

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020 AT KAIKŌURA COUNCIL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

PRESENT: A Boyd, G Solomon, N McArthur, R Roche, T Howard (Chair), G Edge (ECan Councillor), T Sonal, T Blunt (KDC Councillor), C McConchie, J Murray

IN ATTENDANCE: B Cowan (DOC), M Griffin, K Heays, K Whitwell, S Bragg & N Muijsson (Kaikōura ECan)

APOLOGIES: None

KARAKIA – All (led by G Solomon)

1. Committee check-in & order of business

- No matters of urgent business
- The Register of Interests was updated live during the meeting for all members present.
- ECan Councillor Grant Edge introduced himself to the committee and shared some insight into his key drivers and interests leading him to stand for Regional Council. All committee members then introduced themselves individually and spoke on their reasons for having joined the Water Zone Committee and/or current issues in their field.

2. Opportunity for the public to speak

No members of the public in attendance.

3. Committee role & purpose workshop

The committee engaged in a committee role & purpose workshop led by S Bragg and M Griffin. Committee members were asked to reflect and speak on their view on the purpose of the committee and role of committee and members individually. This was done mainly in the framework of formulating a purpose statement; S Bragg explained this refers to defining and refining the *what*, prior to addressing the *how* in the framework of the group culture.

S Bragg reiterates the purpose statement will be a 'live' entity that may be re-worded or adjusted over time as members change, though is ultimately aimed at alignment, internally as well as externally, in order to improve outcomes through collaboration. The purpose statement may reference to an overarching vision or legislation (e.g. CWMS), though it is specific to the group. G Solomon and B Cowan specifically

mentioned they thought now a good time to 'anchor' and re-evaluate priorities and valued addressing the purpose statement in today's meeting.

Once confirmed that all members were happy addressing general business at the end of the meeting, the committee members engaged in a reflective brainstorming session/discussion on words, terms, concepts and ideas they thought particularly important or appropriate to be included or reflected in the KWZC's purpose statement. This was noted by M Griffin – to be collated and revisited at the March committee meeting.

4. Committee appointments 2020

Reflecting on the 'team' and committee structure, G Solomon noted she sees it appropriate for the Deputy Chair to step-up and have stronger involvement, to function more as a leadership team rather than looking to one role for leadership. It was agreed that this is in line with outcomes of the CWMS Chairs and Deputies workshop that took place in Dec 2019.

T Howard stepped out of the position of Chair and M Griffin called for nominations for Chairperson.

Moved T Blunt Seconded R Roche

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- (a) Appoints Ted Howard as Chairperson for 2020, &
- (b) Appoints Ted Howard as CWMS Regional Committee for 2020.

Ted Howard resumed in the position of Chair and called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.

Moved G Solomon Seconded T Howard

- (c) Appoints Rob Roche be Deputy Chairperson for 2020.

CARRIED

5. Committee updates

• **CWMS Regional Committee** – T Howard was unable to attend the previous meeting on Tuesday 10th December. The agenda for current meeting includes key topics covered as well as a link to all Regional Committee meetings and agenda papers. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th February 2020.

T Howard notes that the Regional Committee is also addressing its' purpose statement. He also notes that suggestions have been made for a Regional Committee meeting to take place in Kaikōura, suggestions from committee members as to which sites/areas to visit are welcome.

G Solomon notes that the KWZC may wish to pursue additional funding from Regional Committee for a local project. G Edge notes that available funding levels have not been confirmed as of yet but are currently in the discussion process and will be confirmed on the 20th of February.

He added CWMS budgets, biodiversity/biosecurity portfolio's and hazard management are to be fine-tuned once the budgets are confirmed.

G Solomon enquired whether additional funding may become available specifically for wetlands. G Edge noted that this is included in the biodiversity/biosecurity portfolio, though still to be detailed on specific allocations. He noted that wetlands are also considered a priority by the Regional Committee.

T Sonal notes she would like to see work in the District to determine the 'best spot' to reinstate wetlands. K Heays will address this in his update.

G Solomon notes she has concerns around fire risks due to the dry summer and asked if ECan are monitoring this. K Heays notes that the local team is looking at assessing fire risks and potential mitigation of these risks, though limited to ECan-owned land/reserves in the District. On this topic, T Howard notes that clearance often results in potential risk of ecosystem loss and is, therefore, not always a preferred or suitable mitigation measure.

- **Communications** – K Whitwell has provided the committee with a report on local stories developed from October 2019 to January 2020. She noted that any suggestions on topics for future stories from the committee are welcome.

K Heays noted that for ECan it has made a tremendous difference having Kim on board, even if it is only for one day each week. The level of recent local Communications output, and quality, would not have been attainable had Kim not been in employment with ECan locally.

Feedback was requested on the Draft 2019 Zone Committee Annual Report that was shared prior to the meeting. No feedback on amendments was noted – with final draft confirmed by the committee.

Given that all committee members are currently present, today will be a good day for a 2020 photo. It was agreed to do this during afternoon tea break.

- **Review/update on October 2019 ECan Science Team briefing** – M Griffin noted that a is scheduled for the March 2020 meeting.

- **3 Waters Update (KDC)** – G Solomon notes she was happy to have the KDC Works & Services meeting minutes included and to be kept up-to-date, while previously struggling to have a grasp on the state of water supplies. She notes that she would like to be able to pre-empt water restrictions. T Blunt noted that current circumstances are fairly unusual and would have been difficult to predict. T Sonal asked whether the KWZC could put in a recommendation to the Works & Services committee to implement water restrictions. T Blunt noted that they manage supply and make decisions based on their own gathered data, which any zone committee recommendation would also be based on.

M Griffin noted that the dry conditions over the past few months may well be reflected in the water monitoring done, adding the March meeting may offer an opportunity to request an update/briefing on summer monitoring and options available.

N McArthur referred to a climate change briefing provided to the KWZC a number of years ago and asked if there is potential to revisit this. M Griffin will follow up on this.

C McConchie posed the question whether, in terms of a forecasting model, it is possible to be more informed. The short answer provided is no, we cannot. T Howard notes that there are too many variables, too many uncertainties; adding weather prediction with more than 50% accuracy is not possible more than four days out. However, he emphasised it is known that the intensity and span of extreme events will change due to climate change.

T Sonal notes that she would like communications on the status of waterbodies and streams. N McArthur notes that this information is available via internet (e.g. www.lawa.org.nz); Facebook pages, CDHB sources and ECan website. Running updates on water restrictions are also available via the ECan website. K Whitwell suggests use of ECan 0800 phone numbers for people who are not quite as computer literate, adding this connects the caller immediately with a trained ECan staff member with direct access to up-to-date information.

• **Kaikoura Zone Delivery Team** – update (K Heays)

K Heays provided the committee with a brief update on current Zone Delivery Priorities. Due to time limitations he was unable to cover all, though following topics were addressed:

- Rūnanga engagement: in working with local Rūnanga (and particularly representative C McConchie) a collaborative hui is scheduled around compliance and Runanga involvement for early March 2020 – S Bragg requested to be included in correspondence.
- Wetland enhancing projects in the zone: currently awaiting a response regarding weed control at Hāpuku wetlands. Further plantings as well as biosecurity measures (concerning willows) have been carried out at Nagari wetland.
- A part-time contractor has been employed, by local ECan Team, with the main priorities for this role being – maintenance of established works, assistance with planting, spot spraying and weed control. T Sonal suggested cardboard and paper could be mulched for planting days, since it is no longer being recycled.

In response to this, G Solomon enquired about the wetland located adjacent to her private residence in Ocean Ridge; specifically, when work on this site will be on the priorities list for the local ECan Zone Delivery Team. Referring to previous correspondence regarding this request that occurred outside of the Zone Committee, K Heays noted that considering limited availability of resources in this work stream it is unlikely for this site to meet requirements to be added to local Zone Delivery priority at this stage.

K Heays added he will, however, respond in writing to G Solomon on ECan's involvement and capacity to address this issue.

- The annual bird survey at Waiiau-Toa/Clarence has been delayed due to large scale predation of the nesting site; this is re-scheduled for spring next year.
- FEP's – ECan has been in contact with all local farmers and all have been reminded about requirement for consent. The dummy-audits run through the Plains Recovery Project have been a great success locally.
- Irrigation efficiency – looking to address this locally by raising awareness around irrigation efficiency and practices. P Bradshaw's work in this area is to carry out testing and make recommendations on this basis. T Blunt provided further background on how helpful this testing can be to improve efficiency, particularly in combination with soil moisture probes.
- Love the Lyell – a flyer has been distributed across town and the flats with the purpose to refresh interest.

6. IMS & on-the-ground projects – update

H Melville (ECan) provided a brief overview of pending Immediate Steps Biodiversity Projects and significance of particular sites considered and a very brief update on on-the-ground projects underway. Due to time restraints he was unable to cover the full presentation.

7. General business

- Confirmation of previous meeting minutes – All in favour.

Moved by R Roche, seconded by G Solomon and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

- Matters arising – None.

- General Business – S Bragg shared a live Comms update from the Ngāi Tahu iwi leadership meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.00

CLOSING KARAKIA - ALL