confirmed that it is by M Griffin. R Roche noted that this report is not up to date with the current Boil Water Notice for the Kaikōura Town water supply and

requested the most recent, updated information. T Sonal and G Solomon expressed their frustration over the KDC communications around the Boil Water Notice publicly and directly with the KWZC. In particular, they were frustrated with the timeliness of information and sharing of new information.

G Solomon noted that information has been requested from KDC multiple times but feels that zone committee is not kept up to date sufficiently. With lack of information at hand, members of the zone committee are under unnecessary amount of stress having to answer the public's questions and forced to have difficult, defensive conversations rather than ones of purely informative nature.

T Sonal noted that the initial Communications around the BWN should have come out earlier and zone committee members should have been provided more information from the start to be able to answer certain questions, while R Roche would like to have seen a further report from the initial BWN containing further details. Seeing this information flow between KDC and zone committee appears to be a recurring issue, G Solomon suggested writing to KDC CEO to notify her of the need for more and better information in order to work together better with KDC, and the committee's expectation on updates from KDC.

*Note: Apologies for lateness from Councillors T Blunt and C Harnett (arrive 1:25pm).*

On the BWN topic, T Blunt recommended going back to KDC Communications team to clarify whether BWN is mandatory or merely precautionary and noted that lack of response/information may be due to KDC employees being tied up with Annual Report.

T Blunt provided the committee with a brief update on the BWN; clarifying additional work needs to be finished before further reports can be issued. In terms of coordinating information to the committee, C Harnett suggested requesting Council for a direct communications line so as to avoid being reliant on public notices or Councillors to provide updates. Amy Scott-Thomas (KDC) will speak with KDC Communications & Engagement Manager to straighten communication levels with the zone committee directly. A question was raised by T Sonal regarding informing local businesses of the current BWN. Amy Scott-Thomas (KDC) confirmed an email has gone out directly to local businesses and the email database has been updated in the second week of the BWN. T Howard raised concerns around the business database with regards to accommodation providers, as some Airbnb's may be excluded even though they are housing visitors. It was confirmed that the public Comms around the BWN are currently up-to-date.

In concluding this discussion, the following points were confirmed:

- ⇒ To follow up with KDC CEO and Communications & Engagement Manager to set up direct communications between KDC and the zone committee.
- ⇒ A discussion is required around the appropriateness of KDC reports being provided to councillors also being shared with Zone Committee members where they pertain to freshwater management.
- ⇒ An report to update WZC on any updated information with regard to the BWN is required by the next Zone Committee meeting in May.

N McArthur shared that the Hutton's Shearwater Trust has had a fantastic response this year and would like to thank all that have been involved.

*Makarini Rupene arrives 1.40pm.*

Given the time taken on matters arising from the previous meeting T Howard confirmed the committee would defer Te Reo practice to the next meeting.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

There were no public in attendance at this meeting.

### **3. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### **4. MAHINGA KAI VALUES – BRIEFING**

Makarini Rupene, ECan Cultural Land Management Advisor for the Kaikōura Region, provided the committee with an update on his role, how this came about and what he sets out to achieve in the district. The aim is to educate local land owners and farmers on mahinga kai values and the potential on local farms to tie in a life force element for biodiversity through springs, wetlands, rivers as well as drains.

Makarini spoke of the potential to incorporate mahinga kai values in good management practices as ways to mitigate declining native fish and plant species, native flora and fauna, and improve water quality. He is currently working with approximately 21 local farmers; after the first year solely in Kaikōura he will continue in other regions. The focus is on education through shed talks, presentations, school visits and farm site visits. There is potential for the zone committee to stress the importance of whakapapa and building relationships in order to improve social wellbeing, and ecological as well as economic value.

#### **5. 2019 WORK PROGRAMME – REVIEW**

Given the time spent on other items, this workshop was moved to the end of the meeting with M Griffin providing a short overview of the programme. It was agreed for M Griffin to provide a draft for review at the May zone committee meeting.

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING – review**

*This item was moved forward in the meeting agenda*

The ECan Communications team is working with the aim to continuously keep the conversation going on what the Zone Committee is doing over various communications channels. Tania has been liaising with Adele (KK Star) to get a free monthly update posted in the Kaikōura Star.

With regards to the Newsletter, the suggestion was made to continue with alternating columns from the Chair (Ted) and Zone Manager (Kevin); another option is a post update from a different Committee member each time, following the example of the

Banks Peninsula Zone Committee.

Within the committee, it is to be reconfirmed or determined what the preferred method is to determine themes and topics for future stories. Focus should be on relevance, which can possibly be tied in with contemporary issues (such as the BWN) and solutions (nitrate probes), or seasonal changes.

A success story that was recently shared was the spawning of īnanga in the Waikōau / Lyell Creek, published in today's Kaikōura Star.

For news stories, new ways are to be explored to reach a wider audience by use of a variety of channels and used friendly formats. The local paper has a strong presence in the community, though a relatively small audience due to its lack of online presence. The suggestion was made for online posts to be shared through the website, E-Newsletters and other zones. Preferably the articles are not in PDF format as these are generally regarded as less user-friendly.

Control and development of local stories is preferred to remain with local employees, so there is a strong reliance on zone committee members to produce and share material with Communications in order to develop and share stories across platforms. The topics are to be decided on within the committee itself; there is generally better engagement through social media, keeping it short and sweet with use of photos and video footage. Aside from relevance to local community, there is a preferred focus on positive elements.

Topics that were suggested for the coming newsletter were Mahinga Kai, Boil Water Notices, water quality testing, and drinking water targets, zone committee values and targets, forward planning strategy.

C Harnett called for a mini-engagement strategy for the Zone Committee, linking with other organisations and regions, as well as social media statistics, in order to engage more with youth and produce stories targeting Kaikōura audiences specifically.

In concluding this discussion, the following points were confirmed:

→ T Butterfield will send through figures around media engagement (though ECan audience mostly Christchurch based).

→ Following Cheviot's example, it was suggested a youth hui in the district be revisited, potentially reaching out through other organisations such as Te Korowai, Hutton's Shearwater Trust. The aim would be to invite youth to attend and share their thoughts and aspirations.

*3:06pm- Afternoon tea break.*

## **7. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Verbal zone team updates – K Heays (ECan)**

1. Team numbers are as good as intact in the local ECan office, despite some recent changes. The team is looking to make the contract position of Project Delivery Officer permanent, with a strong biodiversity focus. T Sonal noted that she is of the opinion that the local ECan office should employ a permanent full time Biodiversity Officer.

K Heays clarified that the void that was left with team members departing has been filled with contract role that is to be made permanent. C Armour's replacement, as Land Management Advisor, will be starting soon. K Heays will be able to confirm the identity of the recruit at the May meeting, but confirmed it will be a local. G Solomon suggested an introduction of new staff members through Comms channels.

2. H Melville is continuing work in wetland restoration area. The Hāpuku site holds huge ecological value, and future potential as a tourist attraction.
3. The Kaikōura Zone team recently hosted the Waimakariri and Hurunui Zone teams and took them out to wetlands, displaying the work that has been done and sharing knowledge and skills. The other zones were impressed with the work carried out and the ways it has been done. The Kaikōura Zone team continues to be exemplar in the supportive and cooperative relationship they have with the local zone committee.
4. In the Mahinga Kai sphere, the goals set out are under increased time pressure which is a potential threat to the quality of the work. The aim is to revisit plans and project in the future. G Solomon stressed the importance of Comms around Mahinga Kai and the potential for the zone committee to work with Comms in sharing these values. T Blunt noted the conversations around Mahinga Kai with local farmers might have been helped by acknowledging the previous work on these values (though under different terminology) some of these farmers had undertaken. Alongside the strong role models and advocates for Mahinga Kai values in the current ECan employees, it will be helpful for committee members to back the values and show clear direction on how to move forward with these issues and values.
5. Rob Hubbard has a lot of work taken up by NCTIR and is, therefore, cutting back on other work such as dairy farm visits. Kevin and Rachel are first response officers in the local ECan office.
6. Kaikōura ECan office will be working on its regionally significant consents in the coming year.

#### **Update on nitrate probes project – T Blunt**

T Blunt provided the committee with an update on the nitrate probes project, including (unconfirmed) cost estimates and the potential benefits of the project in water monitoring and to individual farmers. He is currently awaiting a more substantial report from Lincoln Agritech. The committee wishes to see a clearer overview of money available and possible benefits and outcomes of the probes before making any decisions.

#### **Items of Urgent Business: (announced urgent business)**

G Solomon would like to use opportunity to start a gentle conversation around purpose and meaning of mātaítai; assisting in terms of understanding and the role the zone committee can have in contributing to this. It was suggested that the WZC could play a central role in facilitating these talks, including local farmers, community members, Rūnanga and MPI.

Motion– moved by R Roche, seconded G Solomon.

To email Rose Grimley (MPI) to organise a local presentation on freshwater mātaítai; and to contact Kaikōura Rūnanga to request representation at this presentation.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 1650.***