

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2020 AT KAIKŌURA COUNCIL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

PRESENT: T Sonal, R Roche (Deputy Chair), T Howard (Chair), N McArthur, J Murray, C McConchie, T Blunt (KDC Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE: K Whitwell, K Heays, M Griffin, S Bowman, S Bragg, M Dodson, A Meredith, H Melville (all ECan)

APOLOGIES: *A Boyd, G Edge and G Solomon*

Moved T Blunt Seconded R Roche

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- (a) accept all apologies.

CARRIED

KARAKIA – S Bragg

Meeting opened 12.30pm

1. Committee check-in & order of business

It was noted N Muijsson is no longer taking minutes due to her new role at KDC. K Whitwell (ECan Comms) has kindly offered to take the minutes as an interim replacement.

Register of interest updated live, R Roche removal of Kaikōura Vineyard Trust, it was noted that Councillor G Edge's register of interests have been updated.

Committee check-in and/or highlights of the month, including the red zone now in Kaikōura post-quake (potential purpose for the group) and identification that some people in the community are still struggling post-quake.

2. Opportunity for the public to speak

There were no members of the public present at this meeting wishing to address the committee.

3. ECan Science Monitoring – briefing

M Dodson and A Meredith (ECan Science) provided the committee with a presentation about the interconnectedness of surface and ground water and how this affects contamination of waterways.

K Heays enquired about deep wells in Kaikōura affecting smaller wells when water is drawn. M Dodson said it depends on the geological set up.

C McConchie enquired as to whether the presentation example will be relevant/affect consent to farm. M Dodson noted that the system allows committee members to see how things related and connected surface and groundwater, and how changes in one place affect others in close and further proximity. He noted it's difficult to separate pumping and climate effects as they are occurring at the same time.

T Sonal enquired where the underwater ocean flow influences the freshwater system. M Dodson noted seawater, being a lot denser, can reduce saltwater impacts inland. He added it's important to really understand how and where this water is coming from, as Kaikōura has many sources.

C McConchie enquired what is classed as a deep well. M Dodson said it is relative, but 'deep' wells are generally beyond 80m in depth within the Canterbury area.

J Murray enquired about water being a million years old and what this means. M Dodson noted that it means there probably isn't any water entering this groundwater system or aquifer. A Meredith noted pumping water out of a system like this would most likely result in depleting the system.

M Dodson noted that both groundwater and surface water levels are monitored in Kaikōura. A Meredith reiterated that there is a reasonable amount of monitoring in Kaikōura to help understand how things are working, particularly for issues in the spring-fed streams and the Kaikōura Plains red zone. He noted that the red zone is a planning tool primarily to manage the effects on sensitive waterways on the plains.

T Howard enquired about testing the run-off and sediment levels in Lyell Creek and whether this is worse post-quake. A Meredith noted that no, they haven't. This type of testing has been completed in other parts of Canterbury so can be done, but is an expensive process. He noted the age of sediment can contribute to knowing how it got there.

T Blunt asked if it would be possible, with one testing round, to get some samples from the springheads themselves. He noted that there are some farms throughout the region that recorded high levels of contamination, but when tested at the head, it showed similar levels. He suggested it would be interesting to find if there is a natural level of (especially phosphorus) at the springheads. T Sonal supported this as it would be good to have an answer. A Meredith noted that these studies show nitrogen is a ground driven nutrient. Phosphorus is different, and not as black and white. M Dodson noted it depends on the rocks and distance/pathway that it crosses, but this testing was a possibility.

T Sonal noted that decision making around waterways should be made in relation to allowing people to take water and consider how this influences other waterways/sources. M Dodson noted that this type of enforcement mechanism is managed through the current allocations for individual rivers and uses ecological criteria.

T Sonal enquired about Warrens Creek E. coli levels and whether this could be related to topography or whether it is solely human/animal interaction with this area. T Blunt noted ducks can have a big impact in waterways. A Meredith noted the source of water is important to understanding this type of issue.

T Sonal asked whether the committee can ask for testing of all rivers at source to set a baseline, then test further down to see what is causing contamination. M Dodson noted this is useful information to understanding the freshwater system and has scientific merit. A Meredith noted the previous presentations to the committee of the monitoring programme in Kaikōura and whether this provided a sufficient baseline.

A Meredith and T Blunt noted that there has been progress from when data began being collated for the Kaikōura District.

KWZC requested that A Meredith and M Dodson provide the committee with a proposal for further monitoring of the Lyell Creek catchment and the Kowhai River sources, where it exits the gorge, to help identify where and what is causing contamination (e.g. phosphorus, nitrogen, and E.coli).

A Meredith and M Dodson provided the committee with an update on the nitrate probes that are currently being trialled by ECan. They noted that they are a work in progress, in terms of application and benefit to the existing science monitoring already in place.

T Blunt noted the committee are relatively aware of cost and process for using these. He clarified that idea behind having them in Kaikōura was to understand the source of the nitrates. A Meredith noted the complexity and uncertainty around nitrates in Kaikōura and whether this type of probe was the best, or only, option for monitoring nitrates in this zone.

T Blunt noted that Lincoln University were going to be the ones undertaking much of this work, but cost was going to be relatively large. It was agreed the probes were an option to look at again in the future, with guidance from ECan Science on how and where these probes could contribute to current monitoring.

A Meredith suggested there could be a community opportunity to utilise these probes, where people bring in their own water and the probe tests their water. The cost to public for this test would be around \$20. He clarified the testing would not be in a certified laboratory so the level of certainty for results would be decreased.

KWZC requested that A Meredith and M Dodson provide the committee with a proposal of how a community monitoring event could be held where people can test their own water.

4. Committee role & purpose workshop

S Bragg noted the discussion for purpose statement at the previous meeting, which gives the group the “what” they are here to do. Discussion around making sure supporting documentation for the KWZC is fit-for-purpose and up to date. He clarified that there are various ways to decide/workshop this, and it is important for groups to find an approach that suits them as a group. He added that with some committee members not in attendance, we would advance but not finalise this process today.

S Bragg then led the committee through an open session on options for the purpose statement. M Griffin wrote up the options, and following further discussion and refining of those options, the workshop closed with the committee agreeing to review and revisit these at the next meeting. M Griffin would circulate the draft options to all the committee for review.

5. Immediate Steps projects – update

H Melville presented an Immediate Steps Biodiversity project for the committee to consider, and an update on the projects currently underway. The financial update for Immediate Steps expenditure this year is \$104,500k spent, with \$45,302k remaining until June 2020 (not including funds allocated in this meeting).

Mt Fyffe wetland – recommendation from H Melville to support this project. It is manuka-dominant, has high ecological values and unique vegetation. Funding will be used for fencing, ongoing weed control, predator control and small amount of planting. There was a discussion around the type of fencing required. H Melville clarified the requested funding covers the cost for a sheep fence (netting) with a hot wire.

T Sonal enquired about the buffer zone for the wetland. H Melville advised that the landowner has considered this and the proposed fence line, as presented, is enough from his perspective and considers the pugging sites.

Recommendation that the KKWZC commit \$12,118 from the Immediate Steps Biodiversity Fund to the Mt Fyffe wetland.

Moved J Murray Seconded N McArthur

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

Support the Mt Fyffe wetland project by approving a total of \$12,118 in funding from the Immediate Steps Biodiversity Fund

CARRIED

6. Committee updates

- **2019 Annual Report** – signed off at the last committee meeting. This report will go to both Councils.
- **3 Waters Update (KDC)** – attached, included additional Suburban water supply upgrade report.
- **Kaikōura Zone Delivery Team** – update (K Heays)
Verbal updates:
 - 1) Meeting with M Griffin, K Heays, Chair and Deputy Chair of committee. Looked at revamping quarterly updates from Zone Delivery Team to update the committee on work over the previous three months. Each officer to attend and speak to reports. In between these updates, breaking news only will be provided to the committee on a monthly basis.
 - 2) Recent Beach Road sewer spill. Noted the new sewer line has been built along Beach Road with an initial trial which ended in a spill that flowed across the road into Lyell Creek. Noted that the pipe did not have sewerage in it and was fixed promptly, however, no immediate notification was declared to Environment Canterbury. Remediation was advised eventually.
- **CWMS Regional Committee** – update (T Howard)
Noted that update was previously circulated to the group.
- **Other** – Request for the KDC Youth Council report to be included in the committee monthly updates (re: youth engagement). Whitebait management document was circulated, to be carried over to April meeting.

7. General business

Confirmation of previous minutes – change below.

T Sonal noted not her suggestion that cardboard and paper could be mulched for planting days, since it is no longer being recycled, was not included in the minutes.

Moved by T Sonal, seconded by R Roche and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

- Matters arising – T Sonal noted more Lyell Creek planting in town, to be looked at by H Melville, and if the history of Lyell Creek could be shared with the group. K Heays noted it will be included in Zone Delivery update or breaking news.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:10pm

CLOSING KARAKIA – All (Led by S Bragg)