

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



Meeting Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

Date and Time 19 August 2019, 3.00pm

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, Michele Hawke, Ken Hughey, Julia McLean, John Preece, Cr Cynthia Roberts, Makarini Rupene and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

In Attendance **Environment Canterbury (ECan)** – Lyn Carmichael (Zone Facilitator), Ian Whitehouse, Marco Cataloni, Andrew Parrish, Angus McLeod, Cr Clair McKay, Michael Bennett, Andrew Arps, Nadine Dommissie.

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

Department of Conservation – John Benn

Hurunui District Landcare Group – Josh Brown

Amuri Irrigation Company – David Croft, Andrew Barton, Alastair Rutherford,

Plain Irrigators Ltd – Neville Brightwell

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) – Lisa Mackenzie

Member of Public – Shaun Lissington, Garry Jackson, Dr Adam Forbes,

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 Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash invited each Zone Committee member to speak their mihi if they chose. He outlined the importance of a mihi and why standing while speaking gives the speakers words more weight and gravity.

Apologies James McCone, and Josh Dondertman.

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

Faulkner/McLean

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declarations John Faulkner declared his conflict of interest to being on the mitigation package working party with AIC and therefore has stepped down from that group. John noted that there are now only two members of that group and suggested that the Zone Committee considers adding more members when needed.

Urgent Business Nil.

Minutes

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2019 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 6, Matters Arising, second paragraph, add Kaikōura to read “Andrew has been liaising with **Kaikōura** Rūnanga whose ...”
- Page 6, Matters Arising, last paragraph, change word from **peruse** to **pursue**.
- Page 8, Item 3, first bullet point add to sentence “It was discussed that **the Marlborough** approach encourages...” and second bullet point add to sentence “It was queried as to how the **Hurunui District** Council measures success...”
- Page 10, Item 5, first bullet point, change sentence to read “The backflow prevention policy is being consulted on at the moment which will deal with any potential **water quality issues**.” and the second bullet point remove the end of the sentence to read “Water restrictions on the Ashley River are an ongoing issue.”
- Page 11, Item 9, first bullet point, second paragraph, change to read “Cr Roberts noted that there **were** presentations on braided river...”

McLean/Tirikatene-Nash

CARRIED

Matters Arising/Action List:

Conflict of Interests

It was agreed that the committee secretary updates the interest register with the HDC Mayor’s and both HDC and ECan councillors interests.

Item 9, Braided river presentations invite (Page 11)

Discussion was held around the presentations from the Braided River Seminar and it was noted that links to a number of the presentations are available on line and can be emailed to the committee.

Item 9, New ECan Biodiversity Groups (Page 11)

Cr Roberts updated the Zone Committee on the status of the Biodiversity advisory groups. ECan have deliberated on the candidates and will notify the successful candidates shortly.

Ecan have decided to have a preliminary first meeting before the elections and without the Council delegates to let the new members settle in. There are to be positions on each group for Territorial Authorities and Rūnanga Representatives.

Item 7, Chatterton River (Page 10)

It was asked if HDC Staff would be able to pass on the template for the Chatterton River project.

1. Public Contribution

Shaun Lissington, member of the public, queried the provisions for committee membership. He noted that he spoke to Josh Dondertman about the fact that he no longer lives in the District. It was noted that a member does not have to live in the district but must have a significant relationship with the zone.

Josh Dondertman was an apology from the meeting due to a work emergency. He had previously discussed his move and noted his enthusiasm to stay a member of the Zone Committee.

Whilst it was noted that there might be others interested in being on the committee, there will be a number of vacancies in the near future that will need filling.

The Zone Committee noted the concern.

2. Update from AIC on activities relating to implementing HWRRP minimum flows.

Ken Hughey and Andrew Barton

Declared conflict of interest due to his shareholding with AIC – John Faulkner handed over proceedings to the deputy chair and removed himself from the table.

Ken Hughey, Deputy Chair, introduced Andrew Barton who spoke to the report updating the Zone Committee on the progress of the enhancement package projects. A meeting with AIC and the mitigation working party has been undertaken. The result of the meeting was a request to AIC for an update.

Of note is the part of the report “Delays in the Zone Committee’s decision mean that the project timelines previously indicated will need to be revisited. Meanwhile, AIC are investing in securing the necessary resource consents for key projects, as indicated above, to be ready to progress these if the Zone Committee decide to support the enhancement package approach. Other components of the package cannot, or will not, be progressed until the Zone Committee makes a decision and a governance structure is established with mana whenua and key stakeholders.”

Andrew noted that their consents have been granted to enable poor quality water to be pumped from St Leonards and Lowry Drains and re-used for irrigation on neighbouring farms and /or via the main AIC pipelines.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

It was queried if AIC have looked further into ESR studies of using woodchips as a filtration system for removing nitrate from water. Andrew noted Lee Burberry from ESR is the lead in this study. Lee has been overseas for an extended period and has just returned so AIC are actively trying to get him to meet with AIC. Lee has previously looked at trialling this idea on the Pahau Pastures site, which is on the corner of St Leonards and the Pahau River.

3. Update from Wetlands Working Group.

Michele Hawke, and John Preece

John Faulkner resumed as chair.

The Wetlands Working Group members Michele Hawke and John Preece updated the Zone Committee on its first meeting today. It was noted that not every member was able to attend.

The following was established:

- Clarified the terms of reference,
- Organised a series of field trip opportunities,
- The first order of work for the group is identifying and addressing the barriers to wetland conservation and restoration and how to remove them. They are also to look into how incentives could be provided.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- It was noted that the Proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater is to be released soon and the ministers are open to suggestions on incentives towards wetland protection. The ministers wish to write policy to support these ideas.
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- It was queried if a timeline for the National Policy Statement Consultation has been published yet. A report on the timeline to come to the next Zone Committee meeting.
 - The group has brainstormed a couple of possibilities for a flagship project but have not settled on one yet. Cr Cynthia Roberts offered the help of the newly appointed wetlands expert with ECan. Mayor Winton Dalley suggested that the working group look into the project that is about to get underway on St Annes Lagoon/Matakopae. This project is 'spade ready' and fits into the immediate steps criteria.
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**4. Hurunui-Waiiau
Zone Committee's
2019
Communication
and Engagement
Plan**

John Faulkner spoke to the report on the proposed Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee's 2019 Communication and Engagement Plan.

Part of the communication plan is that following every Zone Committee meeting a 'topic' be identified for the months communication like the Chairs column.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- It was noted that it is a massive bit of work and congratulations on the team that put it together.
- It was noted that there is still a lot of the community who feel that community engagement from ECan was lacking which has resulted in a number of frustrated people. Fixing this relationship will take some time.
- It was noted that the intention of this plan is to flag what information the Zone Committee wishes to send out to the community. In order for this plan to be successful there will be more input and communication on the formation of agendas for Zone Committee meetings and an increase in information sharing between the two Councils.
- The Zone Committee discussed the messages to put out for this month and it was agreed that the AIC update, with AICs blessing, be used including a promotion of the collaborative model of the Zone Committee.
- It was noted for the Zone Committee information that if the newspapers decided that the media release from the Zone Committee is not news worthy that they may need to buy space.
- It was noted that the engagement aspect of the plan was lacking and needed further work. Engagement is the field trips, field days etc.

The Zone Committee approved the amendments made to the communication plan following the discussion at the Zone Committee workshop on 15 July.

It was agreed that further work is undertaken to formulate an engagement plan to accompany the communication plan.

Break

The meeting adjourned for a break 4.17pm and reconvened at 4.48pm. Zone Committee members spoke their farewells to Ian Whitehouse wishing him well for his future endeavours and thanking him for all of his advice and guidance over the years.

5. Amuri Irrigation – Farming at good management: audited farm environment plan results.

Alistair Rutherford

Alistair Rutherford spoke to a presentation on the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) Auditing Results for 2018/19.

AIC is now planning for the 2019/20 auditing round, which will include 85 audits. This means that all farms will have been audited at least once and the majority of farms will have had at least two FEP audits.

Effectively the Collective has met its objective of getting all farms to Good Management Practice (GMP) or on track to GMP.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- The mental health of landowners in the D or C Audit grade was discussed. AIC have acknowledged this very real issue and have a funded program available to help those farmers if needed. They know that every landowners situation is different and handle it accordingly.
- AIC are looking to move away from the auditing model and into a Nutrient Management Plan. This would encourage a drive towards efficiency and, if improvements are made, the nutrients are either included in the Collectives total load or gifted back to the river. AIC would be happy to explain this further if the Committee wished. It was requested that a future report be presented to the Zone Committee on this process.
- It was noted that they do not audit on mahinga kai as they meet schedule two of the FEP audit but they are aware this will be changing. They are open to discussion about it.

The Zone Committee thanked Alistair for the report, noting that the AIC gains over the past five years is commendable.

6. Hurunui District Landcare Group and Cheviot Irrigators

Josh Brown,
Hurunui District
Landcare Group

Josh Brown, the coordinator for both the Hurunui District Landcare Group and the Cheviot Irrigators group spoke to his reports.

Cheviot Irrigators Group

- The Cheviot Irrigators Group is run very light. They only report when they need to and is currently scheduled for December.
 - It is now an approved collective with 36 members.
 - All farms within the collective are expected to be audited by October 2019.
 - Two landowners who received a C grade in the first audit, have subsequently moved to a B grade in the second round of auditing.
 - The Spotswood Enhancement Project is being driven by the local landowners. It is an ambitious project but they are all keen to improve the biodiversity on their land. The Zone Committee expressed interest in this project.
 - They are currently undertaking a review of their Environment Management Strategy, as it was originally developed in 2016. This review will look to make it easier for small, low emitting farms. They are currently in discussions with ECan but hope to have it in place before November 2020. They are looking to include that farmers only need to update their nutrient budget when changes to the farm have been made. A yearly nutrient budget is an expensive exercise. The Zone Committee offered its assistance for supporting the new Environment Management Strategy.
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Hurunui District Landcare Group (HDLG)

Josh Brown spoke to the update from the HDLG on the status of the FEP audits and outlined their new purpose that resulted from a series of woolshed meetings with their members. The new purpose is to *“Empower our farmers, and wider community to address the change they are confronted with in order to build a resilient rural community.”*

As a result of this new purpose, a project proposal “Resilient Rural Communities” has been developed by HDLG. HDLG invited the Zone Committee to provide feedback and consider providing a letter of support for the proposed project, which would be used to support a funding application.

The following discussion was noted:

- The Zone Committee agreed that this was a great initiative and a good step to ensuring wellbeing for the community. It will provide a letter of support to the group. The Zone Committee also wishes to be more engaged in the project.
- It was noted that at one of the woolshed meetings, it was concerning the lack of knowledge from the people present of what is coming from Central Government. It is good to have groups like this who are prepared to help.

7. Update on Post-earthquake project

Mike Bennett, Post Quake-Farming Project

Update on Post-earthquake project

Michael Bennett spoke to a presentation updating the Zone Committee on the Post-earthquake project.

The project spans over Marlborough, Kaikōura and Hurunui and looks to *“help hill and high country farmers and their families look to the future of their land-based resource and how it can continue to sustain their livelihoods; through earthquake and beyond”*.

Michael asked the Zone Committee to note the upcoming events and welcomed the Committee to attend.

Update on the Indigenous Forestry Module

Dr Adam Forbes, Independent Forest Ecologist, presented to the committee on the update to the Indigenous Forestry Module. The module joined the Post-Quake Framing project in January 2019 and helps to advise landowners on the following:

- “This work will explore potential biodiversity and carbon sequestration gains if resources were available to support active management of native forest.
 - Regenerating native forest, native scrublands, and marginal land with ‘native’ values a significant portion of most farms, but presence of herbivores and local extinction of climax species severely hinders forest regeneration.
 - Strong community desire to work with native forest (as opposed to plantation pine forest) in ETS/1BT or other funding structures.
 - Opportunities are huge but transaction costs and regulatory structures remain a barrier to progress at scale.”
 - Dr Forbes visits each interested landowner and helps them to establish what areas they wish to reforest and the best way to do this.
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- There is a risk to native forestry from domestic and feral herbivores/pests that would be greatly solved with a 'neighbourhood pest control' program.
 - This service is free and available to any landowner who asks for it.

The Zone Committee thanked Michael and Adam for their presentations.

8. Update on Regional Committee
Mayor Winton Dalley and John Preece

Mayor Winton Dalley and John Preece attended the latest Regional Committee meeting and the following update was noted:

- The major focus was on assessing progress against the targets of the CWMS.
- A discussion was held on the climate change emergency declared by ECan and the climate change and ecological emergency declared by Christchurch City Council.
- A theme from various Zone Committees was how to encourage the inclusion of youth as this would be a positive influence.

The agenda can be found at: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/?Search=Regional%20Committee%20Agenda>

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

Zone Committee members provided the following updates on activities and meetings attended since the July Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee meeting. The following was noted:

- Cr Cynthia Roberts noted that the Biodiversity Strategy has been released. ECan are hosting a workshop on the 29 August to discuss it. This is to be a non-statutory guiding document to be used by a governance group.
 - John Preece attended a presentation by Dr Mike Joy on 'How we fail to protect freshwater in NZ'. He noted that it was a well attended talk. It was discussed if there was benefit to inviting him to present to the committee. It was noted that he has presented to the Committee in the past and it might be easier to forward the recording to the talk on. John Preece to forward on the link once available.
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10. Update from organisations wishing to speak

Nil.

11. Zone Facilitators Report
Lyn Carmichael,
ECan

Discussion was held on the Zone Facilitators report and the following was noted:

- The review of the Zone Committee is to be commenced in the coming weeks and the draft report will be available for the Zone Committee once completed.
- Discussion was held around LINZ Annual Control works programme for 2019/2020. LINZ presented to a Hurunui District Council meeting and the Council recommended that it consult with the Zone Committee as well.

The Zone Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to encourage LINZ to work with the local groups, DoC, ECan, Rūnanga and Landowners to ensure a best value for money outcome.

Urgent Business

Nil

Meeting concluded

The meeting concluded at 6.39pm with a whakamoemiti from Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

Next meeting

Monday, 16 September 2019.
