

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th September 2019 AT KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

PRESENT: A Boyd, T Blunt, C McConchie, T Howard (Chair), Councillor S Lowndes, N McArthur, R Roche, T Sonal

IN ATTENDANCE: M Griffin, A McLeod, P Roberts, K Heays, P Bradshaw (ECan), S Beardmore, K Whitwell

APOLOGIES: G Solomon, J Murray, Councillor C Harnett

Moved by A Boyd, seconded by R Roche and resolved that apologies be accepted.

KARAKIA – A Boyd

1. COMMITTEE CHECK-IN & ORDER OF BUSINESS

T Howard confirmed the following items of urgent business to be addressed under general business:

- N McArthur asked to discuss the KDC long term sustainability review and how this will affect the Water Zone.
- T Blunt would like to make a few comments on wintering cows, and a comment on emissions, countering recent media releases.
- S Beardmore will be in at 14.00 to lead the workshop on youth engagement; committee updates may have to follow after that. K Heays to leave at 14.45.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Corrections

- a) *Confirmation of previous minutes – Corrections – b)*
N McArthur noted that it concerns black back gulls, not black-billed gulls.
- b) *Immediate Steps Funding – Update (3.)*
It was clarified for T Sonal that Immediate Steps funding applications are still to come directly to KWZC. The final bullet point refers to the reallocation of previously approved funds from the 2018/19 financial year, not ECan employees independently approving applications.
- c) *Recommendation (p.6)*
2019/1920 FY; should be 2019/20.

Moved by R Roche, seconded N McArthur and resolved that the minutes of the Kaikōura Zone Water Committee meeting held on 3rd July 2019 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

TE REO PRACTICE

Was led by A Boyd.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

No public in attendance.

3. COMMITTEE UPDATES

K Heays – ECan Zone Delivery

- K Heays introduced P Roberts & A McLeod, leading ECan communications in North Canterbury, to the committee.
 - Kim Whitwell will be working for ECan Kaikōura in a communication role equivalent to 1 day/week. The ECan team are looking to increase the Comms output with Kim on board.
 - There has been interest from NZ Landcare Trust in support for significant wetland care type projects, taking pressure off the local ECan team. The current focus is on 'Lambchop Lake' at Inland Road/Kahutara, where a number of rare species have been found.
 - There has been a lot of regional interest in local wetlands and the recent work carried out by the team. Consequently, the team will be hosting a number of interest groups to view the sites over the coming months.
 - Focus for projects in the coming months will be overland flow paths. H Melville and P Bradshaw will be working together on this. Funding has been secured.
 - The High School is looking to add Environmental Education into next year's NCEA curriculum. ECan has been asked to be involved. Students would likely focus on carrying out planting and water testing and developing reports from their data to be shared.
- K Heays then introduced ECan Land Management Advisor, Peter Bradshaw, to provide an overview of his role and current priorities.

P Bradshaw – ECan Land Management Advisor

- P Bradshaw has spent the past few months learning about his role as Land Management Advisor, in the coming months he will be focusing on Farm Environment Plans (FEP) under Plan Change 5. His focus will be on education and reviewing of FEP's targets and objectives. He noted the disrupting effects of the 2016 earthquake on local farmers and the major progress that has been made in recent times on compliance and consenting by local farmers. He will be working to stress the importance of recording this progress in the FEPs for future audits, highlighting the potential strength of the FEP as a 'live' document.
- Local farms will be audited as soon as the consents are in place. The aim is to have a consistent understanding and approach to Good Management Practice by July 2020.
- P Bradshaw is working together with H Melville on overland flow path projects. They are currently looking at 15 farms and have completed mapping. With funding in place, P Bradshaw will be visiting these farms in the coming months.
- P Bradshaw has now completed the course to secure his Warrant and will be completing an irrigation management bucket testing course this September.

C McConchie asked if information on progress across the District could be made available to report back to the Rūnanga, particularly around timeframes and numbers on local FMP's, number of (approved) consented farms, and the audit process. He suggested Kaikōura could be a leading example nationally, driving the positives of FEP's in supporting farmer's progress in land and water management. P Bradshaw confirmed he would be happy to follow up on this with C McConchie.

R Roche enquired about the progress on pollution on the flats, referring to the Septic Tank Survey carried out by Rachel Poulson. K Heays will provide the committee with an update.

T Sonal requested a full report on water quality. M Griffin – noted this will be addressed in the next meeting by representatives from the ECan Science Team.

C McConchie shared his concerns around silage pits on the edges of waterbodies and will have a follow up discussion with P Bradshaw around this.

Committee updates were interrupted for the Youth Engagement workshop led by S Beardmore, who was available at this time in the meeting.

4. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT – WORKSHOP

S Beardmore of Te Hā o Mātauranga Kaikōura led a workshop on youth engagement. The committee discussed what they are hoping to achieve through youth engagement. Suggestions raised were around making Kaikōura a more engaging place for youth, increasing young people's interest in (local) waterways, increasing young people's understanding through honest storytelling, gaining understanding in what youth would like to do or see in the District, and potentially changing thought and behaviour patterns of adults (parents) through youth participation.

S Beardmore noted that when inviting youth along, it is better to invite two or more instead of one individual. She suggested to work through schools, tying in with the curriculum though aiming for a balance between other obligations and demands youth might have outside of school. Youth may want to be involved, but don't always have the time.

- The local High School curriculum is currently being revised with credits added for local environment. Follow up with the local High School to discuss how this content could be developed was discussed. T Blunt suggested T Howard as Chair and K Heays as local Zone Manager to visit schools.
- ECan Youth Rōpu would be a good resource to tap into; young people speaking to young people is very effective.
- Project based engagement is proving effective, minimising the “boring” governance parts. T Sonal suggested organising different projects annually, with topics and focus initiated by youth themselves.
- S Beardmore noted it is important for young people to be involved in designing of content. Adding to be mindful that support will be required for work on the ground due to time limitations and demands of projects outside of school.
- Referring to Hart's Ladder of Youth Participation S Beardmore highlighted it is important to decide where you wish to be on the ladder. If you ask for the youth's voice, you also have to listen to it. It would be a worthwhile discussion determining exactly what you want from youth before turning to them for answers.
- S Beardmore then referred the committee to suggestions made on “Principles to Enable Effective Youth Participation” she shared with the committee members. Clarification on point four: “...adequate provision of information, training, support, resources, time and space.”
- EnviroSchools was pushed by Youth Council but would require additional funding.
- She noted the Youth Council currently has a \$2000 fund available for projects. Conditions are that it is not a one off event and there has to be feedback to the community and whanau. The funding might apply to projects specified to (fresh)water.

- ➔ T Howard and K Heays to discuss with local school how youth involvement with KWZC and ECan can fit into curriculum demands.
- ➔ Explore Te Ha fund as a 'kickstart' for youth initiatives.

A 'project champion' will be required to carry the project so that it does not merely rely on the local ECan team.

➔ T Blunt requested K Heays to check requirements on ECan 'on-the-ground' funding to see if any of these funds may be available for EnviroSchools.

Committee updates were resumed at 15.10 following an Afternoon Tea break.

T Sonal requested clarification on the questions noted in preparation for the ECan Science Freshwater Monitoring Presentation (committee updates, p.11). T Howard and M Griffin provided clarification on the matter, particularly around nitrate management zoning. M Griffin provided the example of the five levels that have been proposed in the Waimakariri sub regional process (Plan Change 7 of the Land and Water Regional Plan) focused on nitrate reduction levels and staged in decades up to 2080. Further questions were raised around the state of rivers in the District and number of places on the rivers that are monitored. This information will be provided in the next meeting. It was noted that measurements are currently made quarterly, while suggested nitrate probes would provide daily measurements. T Sonal noted that the probes do not measure E-coli.

Update on nitrate probe proposal – T Blunt

In a recent meeting with local farmers T Blunt has suggested farmers buy a probe each (for approx. \$12k) and outsource testing. Concerns were raised by farmers as to what the data would show, so it was emphasised that the probes are not meant as a policing tool but rather a helping tool to improve one's own practice. T Blunt has stepped up and said to wish to buy the first probe and install it in Lyell Creek. He is currently awaiting responses from other farmers.

C McConchie raised concerns around public perception and independence of data collection if local farmers were to purchase probes themselves. T Blunt assured that Lincoln Agritech would exclusively oversee data monitoring and that the bottom line is that all water ultimately ends up in public waterways thus the matter affects us all equally.

Plains Recovery Project funds are currently allocated to projects on eight different sites focusing on overland flow paths.

Efforts will continue to find funding to support the probes initiative. This topic to be revisited in next meeting.

T Howard's report on the CWMS Regional Meeting held on 13th August 2019

No comments from committee members other than praise.

S Lowndes urged committee members to tune in for the official announcement around freshwater standards to be given by Minister David Parker on September 5, 2019 at 10.00am.

Update on Kotahitanga mō te taihou strategy – T Howard

It was clarified that Kotahitanga is a DOC partnership strategy aimed at large scale environmental projects. As it has been extended down to Molesworth, the aim is to find out whether we can link into it as part of local biodiversity efforts through Mountains to the Sea, Te Korowai & Marine Guardians and the suggested UNESCO World Heritage status. K Hunt (KDC Biodiversity Officer) is the local contact for the Kotahitanga Alliance.

Update on Freedom Camping Bylaw – R Roche

Following previous questions about whether KWZC could be meaningfully support KDC in addressing freedom camping around waterways, R Roche has been in contact with KDC Strategy, Policy and District Plan Manager, M Hoggard. It was clarified that Council can only control activities on Council land – if activities identified outside of marked areas are affecting water quality, it needs to be determined whose land it is and, therefore, who has authority to address. This answers a question previously raised by the committee as to how the bylaw affects waterways: it does not, as Council does not have authority over waterways, only over Council land. T Blunt noted that previous cases have shown that even if Council has no authority, a Health Inspector can still be called in on a site and access to the site may be (temporarily) prevented.

It was clarified Council has adopted a policy that all campers in the District have to be self-contained, which should address hygiene issues.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

T Blunt – update on KDC long-term sustainability review

While the report showed that more shared services are required, T Blunt noted that the current level shared services are not fully recognised in the report. He added there will be more shared services in the future. T Blunt also noted that Council staff levels will dramatically reduce after the rebuild phase has been completed.

T Blunt – on animal welfare

T Blunt said that while there has been an increase in animal welfare and environmental issues about dairy cows in the last few years, he is pleased the issue has got some ear and will be addressed. T Blunt said that the increase of animal welfare and environmental issues are arising from a small percentage of landowners and that bad practices are not exclusively limited to dairy farming. This should come up in P Bradshaw's work around Good Management Practice. According to T Blunt, animal welfare issues are better to be addressed through RSPCA, while they have a warrant and MPI have a slower process to actually address the issues. C McConchie added to this discussion noting there was a creeping acceptability of poor animal welfare in the media, which does need to be addressed. He stressed animal welfare is a fundamental priority of all farming operations.

The committee raised the question on what sort of percentage we are talking about in our District: this is unsure at this stage, though T Blunt estimated it at about 5%.

T Blunt – agricultural carbon emissions

T Blunt said that in the last 30 years, agricultural emissions have dropped 30% across the board and likened the attention on agricultural emissions to being 'picked on' by the government while being considered "politically insignificant". He noted that NZ grasslands sequester carbon at a high level and said there is potential to sell soil carbon credits. T Howard cautioned the scale of the emissions issue meant could not be addressed by this level of offset.

R Roche suggested to get together more with other zone committees to increase collaboration. The suggestion was made to plan another field day together with the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee in 2020, based on a shared focus for both the zones.

KARAKIA – T Blunt

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16.10
