

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA ZONE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON FRIDAY 19th JUNE 2020 AT KAIKŌURA COUNCIL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

PRESENT: T Sonal, R Roche (Deputy Chair), T Howard (Chair), A Boyd, G Solomon, G Edge

IN ATTENDANCE: K Whitwell (minutes), K Heays, M Griffin, H Melville,

APOLOGIES: J Murray, C McConchie, N McArthur, T Blunt, S Bragg
Moved R Roche Seconded A Boyd

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- (a) accept all apologies.

CARRIED

Meeting opened 12.38pm

KARAKIA led by A Boyd

1. Committee check-in & order of business

- Urgent business – T Howard had email enquiry on 19/06/20 from LandCare Trust Canterbury Regional Coordinator who would like to connect with the Committee next meeting. T Howard to follow up and organise speaking spot for meeting.
- Register of interest – no changes.
- Committee check-in and/or highlights of the month including life during and after lockdown.
- Te Reo practice – names in nature (trees, plants, animals); tī kouka/cabbage tree; pūha/sow thistle; harakeke/flax; kawakawa/pepper tree; mānuka/tea-tree; tītī/seabird that has chick on land; kahikatea/white pine; kauri/largest forest tree; pīwakawaka/fantail; ngaio/small tree with poisonous leaves and fruit; tūrepo/large-leaved milk tree; ngutu roa/kiwi; pōhutukawa/New Zealand Christmas tree.

2. Opportunity for the public to speak skipped

No member of the public in attendance, nothing to update.

3. Immediate Steps Funding (IMS) – update

Presentation by H Melville, Environment Canterbury Land Management and Biodiversity Officer. Two projects with applications for review – Greenburn Wetland Enhancement project and Poipoi Kotare Stream Restoration.

Overview for committee on funding allocated so far, this financial year and projects that have been supported. Noted approximately \$30,000 of IMS funding remains unallocated for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Greenburn Wetland Enhancement project

Proposed to protect and restore a 2.35ha wetland. Funding requested for fencing, weed control, predator control and planting native plants and direct seeding the wetland edges. Around \$18,000 of total project cost from other contributions and \$23,275 requested from committee.

H Melville discussed benefits from funding this project. Question regarding removal of willow – eventually the aim is to remove all willows over four-year period (as they starve plants below from sunlight) and plant fast growing plants to provide roosting vegetation for plants currently roosting in willows. Discussion around placement of fencing in relation to the waterway's in proximity – Kahutara River and Greenburn Stream.

Discussion around level of native vegetation currently there. Noted there is a decent amount. Noted good aquatic conditions for tuna/eel.

Committee noted the positive landowner contribution and motivation for the future vision of the wetland. The committee expressed interest in the results of seed scattering method to be used in this project. Discussion over plant choice and attracting bird life.

Recommendation that the KWZC support the allocation of \$23,275 from Immediate Steps funding for the Greenburn Wetland Enhancement project (2019/2020 financial year).

Moved G Solomon Seconded R Roche

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- (a) Support the Greenburn Wetland Enhancement project by approving the recommendation of \$23,275 in funding from the Immediate Steps Fund (2019/2020 budget)

CARRIED

Poipoi Kotare Stream Restoration

Project proposed to protect and restore a small tributary of the Kahutara River by removing willows, stream diversion back to original course, fencing, weed control, planting native plants and direct seeding the stream edges.

H Melville noted the project, as it stands, has some good diversity and flora species in upstream native, but lower area mostly exotic. Noted project sits well with current Regional and local strategy and projects. Fencing is the main cost for this project.

H Melville added the landowner contribution is relatively high, and Environment Canterbury will need to maintain for first three years to reach establishment. A total of \$15,250 of IMS funding is requested.

Discussion followed around fencing type, practicality, and setbacks. H Melville noted the Zone Delivery Team will be advising throughout this process.

H Melville noted the NIWA Report for the Lyell Creek catchment provided the basis for this and other IMS projects. Discussion followed over targets being imposed by Central Government and working with farmers to meet this criterion. H Melville clarified the current Central Government position is a minimum 3m setback distance. He added that Farm Environment Plan will address how setbacks are applied across farms.

H Melville clarified that current financial year's budget does not cover the totality of this project, but the shortfall of this project can be covered from 2020/2021 budget, starting 01 July. He also noted that the landowner approached Environment Canterbury staff, indicating motivation to contribute and help to achieve outcomes.

Noted Kaikōura District Council road parcel is adjoined.

Discussion around support for project included the suggestion to approve project but subject to setback distance being extended. Noted connectivity of this project with other similar projects is important. A second suggestion was to approve subject to further setback distance and future thinking for the area. The importance of setbacks not just meeting, but where appropriate, exceeding requirements was acknowledged. H Melville noted that it's all about Good Management Practice and the outcome of this project could be really positive.

Further discussion centred on opening access to the wetland for the community for a day, after original project was completed and when the old school was open. The intent would be to enable students/parents to input into establishing this section of the project.

Recommendation that the KWZC approve \$15,250 from Immediate Steps funding for the Greenburn Wetland Enhancement project (2019/2020 financial year – final amount of budget, remaining to be taken from 2020/2021 financial year).

Moved G Solomon Seconded G Edge

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- (a) Support the Poipoi Kotare Stream project by approving the recommendation for \$15,250 in funding from the Immediate Steps Fund (2019/2020 & 2020/2021 budget)

CARRIED

Waiau Toa Clarence weed control project update

H Melville highlighted a large area, using approximately \$30,000 of funding, has recently been completed. Supporting this work, \$21,660 IMS funding is being carried over to the 2020/2021 financial year with ongoing talk with the landowner about their contribution.

G Solomon raised the new Central Government Wilding Pines funding and whether this funding could be accessed for the Waiau Toa Clarence area. H Melville clarified that Molesworth was raised as an area receiving some of this funding. H Melville will ask his contacts within the project about this. G Edge noted he has asked Environment Canterbury staff if the money being allocated for the wilding pines project can be used in different areas and is awaiting a response. K Heays noted he has an update around Environment Canterbury involvement in this planning and project to come. G Edge, M Griffin, and K Heays noted they will provide feedback appropriate information regarding Michael Bennett project and opportunities in Kaikōura; Wilding Pines project and any others that emerge.

H Melville noted SCAR project in Kaikōura is addressing high country erosion and an update from Pete Bradshaw (Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisor) will update the committee when appropriate.

H Melville updated the committee on plans for this project in the next financial year. G Edge raised whether IMS Funding is the right fund for this project to be allocated to. Discussion followed on future support of this project and whether the issues in this project with the Canterbury Pest Management Plan and the Biosecurity team. T Howard noted the spend has been allocated to riverbed areas which fits the freshwater aim of IMS funding. T Howard added this fund has provided extensive benefits to an important catchment in New Zealand and that ongoing support is needed to keep these results going. G Edge noted the Environment Canterbury programme, Braided River Revival, will have a specific focus each year, and is a potential opportunity in the future for funding support of this river. G Edge asked for a small report on work so far on the Waiau Toa Clarence Weed Control project. H Melville noted this is primarily a biodiversity project as it is aimed at sustaining the endemic species that live there now, as well as bird species. He noted the ecological assessment score is 32. Significant buy-in from other agencies and landowners has helped this project too and approaching it as a biosecurity project might mean that sustaining endemic species might not be kept as a priority.

K Heays noted previous decisions for this project by the committee and highlighted aim of this work. He also noted the braided river project will apply to the Waiau Toa Clarence River, but the Committee may need to keep supporting this project until this comes up.

T Sonal raised accessibility of the IMS funding and noted that some previous projects need to be revisited. H Melville noted the funding is available for anyone to apply for – projects are assessed based on project merits, viability, and owner buy-in/contribution.

4. On the ground projects update

H Melville presented on:

1. Hāpuku and Nagari weed control work completed.
2. Approximately \$20,000 of Environment Canterbury funding to be carried over to the 2020/21 financial year for the lower Lyell catchment work. H Melville clarified this funding is still being spent on fencing and planting. Two major projects – Mill Road wetland and stream area are in progress and will be completed by end of this financial year. The second is Montegue's Creek/Warren's Creek protection and enhancement work, which is ongoing. Discussion followed on work at the Mill Road wetland. Looking to support some other landowner initiatives working with LandCare Trust. A few other planting projects are being scoped, including one at Mangamaunu.
3. Fish surveys have been completed at Cold Creek in the Hurunui and the Hāpuku. They found īnanga living in the Creek. Noted funding will be sought next financial year to complete recommended work.
4. South Beach Action Plan around coastal freshwater initiatives funded for next financial year – community collaboration focus for this project.

5. Zone Delivery Manager update – other projects

K Heays presented on:

1. The Fonterra 50 project. K Heays noted 50 catchments throughout the nation were being targeted. Kaikōura bid to be one of these catchments and succeeded, with a focus on Warren Creek, tributary to Lyell Creek. Discussion followed around scope of the project and where fencing/planting work will be completed. Noted setback is 5-6m to any running water. Fonterra funding will cover the fixing of the fence. K Heays noted planting work will be completed in areas that connect to the existing planting work from previous project. Landowner contributing posts, waratahs. He added comms for this project will focus on the future generation. K Heays noted the 'one farm one wetland project' is tied in. He emphasized this is external money assisting 4 landowners through this project.
2. Love the Lyell Governance group update – membership has been called for; with a number of keen local community members keen. This group is meeting in the next couple of weeks. K Heays noted the aim of the group is to provide governance for initiatives in the catchment of the Kaikōura Flats, adding the group is very positive about this.
3. Update on funding applications for available funds throughout NZ. Noted Environment Canterbury have been active in identifying opportunities through these funds for regional planting and regeneration programmes, braided river revival, enhancing regional parks, regional catchment management. K Heays noted these funds might filter down into specific regions/districts. Kaikōura specific funding applications include – Mt Fyffe wilding pine control, Love the Lyell, restoring coastal planting specifically around uplifted areas, Kaikōura public land weed free and the Kowhai River Regional Park – all fall under workstreams associated with existing regional funds, PGF fund, and/or one billion trees funding.

R Roche updated on Council po, more specifically environment po. K Heays noted he is actively engaged with members of this po.

6. Committee role and purpose

Due to time constraints this workshop was deferred to a proposed 1 July KWZC workshop

7. Zone Committee priorities – workshop skipped

Due to time constraints this workshop was deferred to a proposed 1 July KWZC workshop

8. Committee updates

Noted the committee have read and understood the committee updates.

M Griffin noted fish survey funding.

T Howard noted NCTIR ecologists have been in town, adding they could present to a committee meeting. R Roche to follow up.

G Solomon asked for follow up on KDC report as misunderstanding of one point.

R Roche raised issue around waste and the amount of fly dumping occurring that ends up in the waterways. He noted the Waste Minimisation plan is up for review in Council and what the committee's voice through this could be.

9. General business

Discussion around whether to have a formal meeting in July, noted Jo Buckner from LandCare Research would be a good feature for a committee workshop. T Howard confirmed he has confirmed with Jo for her to come and present at the 1 July meeting. Agreed to proceed with this session with Jo, and to make the 1 July meeting a workshop, to provide the committee with more time for the workshop items not addressed at this meeting.

Discussion around 5-year outcomes and ZIP recommendations, committee purpose, priorities and refreshing of these, workshop setting. Further discussion about zone committee's refresh and how this fits in.

G Edge shared the recent Environment Canterbury council meeting outcomes on the 2020/21 Annual Plan noting council approved allocation of money to go towards four key projects (public transport, review of coastal environment plan, public/community engagement on climate change and regional revegetation tree planting project).

Discussion followed on the option of moving the KWZC meeting day/time for the committee. Decision to leave meeting day and time as is at present, but review further. G Edge proposed the option of moving the KWZC meeting to a Friday to enable him to attend regularly, given his regular Councillor commitments mid-week.

Confirmation of previous minutes – correction to add G Solomon as an apology.

Moved by R Roche, seconded by T Howard 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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.25pm

CLOSING KARAKIA – All (Led by G Solomon)