

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



Meeting Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

Date and Time 15 July 2019, 2.04pm

Venue Amberley Council Chambers

Agenda <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/find/how-the-council-works/meetings>

Members Present John Faulkner (Chair), Mayor Winton Dalley, Cr Vince Daly, Josh Dondertman, Michele Hawke, Ken Hughey, James McCone, Julia McLean, John Preece, Cr Cynthia Roberts, and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

In Attendance

Environment Canterbury (ECan) – Ian Whitehouse (Zone Facilitator), Stephen Bragg, Marco Cataloni, Andrew Parrish, Angus McLeod, Irai Weepu, and Lyn Carmichael

Hurunui District Council – Cr Nicky Anderson, Hamish Dobbie, Judith Batchelor, Holly Fitzgerald.

Department of Conservation – John Benn and Daniel Kimber

Amuri Irrigation – David Croft

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) – Lisa Mackenzie

Member of Public – Shaun Lissington, Jamie McFadden and Jane Demeter

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 It was suggested that all Zone Committee members work on a mihi in both Te Reo Māori and English.

Apologies Makarini Rupene.
THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.
Faulkner/McLean

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declarations Members conflict of interest declarations were discussed.

It was noted that HDC like to work on the side of caution with dealing with a perceived conflict of interest and declare any possible links to interests even if not on a committee as a decision maker.

A declaration of conflict of interest has to be declared by the individual only.

It was discussed that Councillors interests lie with the CEO, and the HDC mayor and councillors are available on the HDC Website. It was suggested that these should be included in the table at the front of the agenda for clarity.

John Faulkner noted that he is a member of Federated Farmers.

Urgent Business

John Faulkner, on behalf of the Zone Committee, thanked HDC staff for the letter of support published on supporting collaboration with the Zone Committee.

Minutes

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2019 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 6, Matters Arising, Public Contribution, add 'AIC' to the end of the heading.
- Page 7, Item 2, fix spelling of Kaitiakitanga.
- Page 8, Item 5, Change John Preece name to Mayor Winton Dalley.
- Page 8, Item 7, third paragraph, second sentence, add 'be' between 'would **be** prudent...'

McLean/Tirikatene-Nash

CARRIED

Matters Arising/Action List:*Item 3, Progressing the Zone Committees Wetland Discussions and Decisions (Page 7)*

It was reported that Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) are happy to meet and discuss the value of wetlands. A meeting between the Enhancement Package Working Party and AIC has yet to happen due to scheduling issues.

Andrew Parrish, ECan, provided an update on the kōrerorero between Rūnanga o Kaikōura and the Hurunui-Waiaiu Zone Committee. Andrew has been liaising with Kaikōura Rūnanga whose view is that the kōrerorero was a positive experience, and they would like to have another meeting on the Takahanga Marae.

The Rūnanga are looking into appointing a Coordinator due to the multiple work streams the Rūnanga are undertaking. The Rūnanga has also prioritised its workload which has resulted in the enhancement package being lower on the list. Andrew Parrish noted that there are three different options available to the Zone Committee;

- 1) Rūnanga accept package the way it is, it is supported by the Zone Committee and gets presented as a recommendation to ECan for the final decision;
- 2) Rūnanga says no, and the Zone Committee goes ahead anyway presenting the package as a recommendation to ECan; or
- 3) Changes be made to the Enhancement Package to achieve the outcomes that Rūnanga are looking for. These include an enhanced kaitiaki position, conversations to move ahead with AIC as discussed at the hui, and a further hui organised at Takahanga Marae between the Zone Committee and the Rūnanga.

Shaun Lissington (dairy farmer) expressed his concern that the hui at the Takahanga Marae was not recorded in the minutes. It was explained that the hui was between the Zone Committee and the Rūnanga to understand the issues around the report completed by MKT. This report has morphed into something other than a Cultural Impact Assessment.

David Croft, AIC, noted that AIC is fully obligated and want to pursue this package, which is why they voluntarily raised minimum flows. He reported that they fully appreciate that there is another discussion to be had on the package, but do not want to detract from the fact that they are still doing something. He

feels that there has been successful engagement with Rūnanga and the Zone Committee.

Action Sheet Updates

See action sheet for all updates.

1. Public Contribution

Nil.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Mitigating Climate Change: The Pohatu/Flea Bay Story

Frances and Shireen Helps

Frances and Shireen Helps spoke to the Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee on their property in Pohatu/Flea Bay and how they have used it to protect and enhance biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

They noted the following:

- The farm is now back up to 20% of the original forest cover. Some of the farm was given to the Crown, as the Helps could not afford to maintain the remnant red beech forest on it.
 - The farm is geared towards tourism as 40% of the property is in native bush, which means it is not viable to run as a profitable livestock farm. There are walks on their farm and an opportunity to have a guided tour of the penguin colony.
 - There are plenty of other landowners in the area doing similar things but do not advertise it.
 - It was asked what the barriers to protecting and enhancing biodiversity were and it was noted that the biggest barrier is the cost of resource consents to do some of the works.
 - The Zone Committee thanked the Helps for their informative presentation and for taking the time to come to speak to them.
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Break

The meeting adjourned for a break at 3.32pm and reconvened at 3.39pm.

3. Significant Natural Areas – To Map, or Not to Map?

Liz White and Andrew Maclennan, Incite Limited

Liz White and Andrew Maclennan, Incite Limited, spoke to the Zone Committee on the presentation ‘Significant Natural Areas – to map, or not to map?’

Both the Hurunui and Marlborough District Council’s have undertaken a different approach to the protection of significant natural areas in their respective District Plans. This approach is focussing on more holistic management regimes supported by landowners that look at all threats to biodiversity in an integrated way.

The Hurunui has used a ‘Biodiversity Management Plan’ as a consenting pathway where significant areas are identified and protected as part of the overall management and forward planning for a landholding.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- The Hurunui District Plan has been operative for a year and no applications have been received for a Biodiversity Management Plan. Officers are encouraging landowners to follow this holistic approach.
 - The Marlborough District Councils proposed Marlborough Resource Management Plan has been challenged via submissions and it is still to go through a hearings panel.
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- It was discussed that the Marlborough approach encourages landowners to improve biodiversity on their land, which is more than what is statutorily required. The regulatory approach will potentially protect what is already there, but not improve on it.
 - It was queried as to how the Hurunui District Council measures success from this initiative. Whilst it is difficult to measure the success, part of the feedback to Council has been the improvement in communication with landowners and removal of barriers to biodiversity improvement.

The Zone Committee thanked Liz and Andrew for their presentation and time.

4. Progressing the committees wetlands discussions
Ian Whitehouse,
ECan

The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee discussed the setting up of a wetlands working group and which topics to focus on.

The Zone Committee confirmed that the wetland topics it wishes to make recommendations on are:

- Working with the willing;
- Removing barriers and providing incentives for landowners to protect and improve wetlands;
- Creating or enhancing wetlands to help with nutrient management;
- Education and communication to help landowners value and manage wetlands; and
- Developing a 'flagship' wetland project.

4. Proposed next steps to progress the Zone Committee's wetlands discussions and recommendations.

Discussion was held and the following noted:

- It was discussed that the working group be made up of Committee members to maintain control of the direction of the working party but that consultation with outside parties be a part of the groups 'working with the willing'.
- It was noted that the recent seminar held by the Hurunui Biodiversity Group was well attended.

Jamie McFadden noted that the Hurunui Biodiversity Group's intention is to be landowner driven with administration support from Kate Valley Landfill. The focus is to encourage biodiversity. They have identified a number of different areas to work on including a wetlands field day scheduled for the Spring.

The Group are adamant they would like to keep away from anything political, including ECan and HDC, to remain impartial and encourage landowner participation.

The Zone Committee would like to foster a relationship with the Hurunui Biodiversity Group and asked if the Group would consider this. Jamie noted that there has not been a lot of discussion around who the group would engage with as they have been focused on field day content.

Jamie stated that it is hard to get engagement with landowners while wetland mapping and riverbed lines issues are sitting in the background. He feels that true engagement cannot happen until that fear is gone.

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- It was discussed that the best way for the Zone Committee to help is to let landowners get on with the good work they are already doing and focus on making the process, in a regulatory sense, easy for landowners. Any potential wetlands working group would focus on understanding the barriers and incentives to wetland protection and enhancement.
 - It was requested that all references to ‘farmers’ be changed to ‘Landowner’ for future reports.

The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee agreed to establish a Wetland Working Group to work with external stakeholders to identify barriers and incentives to wetland protection and enhancement and how these might be addressed.

Zone Committee members to form this group are John Preece, Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash, Josh Dondertman, and Michele Hawke.

5. Zone Committee Wetland Field Trip

The Zone Committee agreed to postpone the field trip to the various wetlands scheduled for September and have a formal meeting instead. Zone Committee members expressed interest in attending the Hurunui Biodiversity Group October field day on wetlands. Jamie McFadden to confirm day and place.

6 Proposed Zone Committee Wetlands Communication

The draft communication on the wetlands was discussed. It was suggested that the focus be more on what is happening now rather than what has happened in the past. Make it informative, optimistic and positive.

Break

The meeting adjourned for a break at 5.00pm and reconvened at 5.13pm.

5. Drinking water in the Hurunui Zone

Hamish Dobbie,
CEO, HDC

Hamish Dobbie, HDC CEO, spoke to the committee on the state of the drinking water in the Hurunui Zone.

HDC protozoal compliance will be completed by 2026 at a projected cost of approximately \$20 million. Operating costs for running the treatment plants are high.

There have been discussions on amalgamating the supply of water to be able to afford the water upgrades the Government proposes. The cost of water per litre would decrease in the Hurunui District and increase slightly in Christchurch if this was to eventuate. The downside is that Christchurch may not wish to pay for an upgrade to water in the Hurunui.

The Hurunui District Council’s stance is that they can afford it and the government want to help, then funding would be ideal.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- It was discussed that protozoa usual comes through the raw water supply. Risky supplies are the most expensive to treat.
 - The \$20 million will go towards different levels of filtration systems for each intake. Some schemes will need to try to find some deep water, which brings with it an increase in manganese, lime and hardness amongst others.
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- The backflow prevention policy is being consulted on at the moment which will deal with any potential water quality issues.
 - Water restrictions on the Ashley River are an ongoing issue.

The Zone Committee thanked Hamish Dobbie for his presentation.

6. Next Steps following Takahanga hui
Ian Whitehouse,
ECan

Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash noted that it meant a lot to him that everyone came to the hui and he acknowledged those who attended, who spoke and those who were unable to.

7. Chatterton River Restoration Project
Nicola Kirby,
Planner, HDC

Nicola Kirby, Planner, spoke to a presentation on the Chatterton River Restoration Project.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- It was noted that this would be an excellent template to promote to catchment groups or individual landowners to show what can be done on a stretch of river.
 - This project has been achieved via external funding.
 - The restoration project is all on public land.
 - This work will also provide an important link between the St James Walkway and the Heartland Trail.
 - The group are taking the lead from experts in pest control and erosion control. Pest control to begin in the August.
 - The Zone Committee were impressed with the project and wished to pass on its commendation. The Zone Committee would be interested in hearing more updates when they become available.
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8. Update on Regional Committee
Mayor Winton
Dalley and John
Preece

Nil.

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

- Ken Hughey spoke to the full day meeting of Zone Committee chairs and deputy chairs. 17 people attended and all of the Zone Committees were represented.

Ken reported that it was a good day and a great chance to network. One of the sessions was a free and frank discussion around Zone Committee and ECan relationships, and consequently morphed into one between District Councils as well. The discussion was helpful and showed that all Zone Committees have challenges.

Ken noted that some Zone Committee have notebooks with relevant Māori phrases and words. Stephen Bragg noted that they have been looking at this and are hoping to roll one out for this Zone Committee, it just needs to be customised.

Ken posed the question of “would the district be better off now if there was no Zone Committee? Or is the district better off from having the Zone Committee?” for the Zone Committee to consider.

- A number of Zone Committee members attended the Braided River Seminar.

This day showcased that ECan is engaged in a number of projects and that landowners are starting to realise that they have to be pragmatic to make positive changes.

Cr Roberts noted that there were presentations on braided rivers in which ECan received some positive accolades. Cr Roberts to approach the presenters to see if they could present to the Zone Committee.

It was noted that presenters did not report on the fact that the work on the rivers has created good safe places to swim. There was a lot of good information at this seminar and it was a shame that there was not many landowners present.

- The decision to notify Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan Change 2 and 7 has been made. People have until 13 September to make submissions. The Hurunui Plan Change 1 has closed and submissions are up online.
- Applications to join the new ECan Biosecurity Advisory Groups are up online for another couple of weeks. These are open to the public and are paid positions. There has been good interest so far.

The original pest management groups will keep going for as long as needed to keep the intellectual property that would be otherwise lost.

- Post-quake farming project – 60-70 people attended a field day on the post-quake farming project held at Hawkswood.

10. Update from organisations wishing to speak

Nil.

11. Zone Facilitators Report

Ian Whitehouse,
ECan

Ian Whitehouse formally introduced the new Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee Zone facilitator, Lyn Carmichael. Lyn spoke on her history.

The following was noted:

- Annual Report - The 2018 annual reports from all ten Zone Committees and the Regional Committee have been completed. Ian Whitehouse to forward the link for the compilation of these reports to the Zone Committee.
- Update on the independent review – Ian Whitehouse is expecting a proposal from the consultant, John Hutchens, soon. Once information on the timetable and process has been received by Officers, it will be forwarded onto the Zone Committee.
- It was suggested that Zone Committee members read the summary of submissions on Plan Change 1 to the HWRRP.

Urgent Business

Nil

Meeting concluded

The meeting concluded at 6.24pm with a whakamoemiti from Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

Next meeting

Monday, 19 August 2019.
