

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2019 AT KAIKŌURA MEMORIAL HALL.

PRESENT: T Howard (Chair), J Murray, N McArthur, T Sonal, Councillor S Lowndes, R Roche, T Blunt.

IN ATTENDANCE: M Griffin, C Armour, S Palmer, H Melville (Environment Canterbury), J Hoggard (Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project), D Marris (Amuri Helicopters), K Whitwell, A Brown (Kaikōura District Council)

APOLOGIES: G Solomon, Councillor C Harnett, A Boyd, K Heays

Moved by R Roche, seconded by S Lowndes and resolved that apologies be accepted.

KARAKIA

1. URGENT BUSINESS

N McArthur will discuss Hutton's Shearwater.

CONFIRMAITON OF MINUTES 7 NOVEMBER 2018

T Sonal noted under item 4 she made the point she felt she was not in a good position to present a view to the BRIDGE Project on the river definition without more material presented to the committee on local Kaikōura rivers. She also felt the images provided for the committee to assist the discussion should have been local rivers.

Moved by T Sonal, seconded N McArthur and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

TE REO PRACTICE

Te Reo practice led by R Roche.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK

S Palmer and D Marris (Amuri Helicopters) took the opportunity to update the committee on the Clarence Project. There has been significant delay this season partly due to J Hill resigning and no replacement to co-ordinate the project since then. This year to date \$2000 from the IMS fund has been spent, however this will step up in the next six weeks. D Marris used Google Earth to illustrate the work that has taken place to date in the four different areas. Collaboration with DOC, LINZ and most landowners has been very successful to date. S Palmer noted the spread of the broom gall mite has been very prevalent though so far not much die back in the broom. They have created 21 survey points to monitor ongoing spread through photographs.

D Marris talked though the spray options with a Squirrel depending on the conditions which include full boom, half boom and a fire hose which makes it easier to target

individual bushes getting good coverage without collateral damage. S Palmer noted there have been some complaints from rafters about collateral damage, where native broom has been inadvertently sprayed, and outlined the process when complaints are received to see what went wrong on a case by case basis and how things could be improved. R Roche questioned if this was an opportunity to get the rafters on board and assist with the project, M Griffin noted they have offered to do this in the past.

R Roche asked if we need another comms piece about this project, however, S Palmer would like to wait and do more work in area 1 first. Over the next two-three weeks they are looking to control isolated buddleia based on what is contained in M Harding's report. S Palmer wants to keep some IMS money aside for gorse and broom which might not be that high a priority in M Harding's report but has been the glue to the collaborative nature of this project.

N McArthur asked about Barberry in the catchment as N McArthur is concerned about the spread, S Palmer asked for details on how much, where and what contributions landowners would be willing to make, he will touch base with N McArthur about this. J Murray commented in area 1, where there isn't much gorse and broom. It would be best to control when it is in flower, D Marris thought they were pretty experienced spotting the isolated gorse and broom in the riverbed now. S Palmer noted control work stops at the old Glen Alton bridge.

The committee discussed M Harding's report which will be available to the committee when M Harding comes to present at the May meeting.

S Palmer finished by noting landowner buy in is increasing with this project and they are making great progress, he thanked the committee for its support. M Griffin outlined his plan to coordinate a Clarence meeting for May with M Harding and M Bell providing updates and hopefully S Palmer and D Marris will be able to attend too. The committee thanked S Palmer for his contribution to this project.

S Palmer also noted he manages the Canterbury wilding conifer programme for the region. The whole country is split into management units which this area inside the Kaikōura management unit, which is currently not an active management unit. The Canterbury budget is spent based on the MPI management units. T Howard outlined the risk of spread into the Kowhai. S Palmer outlined he might have a small amount of Environment Canterbury funding to put to this, but it wouldn't be eligible for the MPI funding as it isn't in an priority management unit. S Palmer suggested using Environment Canterbury funding to assist with this and H Melville outlined an application he is making along with B Dunnett to DOC funding to assist with wilding conifer control in the Kowhai. D Marris noted the LINZ wilding conifer information system website and encouraged the committee to look it up.

Link:<https://www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/using-crown-property/biosecurity/control-programmes/wilding-conifer-information-system>

3. KAIKŌURA ZONE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairperson nomination of T Howard – moved by J Murray and seconded T Sonal and resolved that T Howard continue as Chairperson.

Deputy chairperson nomination of G Solomon – moved by T Sonal and seconded R Roche and resolved that G Solomon continue as Deputy Chairperson.

Regional representative nomination of T Howard – moved by J Murray and seconded R Roche and resolved that T Howard continue as Regional representative.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES

A Summary of the Regional Committee meeting was provided in the papers.

C Armour and H Melville provided updates from the Zone Team which covered the following points:

Lyell Creek work programme

- Two of three riffles have been installed in the lower Lyell now both are functioning well and holding in place.
- Shane Orchard (Canterbury University) has found some Inanga spawning site on the Lower Lyell H Melville is going to work with him to enhance the area visually without any detrimental effect on spawning habitat.
- Damage has occurred to the Youth Council planting site on esplanade reserve land behind Beach Road, the youth council are considering talking to the residents in the houses behind this site to see why they wanted to clear the plantings, what they would like to see in the future and how they would like to assist. K Whitewell suggested KDC could include a paragraph about this in Winston's column in the Star. The committee wanted to open the discussion up with KDC regarding maintenance or these plantings and next steps for this area.
- The Love the Lyell Group are very disappointed about the damage but are still working on an autumn community planting day likely May and likely on the Warren's Creek wetland.

Wetland work programme

- H Melville showed pictures of the progress on Ngari wetland (Warrens Creek) where willow control and fencing has started, H Melville noted there is lots of native understory regeneration.
- The second stage of weed control work is starting next week in Hāpuku wetland which is spread over three landowners.
- C Armour outlined the zone team is working on a wider wetland strategy for the community to help outline the differences between wet pasture and wetland and what regional rules allow for in wetlands.
- C Armour noted the three-year SFF project which has just been announced – managing wetlands as farm assets.
- The committee discussed including this topic in their next newsletter.

Plan Change 5 of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

- C Armour outlined this was made operative start of February, this plan changes who needs a consent to farm and changes what is required in a FEP.
- The first of M Rupene mahinga kai shed talks is happening tomorrow, letting farmers know what is required of them now regarding mahinga kai under PC5.

Hill Country Erosion Fund

- Environment Canterbury has been awarded \$1.3 million to erosion control activities in the Kaikōura and Hurunui hill country, this is over four years with the intention to build long-term Environment Canterbury and landowner erosion control capabilities. The aim is to support soil conservation projects that will reduce the risk of accelerated erosion in the Hurunui and Kaikōura hill country and the subsequent sediment that ends up in waterways. Funding is available to identify and treat erosion-prone land activities including farm mapping; poplar poles; and land retirement and assisted reversion.

Northern area biodiversity officer

- A biodiversity officer has been recruited for the northern area which covers Waimakariri, Hurunui and Kaikōura, as yet it is unclear how much time the Kaikōura Zone will see from this Biodiversity officer. The committee requested looking closely at biodiversity in the April meeting and would like a timeline from Environment Canterbury of when there will be a biodiversity officer for the zone. The committee would also like invite Kate Hunt along to meeting in April.

Moved – J Murray and seconded R Roche, that the Kaikōura Zone Biodiversity and Land Management Advisor roles be filled as soon as is possible.

Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project update

- J Hoggard delivered a PowerPoint presentation to refresh the committee on what the KPRP project is; the main work streams of the project; what has been achieved to date; and what is coming up next. The committee discussed ensuring the ongoing elements of work of the KPRP is picked up after June 2020 which is when the project will finish. T Blunt commented the project has been well received by farmers and he has seen an uplift in the farming community and mental health recovery.
- T Blunt outlined his concerns about the use of Overseer as a nutrient budget tool. He informed the committee of a company making probes that can be used in 50mm bores to log nitrate concentrations, costing \$5K each. T Blunt would like to see a number of these purchased to more accurately monitor nitrates on the Kaikōura Plains and potentially pin point specifically where nitrates are coming from. J Murray noted the importance of ensuring the probes are measuring the same aquifer rather than different lenses. T Howard noted the issue behind the nutrient red zone is the surface water quality rather than the groundwater quality and questioned if the probes would work in surface water too. The committee would like to hear more about this topic and discussed inviting Blair Miller along to a committee meeting possibly in conjunction with the KPRP Governance Group. The committee discussed where funding could come from and options included the KPRP or the committee's \$100K on the ground funding.

Three Waters

- The Committee was pleased the three waters update had been included in the agenda but still had some questions and would still like C Gregory (KDC Asset Manager) to attend a meeting and be available to answer questions. T Blunt clarified for the committee that KDC have requested The Ministry of Health supply individual residences in the East Coast Supply Scheme with water treatment capabilities to avoid requiring the whole supply being chlorinated as the majority of water is used by stock.
- T Sonal questioned if the committee could also have water quality monitoring results included regularly in the agenda papers and would like the water quality scientist to give an update at a meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT briefing

M Griffin documented the committee's suggestions for changes to the annual report which were then emailed during the meeting afternoon tea break for inclusion in the ECan Council agenda papers.

2019 WORK PROGRAMME

Due to time constraints M Griffin will compile the committee's discussion so far on work programme priorities for 2019 and will then send this out to the committee next week for comments. R Roche highlighted he wanted biodiversity as a focus, M Griffin noted April's meeting would focus on biodiversity.

COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING

Due to time constraints this item will be moved to the April meeting agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

N McArthur told the committee the fledgling season for Hutton's Shearwater has begun and for committee members to watch for crash landed birds who have become disorientated by lights. Any crashed birds can be taken to the Hutton's Hub at 115 Ludstone Road. T Blunt updated the committee that KDC has found additional funding to change all street light bulbs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1614.

Actions –

- Invite Kate Hunt along to April Biodiversity focus meeting
- IMS questions – how much left for this year? If funding is pre-allocated can it be rolled over into next financial year?
- Arrange for B Miller (Lincoln Agritech) to attend a joint meeting with ZC and KPRP to discuss nitrate probe
- Send out draft 2019 work programme to zone committee.