

HURUNUI DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES



Meeting Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

Date and Time 16 March 2020, 4.15pm

Venue Waikari Memorial Hall, Waikari

Agenda <https://www.hurunui.govt.nz/find/how-the-council-works/meetings>

Members Present Ken Hughey (Chairperson), Cr Lynda Murchison, Cr Claire McKay, Josh Dondertman, Julia McLean, John Preece, Makarini Rupene, and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash.

In Attendance **Environment Canterbury (ECan)** – Lyn Carmichael (Zone Facilitator), Andrew Arps (Zone Manager), Marco Cataloni (Zone Delivery Lead), Nadeine Dommissie (Chief Operating Officer), Lisa Jenkins (Team Leader Planning), Jarred Arthur (Scientist - Water Quality and Ecology), Angus McLeod (Senior Communications Advisor)
Hurunui District Council – Hamish Dobbie (Chief Executive Officer)
Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC) – Andrew Barton
Department of Conservation (DOC) – John Benn
Public – Winton Dalley, Jamie McFadden
Committee Secretary – Michelle Stanley

Recording Device A recording device was in use for the accuracy of the minutes.

Karakia Ken Hughey led the Karakia.

Te Reo Māori The Committee suggested some ideas for the future of this agenda item such as:

- A forum for questions.
- Create a song from all the different names around the district.
- Go around the table with each member speaking a short mihi to help with confidence building.
- A better understanding of the rivers.
- Create a program going forward of what to cover at this agenda item.

Discussions and questions:

- Josh Dondertman reported that he attended the Treaty of Waitangi workshop at ECan. He noted that this was the best two days of learning he has undertaken in a while. It broke down some of the barriers of the language and provided understanding and clarity of New Zealand's history. He appreciated ECan providing this training.
- John Preece asked for the meaning of Omihi and Omihi Ngāi. Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash noted that the word 'mihi' is an acknowledgement or greeting and 'o' in front of a word generally

means 'of'. There is a story that Omihi was an area where travellers to the Kaiapoi Pa stopped to put out their first call to the Pa before they could continue their journey.

Words were given a lot of weight and the future of the iwi depended on how people spoke. In the old days, the entire island was a marae not just a building as it is today. It was an entire ethnological approach.

- Makarini Rupene reported that submissions are open for the proposed Waipara Mataitai Reserve. Makarini stated that it was important to note that the Waipara Mataitai is not excluding recreational fishing, just commercial fishing. He asked that the Committee forward this message on.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mayor Marie Black, Michele Hawke, and John Faulkner.

THAT THE APOLOGIES BE ACCEPTED.

Hughey/McKay

CARRIED

Workshop Summary

Ken Hughey updated the meeting regarding the workshop held prior to this meeting. The following was noted:

- Discussions were held around stresses and strains in the current climate, in particular, the drought and the Covid-19 outbreak.
- The Committee brainstormed what they thought were successes, what drove them, behaviours, and how they wish to move forward. It was positive discussion leading to a sense of purpose.
- Discussion was held on the CWMS and its targets. The Committee discussed if the Zone Committee had achieved these targets and how to move forward.
- Discussion was held on what the Zone Committee purpose is. This is to be further workshopped, being mindful of the existing Terms of Reference.
- It was acknowledged that formal workshops might need to be altered with the Covid-19 outbreak. The Zone Committee is aware that they will need to be open to a flexible working environment moving forward.

Action Sheet

The action sheet was tabled. This table is a living document and is continually updated when appropriate.

Lyn Carmichael, Zone Facilitator, spoke to the actions and noted the following:

1. Cr Claire McKay reported that the Hutchings Report on the Hurunui-Waiau Zone Committee review was discussed in the Environment Canterbury Council meeting. She relayed to the Council that the Zone Committee had received the report, and that there were no surprises in it, the Zone Committee were being positive and moving forward. She updated the Council on the Zone Committee's action plan going forward over the next 6 months and the Council approved this. Cr McKay also relayed that not everything in the report was factually accurate and was opinion led, which the Council accepted.
2. The St Annes/Mata Kopae Lagoon – It was suggested that the Cawthron Institute be approached for a report on the health of the

Lagoon. It was suggested that the CDHB be approached for public health signs.

3. Branding for Wetlands Project – ECan to report back to the Committee with a draft.
4. Non-partisan biodiversity group – This is being worked on and is being looked at as a part of the Zone Committee’s overall priorities.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

Nil.

Urgent Business

Nil.

1. Public Contribution

Jamie McFadden sent an email to the Zone Committee which he spoke to. The following was noted:

- Hurunui Biodiversity Trust is holding a Weeds and Pests field day on Monday, 23 March at 1pm Port Robinson Reserve. It is being advertised on Facebook. They have been unable to get funding from Department of Conservation.
- Jamie spoke about the concerns held about Farm Environment Plans. He stated that they are not an empowering tool for farmers and were not designed to cover everything. Farmers are not getting what they want so Hurunui Natives have offered to complete a biodiversity map which is a more holistic approach. These are 2 to 4 hour sessions with the landowner identifying key priorities. Hurunui Natives have only just begun to offer this service.
- Jamie spoke on the National Policy Statement and wetlands mapping. He feels that it is a massive barrier to farmers, and there is increasing reluctance for farmers to do stuff. People over on the West Coast are advising others to clear as much wetlands as possible which is environmentally damaging. Farmers feel up against the wall.
- Jamie informed the Zone Committee of the investigations he has been undertaking due to ECan Consent Officers using new mapping of flood lines with landowners. He has made an Official Information Request. The Zone Committee confirmed that it was unaware of any mapping within ECan and agreed to follow up on this concern.
- The Zone Facilitator noted that Michael Bennett is due to report to the Zone Committee on Post Quake farming and working with farmers in the Hurunui Waiau Zone.

Andrew Barton, Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC), provided a verbal update to the Zone Committee on the activities of AIC since the last Zone Committee update. The following was noted:

- AIC have continued with the water design and consents for the new irrigation scheme construction. Discussions with interested landowners have been ongoing on how to provide water for the future.
 - AIC are in the midst of its audits. Results will be collated in the next month.
 - They are undertaking a feasibility plan for on plains storage.
 - Hydropower generation – AIC are in the process of applying for consents for the winter months on the Lowry Peaks Drain and the
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Pahau River, just upstream of State Highway 7. Andrew noted that there is a third spot that they would like to investigate but need to consult with local Runanga.

- AIC has agreed to give a bimonthly report to the Zone Committee.

Ken Hughey thanked both Jamie McFadden and Andrew Barton for their updates.

2. Plan Change 1 Decision

Lisa Jenkins,
ECAN

Cr Lynda Murchison declared her conflict of interests on this item and removed herself from the table and discussions.

Lisa Jenkins, ECan, spoke to a presentation on the panel recommendations on Plan Change 1. She outlined the history behind the Plan Change.

The Zone Committee members are encouraged to read the decision.

The Zone Committee discussed the presentation and the following was noted:

- Ken Hughey stated that the Zone Committee should feel positive about how the decision turned out and the process of getting it there.
- Cr McKay reported that she acknowledged all those involved in the process at the Environment Canterbury Council meeting. She thanked those past and present Zone Committee members for their work getting it to a stage that could be presented to the hearing commissioners. This decision is a testament to the Committee since the hearing committee have carefully considered each aspect.
- The addition of mahinga kai to the Plan was discussed. This addition was opposed by a number of entities including Federated Farmers and the Biodiversity Group due to landowner concerns. A comment was made by a member of the public that this is going to be an ongoing issue for the community and landowners and that it was unfair to enforce it in a regulatory space.
It was agreed that further education around the inclusive approach of mahinga kai needs to be actioned working with the community and landowners to elevate any fear or uncertainty.

Ken Hughey, on behalf of the Zone Committee, gave a huge thanks to Lisa Jenkins and the rest of the team for the amount of work it took to get this Plan Change across the line.

3. Water Quality Update

Jarred Arthur,
ECan

Jarred Arthur, Water Quality Ecology Scientist ECan, spoke to a presentation updating the Zone Committee on the recreational water quality in the Hurunui-Waiiau Zone. The following was noted:

- Health Warning Signage is a District Council responsibility. If two consecutive faecal indicator bacteria samples are taken that trigger an exceedance, then warnings need to be put up.
 - Jarred spoke about the Balmoral black-backed gull culling and the effect this has had on the water quality in the Hurunui River upstream of State Highway 7. He noted that while there is no certainty that it will make any lasting difference to the water quality the signs are looking promising for this coming year compared to before the culling took place.
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- Jarred reported on the current state of the Waipara River at the Boys Brigade water hole where there was one unexplained peak in *E. coli*. Community members have reported dog illness from cyanobacteria in the river. ECan field staff located the cyanobacteria mats, with some difficulty due to the small size and limited coverage of the mats, and the results showed that the mats were actively producing toxins.

In response to several questions Jarred reported that:

- Sometimes a reactive approach is taken as ECan have certain spots that they test but issues will occur elsewhere.
- He would look over the records to determine if the dog death from toxic algae was a first for the Waipara River.
- Facilitator to forward papers on recent research on toxic algae in Canterbury rivers led by Tara McAllister
- The LAWA website is the medium for communicating water quality results. Jarred noted that LAWA and ECan report their grades in different ways. ECan grade on 5 years data and remove odd occurrences like floods. The method LAWA uses may be reviewed which could improve consistency between the two methodologies.
- It was requested that a working party be set up to look at water quality. The Committee to consider if it fits into its priority list for a future agenda item.
- In response to a question, Jarred noted that the uncertainty over the black-backed gull results were around how much the different avian species (i.e. the protected vs culled species) contributed to the *E. coli* counts and if the cull was enough. Other birds could move in to nest from other areas in future seasons, and threatened bird populations may increase in response to the cull of predatory black-back gulls. It was noted that a previous update given to the Zone Committee after the cull indicated that it was looking like it was an effective strategy and that the dominant source was the black-backed gull colony.
- Jarred noted that a pilot study is being developed to carry out fish surveys in the hāpua of five rivers. This is being looked at for April/May if the funding request for this work is successful. It will be ECan led but put out to tender for assistance. Ken Hughey asked what the key design criteria for this was, had cultural aspects been considered and if the community would be consulted? Nukuroa also cautioned Jarred not to use the term hāpua without mana whenua leadership.

Ken Hughey, Chair, thanked Jarred for his update, and summarised that water quality will be a future discussion.

**4. Update from
Hurunui-Waiiau
Zone Committee
Wetlands
Working Group**
Josh
Dondertman,
Michele Hawke,
John Preece, and

Josh Dondertman spoke to the report and the following was noted:

- The Wetlands Working Group is not currently focussing on one flagship project as they are choosing instead to work across the zone with the willing to find multiple projects as examples of what can be done.
- The group were positive about the last field day they attended and have discussed that it would be good to do something further in the Autumn and join with the mahinga kai shed talks which are planned.

Nukuroa
Tirikatene-Nash

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- They are planning on creating a short summary page outlining some basic information on wetlands. This will be focussed on directing people to where information on wetlands can be found and will be used to support shed talks planned on wetlands to align with those on mahinga kai. The group have discussed the opportunity to approach the local schools, with the aim to change the culture of youth coming through – Michele Hawke is leading this.
 - It was noted that the Jed River walk is still going ahead at this stage.
 - It has been suggested that Woolshed Creek adjacent to the school could be used as a wetland project for the school. Lyn Carmichael noted that Ben Ensor had spoken to Ken and herself regarding this project.
 - It was noted that they are still to workshop the barriers to protecting wetlands and that ECan is working on a wetland strategy which the group has fed into.
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**5. Update from
Hurunui-Waiiau
Zone Committee
Communications
Working Group**
Julia McLean, Ken
Hughey, John
Faulkner

Julia McLean spoke to the report updating the Committee on the HWZC Engagement and Communication Plan 2019/2020.

The Communications Working Group met to discuss:

- Develop communication plan updates to include ‘best practice’ communications protocols for all members.
- Develop a communications plan section for a ‘community voice’ facebook page for the HWZC.
- Develop a draft proposal for recognition and awards from the committee for individuals and groups who have contributed to improvements in freshwater outcomes in the Hurunui-Waiiau Zone.

Discussion was held and the following was noted:

- Clarification was sought on the wording of the communication protocols, first paragraph, on page 95 of the agenda. It was felt that the word ‘limiting’ was misleading. The Working Group will look at rewording and shortening this paragraph.
- The Zone Committee considered the proposal for creating awards to recognise those individuals or groups who have contributed to improvements in freshwater outcomes within the Hurunui Waiiau Zone. The Zone Committee agreed that it was a good concept. It was discussed that suitable sponsorship options be looked at and come back to the committee with further information. It was suggested by HDC and ECan officers that it would be beneficial to keep the criteria simple and to appoint an independent panel to decide on the award recipients. Winton Dalley, member of the public, commented that this was a fantastic initiative and is the first time a regulator group has done something like this, promoting the small guy. He supports the attitude towards it.

THAT THE HURUNUI-WAIAU ZONE COMMITTEE ACCEPTS THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNICATION PLAN SUBJECT TO THE REWORDING OF THE COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS ON PAGE 95 OF THE AGENDA AND ITS IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION.

McLean/Dondertman

CARRIED

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

Ken Hughey noted that he attended the Cheviot A&P Show, along with Lyn Carmichael to promote the Zone Committee. They worked with the Hurunui District Council team and the Hurunui Youth Council. They gave away 100 keep cups and had good engagement with community members. Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash and John Preece also attended the Show.

Lyn Carmichael reported that she also attended the Amuri A&P Show, where she wandered around and spoke to people about the work of the Zone Committee.

7. Zone Facilitator's Updates - Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone and Regional Committee Paper

Lyn Carmichael spoke to the paper and the following was noted:

- The paper 'Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone and Regional Committee' from Caroline Hart was workshopped today with Zone Committee members requested to email further comments to Lyn Carmichael. The purpose of this paper was to inform and seek initial input from CWMS Regional and Zone Committees on work underway to ascertain how empowered zone committees can continue to promote community engagement and support the ongoing implementation of the CWMS.

The Committee discussed the paper and the following was noted:

- In response to a question on the difference between this process and the independent review, it was noted that this relates directly to a request from the Mayoral forum for a review of the form and function of zone committees and does not cut across the Hutchings review of the Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee. This process is being done at a high level. Due to the confusion around the need for two separate reviews, Lyn Carmichael to ask if Caroline Hart, Environment Canterbury Programme Manager for the CWMS would speak to the Committee on the purpose of this process.

Other Zone Facilitator Updates:

- It was noted that in the last Zone Committee workshop, ZIP awareness was discussed. The plan is to develop a work program and the Committee has looked at different ways of working such as workshops before meetings.
 - Lyn Carmichael noted that the Jed River walk is going ahead on the 16 April. This is a community action, and the Zone Committee is providing some support. Lyn will forward further information to the Committee on this. It was agreed that John Preece and Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash would attend this day and will provide an update to the Committee.
 - A Hurunui biodiversity field day has been scheduled for 23 March 2020. Lyn Carmichael will send out some links via email. John Preece agreed to attend this field day.
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8. Minutes

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2020 ARE CONFIRMED.

Julia/McKay

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

Minutes: Membership on the working party (Page 107)

It was clarified that AIC are not stopping the enhancement package; they will keep reporting on the work going forward and the Zone Committee will continue to ask AIC for updates on these works. It was agreed that the Committee work with AIC about having a subject to report on for each meeting they attend.

Makarini Rupene still to check with his manager about the working party membership.

Item 5, Hanmer Conservation Trust (Page 109)

Ken Hughey updated the Zone Committee that Chris Hughey does not require any assistance with the wetland. The Hanmer Conservation Trust had a working bee and it is looking good.

Urgent Business

Nil

Meeting concluded

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm with Nukuroa Tirikatene-Nash leading a Karakia.

Next meeting

20 April 2020 – Cheviot.
