**Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee held in the Council Chamber, Canterbury Regional Council, 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 1.00 pm**

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**Present**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Community Representatives: |  |
| Jane Demeter | Ross Millichamp |
| Vicky Southworth |  |
| Zone Representatives: |  |
| Carolyne Latham | Waimakariri |
| Les Wanhalla | Christchurch West-Melton |
| Ben Curry | Ashburton |
| Rima Herber | Banks Peninsula |
| Benita Wakefield | Selwyn-Waihora |
| Ted Howard | Kaikoura |
| Phil Driver | Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora |
| District Council Representatives: |  |
| Peter McIlraith | South Canterbury |
| Cr Nicole Reid | Mid Canterbury |
| Christchurch City Council | Cr Sara Templeton |
| Environment Canterbury: | Cr Claire McKay |
| Canterbury District Health Board Observer | Dr Alistair Humphrey |
| Central Government Observers | Murray Doak, MPI |

**Absent**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rebecca Clements | Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu |
| David Higgins | Ngā Rūnanga |
| Cole Groves | Community Representative |

**In attendance**

Frances and Shireen Helps (presenting item 5 of the agenda)

John Benn (Department of Conservation)

Environment Canterbury: Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Dann Olykan (Team Leader CWMS), Mel Renganathan (Principal Strategy Advisor), Anita Fulton (Senior Strategy Advisor), and Elaine Greaves (Committee Advisor).

**Welcome**

In the absence of Hugh Logan, Ross Millichamp agreed to chair the meeting. Attendees were invited to state which group or organisation they represented. Ben Curry advised this would be the last meeting he would attend on behalf of the Ashburton Zone Committee.

Councillor Sara Templeton opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Hugh Logan, Cr Peter Scott, Hugh Canard, Nick Vincent, John Preece, and Sandra Hampstead-Tipene.

2. **Conflicts of interest**

The Register of Interests was circulated to members for updating and the Chair asked new and current members to complete the form as appropriate.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting 9 April 2019**

*Refer pages 1 to 6 of the agenda*

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

**Confirmed the minutes of the Regional Water Management Committee meeting held on 9 April 2019, as a true and correct record.**

Ted Howard/Ben Curry

CARRIED

4. **Matters arising**

In relation to item 6.3 of the previous minutes (Infrastructure Working Group – Fish Screens) it was noted a letter had been sent to the Chair of Environment Canterbury requesting monitoring and compliance of existing fish screens to continue to be a priority for Environment Canterbury’s compliance and enforcement team.

Item 7 was taken at this time.

**Items for Discussion**

7. **Fit for Future – Priorities for the Regional Committee**

*Refer to page 11 of the agenda.*

Having accompanied the Chair to the recent Mayoral Forum,and in his absence, Caroline Hart (Senior Strategy Manager) provided an update on the Forum’s consideration of the Fit for Future Project.

The Mayoral Forum noted the CE Forum’s endorsement of the Regional Committee’s advice and very quickly approved the proposed CWMS goals for 2025 and 2030. It agreed that Environment Canterbury would work with territorial authorities, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, industry and community partners on a regional work programme to achieve the goals.

It was noted that some key pieces of work were still required around strategic implementation – in particular, leadership and accountability; resourcing and funding; monitoring, reporting and review; understanding and support for the CWMS.

Next steps included the Mayoral Forum requesting each council to formally note its decisions around the project, and Mayors Odey, Broughton and Dalley agreed to lead public communications on the project. Communication packages were being put together for that purpose and it was agreed good information needed to go out before the next annual plan processes of councils started.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

1. **Received the report back from the Mayoral Forum regarding the Fit for Future project.**

5. **Protecting & Enhancing Biodiversity and Mitigating & Adapting to Climate Change**

*Refer to pages 7 to 8 of the agenda*

Pohatu/Flea Bay land owners, Frances and Shireen Helps, apprised the Committee on what motivated them to protect and enhance their land environmentally; and the barriers they were now facing. Their conservation efforts over the past 30-40 years included protecting/regenerating native bush, waterways and indigenous species, monitoring and predator control programmes, including extensive penguin conservation. They were pursuing eight conservation goals to assist in achieving their ecological vision for their property by 2050.

Despite the many accolades received over the years, current legislation did not recognise their approach of balancing a working sheep and cattle farm with conservation values; and they now felt penalised by the government’s proposed Climate Change Bill. They believed that, rather than being penalised, they should be rewarded for their work by way of carbon credits for regenerating native forest, or exemptions for certain types of properties. It was agreed the Chair would draft a letter to Environment Canterbury on the regenerative plantings being undertaken by the Helps being acknowledged as part of the Government’s response to tackling Climate Change.

The Helps acknowledged Environment Canterbury’s supportive approach to their conservation work. They were also working closely with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust by trying to show other farmers on the Peninsula how to work the natural biodiversity on their properties. Many farmers wanted to do good conservation work but were frustrated with central government’s response to climate change by planting pines.

The timeliness of the presentation was noted for the whole of Canterbury. Committee members were encouraged to take the Helps’ concerns on board when working in their local communities, in the hope of achieving better conservation results.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

1. **Received the presentation and thanked the Helps for their leadership and commitment to the conservation of biodiversity in the Banks Peninsula area.**

6. **“Big Issues”**

*Refer to page 9 of the agenda*

The Committee held a group discussion and provided feedback around land owner incentives, including what could be considered as incentives and how/who incentivises land owners.

The Committee’s terms of reference stipulated it could provide advice to Environment Canterbury. However, it was suggested the Mayoral Forum may be an appropriate setting to provide advice to on ways the Committee considered land owners may be better supported and incentivised to do this important work; and overcome some of the regulatory boundaries that currently existed.

It was acknowledged that most farmers already undertook conservation work, as it was more intuitive for them – they wanted to take care of their land for future generations.

It was agreed that the Climate Change Bill was one area that could be used to promote incentives for land owners to enhance biodiversity on their properties.

The Committee also wished to consider providing advice about rules and policies affecting incentives for land owners when approaching implementation of the CWMS. Therefore, advice from this Committee about the approach to be considered (principles, empowerment, local communities, talking with local land owners) for implementation strategies was vital. Details of today’s discussion would be provided to members of the Committee.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee, by general consensus:**

1. **Agreed that the Chair condense the discussion and circulate it to members for feedback.**

8. **2019 Targets Report**

*Refer to page 13 of the agenda.*

Dann Olykan (Team Leader, Strategy & Planning) presented his report on the initial draft CWMS Targets 2019 Report; and provided key points and dates to the Committee.

The Committee provided feedback on the document, noting it was important not to lose sight of the projects that had yet to be started. It was considered the process was working, but we needed to be honest and report where we were not doing well, as well as success stories that could inspire others to make a difference.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee agreed by general consensus that:**

1. **Vicky Southworth, Ross Millichamp, Jane Demeter; together with Ted Howard and Phil Driver (via Skype) meet as a task group to provide feedback to Environment Canterbury on the draft in early July 2019.**

The meeting adjourned between 3.20-3.42pm.

9. **Update from Zone Committees**

*Refer to pages 15 to 20 of the agenda.*

Zone Committee representatives spoke briefly to written updates on issues for each area, including what was/was not working well, identifying regional trends and gaps; and highlighting areas where the Regional Committee could add value.

A request was made for a more evenly-balanced future approach to be adopted to include reporting on urban issues, as well as farming-related issues.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

1. **Received the Zone Committee updates.**

10. **Update from Central Government Agencies**

*Refer to pages 21 to 27 of the agenda.*

A written update from the Ministry for the Environment focused on the three key objectives of the Essential Freshwater Programme. Some of the issues being considered in the development of the Revised National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and proposed National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management were also highlighted, including a progress report on mapping of vulnerability, risks and pressures in each catchment across the country. Public consultation on this work would begin in late July 2019, subject to Cabinet approval.

John Benn from the Department of Conservation spoke to a written update on activities around the CWMS water zones over the previous two months; including a project to protect the Bignose by installing a fish barrier and then removing brown and rainbow trout from a small tributary of Fork Stream in the Mackenzie Basin.

Staff from DOC and Environment Canterbury would be meeting to discuss rules around weed clearance during drain maintenance that can leave eels stranded on banks.

A link had been provided to the recent budget announcements across all government agencies for information.

Murray Doak from Ministry of Primary Industries provided a verbal update on activities, highlighting recent budget allocations, including those earmarked for assisting farmers such as the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF). The SFF would consider projects from community level right through to pre-commercial projects.

**The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

1. **Received the update from central government agencies.**

11. **Facilitator’s Report**

*Refer pages 29 to 38 of the agenda.*

An update was provided on meeting and event dates for the remainder of the year; progress on issues previously raised, central government initiatives, Environment Canterbury’s decision to declare a climate change emergency; CWMS Regional Committee’s field trip on 14 May 2019 and recent media stores from across the region.

Ben Curry was thanked for his representation on the Regional Committee and contributions to the Ashburton Zone Committee over the last ten years. The Facilitator noted it had been a pleasure to work together on some tough issues and acknowledged the professionalism and willingness to listen that Ben had shown during some difficult conversations.

**The Canterbury Waste Management Strategy Regional Committee:**

1. **Received the Facilitator’s report as read.**

12. **General Business**

There was no general business for discussion.

13. **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13 August 2019.

**The meeting closed at 5.00pm with a karakia by Cr Sara Templeton.**

**Confirmed**

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_