

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



Meeting Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

Date and Time 16 September 2019, 4.15pm

Venue Rotherham Hall

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, John Preece, Makarini Rupene and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

In Attendance

Environment Canterbury (ECan) – Lyn Carmichael (Zone Facilitator), Andrew Parrish, Andrew Arps, Leanne Iye, Stephen Bragg

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

Department of Conservation – John Benn and Daniel Kimber

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) – Kevin Gallagher

Amuri Irrigation Company – David Croft

Braided River Aid (BRaid) – Sonny Whitelaw

Member of Public – Garry Jackson

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 thanked John Faulkner for his advocacy of te reo Māori and incorporating it into the Zone Committee meetings, and thanked the Zone Committee for allowing the space for learning.

Nukuroa reminded members that the best way to learn te reo Māori is by continually practicing and speaking the language with feeling and sincerity. Practicing the Māori vowels ‘A, E, I, O, U’ as often as possible is vital to getting the correct pronunciation.

Apologies Cr Cynthia Roberts, Julia McLean, and Nadine Dommissie.

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

Faulkner/Hughey

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Declarations There were no announced conflict of interest declarations. It was noted that if any member is uncertain then they can seek clarity with the Zone Facilitator prior to the meeting.

Urgent Business*Farewells*

With the triennial elections for both HDC and ECan Councillors, it was acknowledged that Mayor Winton Dalley and Cr Cynthia Roberts will be leaving the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee as they will not be re-standing. James McCone has also resigned from the Zone Committee.

Thanks was given to John Faulkner for his years as chair. Ken Hughey spoke of his tremendous leadership especially during some difficult times and thanked him for his commitment and guidance.

Various Committee members spoke words of thanks to those leaving for their valuable contribution to the Zone Committee and acknowledged the individual qualities, intellect and diversity that they brought to the table.

Minutes

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2019 ARE CONFIRMED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- Page 5, In Attendance, spelling of Garry Jackson.
- Page 7, Item 3, last bullet point change to read “It was noted that the Proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater....protection. The ministers wish to write policy...”
- Page 8, Item 4, first bullet point, delete “Cr Cynthia Roberts”.
- Page 9, Item 5, Last paragraph, fix spelling of ‘Alistair’.

Faulkner/Hawke

CARRIED

Matters Arising/Action List:*Amuri Irrigation Company minimum flows*

It was updated that AIC has agreed to keep progressing the minimum flows as per the draft Enhancement Package and are considering bringing forward the increase in the Hurunui River minimum flow to 2025, in line with the plan review time.

Correspondence*Conflicts of Interests on the Zone Committee – Forest and Bird New Zealand*

Taken as read.

1. Public Contribution

Nil.

2. LINZ Annual Control Works Programme 2019-2020
Kevin Gallagher,
LINZ

Kevin Gallagher, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), spoke to a presentation on the proposed Annual Control Works Programme for 2019-2020.

LINZ Officers visited a Hurunui District Council meeting and as a result were asked to consult with the Zone Committee before commencing its pest programme. The Councillors felt that there would be better utilisation of the funding if the different stakeholders could work together.

Kevin Gallagher noted that LINZ officers will look at attending more Zone Committee meetings. Their lack of attendance in the past was due to the increase in their portfolio since the earthquakes.

They are working closely with ECan staff over the proposed program in order to work together where appropriate.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- Crack willows were discussed as a pest and threat to braided rivers that needs to be addressed. It was noted that the eradication of these depends on the landowners willingness to get rid of them.
- As a result of a query it was noted that known pest sites are checked yearly. If there are no instances of pests at that site for 10 years, it becomes an historic site and is then checked sporadically.

The Zone Committee thanked Kevin for his presentation.

**3. Update on
Environment
Canterbury
Biosecurity work
programme**
Leanne Lye

Leanne Lye, Biosecurity Team Leader, provided an overview of the Biosecurity work programme.

- The biosecurity team have an annual work programme to implement the Canterbury's Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP) this is a community driven document where public consultation is sought. The plan became operative in 2018 and covers the entire Canterbury region.
- Biosecurity work is undertaken to protect both biodiversity, social and economic values. Most of their work is pest led unlike Biodiversity which is site led.
- Biosecurity Advisory Groups are being established to ensure that strong connections between Environment Canterbury and the wider community are maintained.
- The Councillor working group have now made member appointments to the groups. Candidates will be advised of the outcome this week. An induction session is currently being developed for successful candidates and will take place prior to Christmas.
- There are currently only eight biosecurity team members including Leanne Lye, Biosecurity Team Leader, tasked with looking after three zones; Waimakariri, Kaikōura and Hurunui.
- In the Hurunui, the work programme centres on a number of different pests including some common ones like Nassella tussock, gorse, broom, and rabbits. Less known pests such as Chilean Needle grass, African Feather grass, Bur daisy, and Darwin's barberry are also a part of the work programme
- The majority of the teams work is still compliance focussed, protecting economic values. The last few months has been centred on gorse and broom in the district and as spring arrives, the focus will be on Nassella tussock. This grass has a wind-borne seed and land occupiers are required to complete a control programme annually to prevent it from seeding. Biosecurity staff then undertake several inspections to ensure that adequate control work has been completed.

Officers are workshopping with landowners other options to control Nassella tussock and are reviewing their processes to potentially include a grading system that is currently being trialled.

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- Biodiversity pests that the team work on include banana passionfruit at Gore Bay and Old Man's beard at several sites in North Canterbury, including sites west of Culverden and north of Waiau.
 - Puna grass is a pastoral pest and is limited to two sites in Canterbury with one site just south of Amberley. Due to the low incidence of this pest, Biosecurity staff undertake control work.
 - Education for the team is undertaken through several avenues including Biobites which is a quarterly publication outlining what's hot for the season.

Discussion was held and the following noted:

- The Zone Committee discussed that a 'ki uta ki tai' (from the mountains to the sea) approach should be sought to provide an opportunity to get the process right on the Hurunui and Waiau Uwha Rivers. This would involve buy in from DoC, LINZ, ECan, landowners and others parties.

John Benn (Department of Conservation) noted that in the Mackenzie Basin LINZ, Department of Conservation, ECan and landowners are working together on an effective pest control work programme.

He noted that LINZ contracts everything out and Department of Conservation does its own work, which can make it hard to liaise but is manageable.

ECan has committed, via its Long Term Plan, to undertaking nine braided river plans over the next 10 years, starting with the Ashley-Rakahuri River. There will be more of a focus on non-statutory actions with the leading values being conservation, mahinga kai, and recreation. Other values will be considered. This will cover what is around the river, streams, and wetlands as a whole holistic view. It was felt that this approach to the braided river plans will be the catalyst for the sought after unified approach.

- It was noted that grey willow and crack willow are not controlled by ECan under the CRPMP. ECan cannot, due to funding, control these pests but they can help to bring interested community parties together if they wish to voluntarily undertake control work.
- More information on the mechanics of the control program was requested including how notification of the public will be undertaken, what type of control will be used and the cultural impacts on mahinga kai.

It was agreed that the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee would support the coordinated approach to the pest management of Braided rivers and requests more information on the planning and model of the braided river plans and contacts of those involved.

4. Braided Rivers and the impact of Climate Change
Sonny Whitelaw,
BRaid

Sonny Whitelaw spoke to a presentation on braided rivers and the impact of climate change.

The altered weather patterns have resulted in change in braid-plain structure and function, and a decline or loss of species and habitats ultimately resulting in a loss of braided river ecosystems.

Braided river ecosystems evolved to thrive in response to rapid and dynamic change. If they are protected 'from the mountains to the sea' then of all the ecosystems in New Zealand, they are the most inherently capable of surviving climate change. Adaptive, rather than conventional, management strategies is the key to protecting against these effects.

(Full presentation available on the HDC website at <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/find/how-the-council-works/meetings> and search for the 16 September Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee meeting)

John Faulkner thanked Sonny Whitelaw for her presentation.

5. Update from Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee Wetlands Working Group and review of Draft TOR

Josh Dondertman,
Michele Hawke,
John Preece and
Nukuroa
Tirikatene-Nash

The Wetlands Working Group met and reviewed its draft Terms of Reference, which has been provided for the Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committees approval.

The outcomes from the workshop were:

- The working group will be undertaking a number of field trips to various in progress wetland projects.
- A workshop will be run involving all the key stakeholders/parties that have been identified to discuss the issues around wetlands, including the incentives and barriers.
- They have identified a need for better understanding of roles and a need for relationship building with staff that are able to provide practical on the ground action for landowners. It was felt that a key element missed in the induction of new member's to the Zone Committee was a comprehensive outline of 'who does what'.
- The working party visited a number of wetlands around Kaikōura with members of the Waimakariri Zone Committee and Kevin Hayes, who is the point of contact for landowners.

Discussion was held on the Terms of Reference and the following was noted:

- It was discussed that the draft 'purpose' was missing Treaty of Waitangi references or cultural relationships. It was discussed that the Treaty of Waitangi is engrained in everything the committee does. It was suggested not to over complicate the Purpose which might discourage people from offering their time.

The Zone Committee acknowledged that the cultural aspect was missing and agreed that a reference to the Treaty of Waitangi would be a valuable inclusion to the purpose.

It was agreed to change the purpose of the Group to:

"The working Group will develop recommendations for the Zone Committee in relation to wetland enhancement and protection in the Hurunui-Waiiau zone while giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi."

- It was discussed that the topic 'developing a "flagship" wetland project' needed to be more encompassing of other projects but not lose the 'bold' project. It was therefore agreed to change the topic (last bullet point of the Background) to:

"Developing wetland projects including a flagship project."

The issue of remuneration for being on a working party was discussed as it was felt that there is a lot of traveling and time spent undertaking this work. It was reminded that the Zone Committee and its working parties are governance committees and as such do not involve on-the-ground work. The Zone Committees role is to facilitate removal of barriers etc. for the other parties to undertake the work.

It is recommended that meetings of working parties are held on the same day as Zone Committee meetings to save travel and costs.

The Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee agreed to the terms of reference for the Wetlands Working group with the above changes.

6. Confirmation of membership Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee Biodiversity Working Group
Lyn Carmichael

Lyn Carmichael spoke to the committee on the possibility of adding further members to the Biodiversity Working Group.

Current members are Makarini Rupene and Michele Hawke.

Ken Hughey and John Preece agreed to be available for advice and support.

7. Report from Regional Committee
John Preece and Mayor Winton Dalley

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

- The CWMS Targets Progress Report was discussed. John Preece noted that he personally feels there is a lack of reporting on the real situation against the targets. He would like to see a more honest reporting system. It was noted that a big part of the discussion around this at the meeting was that there are a lack of historic records available to be able to accurately record any tangible progress against the targets.
- An update from the Fish Screen Working Group was given. It was noted that screens are being reviewed for compliance and adherence to standards. There has been instances of a lack of compliance and they are working on design improvements.
- The Recreation and Amenity Working Group reported to the Committee on the Freshwater Amenity Target. As well as an update on all of the Zone Committee's progress on delivery of recreation and amenity targets. There was comment made at the Regional Committee meeting that there appears to be not a lot of progress made from Zone Committees towards their targets. It was countered that there appears to be a lack of documentation on the progress of the targets rather than a lack of work done. Examples given were the Splash project and that the Zone Committee has preserved, in pristine condition, two major rivers from the twin bridges on the Waiiau-Uwha River and the Waitohi River confluence inland, for recreation amenity, cultural and environmental values at the total exclusion of economic values.

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

8. Update from Zone Committee members on other activities and

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

meetings attended that relate to the Committee's outcomes for the Zone.

- John Preece attended the Hurunui Connect public meeting in Cheviot on the restoration of the Jed River.

It was requested that the information from that meeting and from past work that has been done on the Jed River be collated for distribution to various interested parties. Lyn Carmichael and Ken Hughey to action. Interested parties included Cr Vince Daly, Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash, and John Faulkner.

The Zone Committee acknowledged the work that this group is doing and offered its support.
- Lakes 380 is a project where GNS Science, Cawthron Institute and others are going to sample 10% of New Zealand Lakes. St Annes Lagoon/Mata Kopae, Lake Rotuora, and Lake Elderwater are on this schedule. These lakes are characterised by their shallowness, low land, poor condition, and high value. The program will be taking big core samples from the middle of the lake to provide a basis for future management of the lakes. They are scheduled to take the St Annes Lagoon/Mata Kopae samples in November.
- It was updated that the Post Quake Farming Project has organised three field days (dates and times available on their website).
- Josh Brown, Landcare group, provided an update, via Lyn Carmichael, that he has put the letter from the Zone Committee on hold at this stage and is working with Ministry for Primary Industries on the scope for a larger project. He asks that the Zone Committees remains supportive and will advise them of the progress.

9. Update from organisations wishing to speak

Nil.

10. Zone Facilitators Report
Lyn Carmichael,
ECan

The Zone Facilitators report was taken as read.

Urgent Business

Farewells

Mayor Winton Dalley thanked the Zone Committee for the work it has done for the community over the years. He said it has been a privilege and will take away some memorable memories.

John Faulkner thanked the committee and acknowledged that the people make the process.

Meeting concluded

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

Next meeting

TBC