

MINUTES

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone
Committee Meeting**

Monday, 7 September 2020

Minutes of Timaru District Council
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 7 September 2020 at 9.30am

Present: Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Phil Driver (Deputy Chairperson), Cr Anne Munro, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith, Cr Barbara Gilchrist, Cr Tom O'Connor, Bailey Lissington

In Attendance: Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Brad Waldon-Gibbons (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Brian Reeves (Zone Delivery Lead), Cr Peter Scott (ECan)(from 10am), Kate Doran (ECan Communications), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Mark Adams, Kerry Stevens, Julia Crossman (Opuha Water Ltd), Joanne Brownie (Governance Support)

Chairperson Lucy Millar welcomed everyone to the meeting which opened with a karakia from Luke Reihana.

1 Apologies

An apology was received from John Henry.

2 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no minor nature matters identified.

3 Public Forum

Establishment of Community Group

Mark Adams introduced himself to the meeting and set out a proposition involving forming a group to prepare an application for government shovel-ready project funding, to allocate to catchment group projects in the OTOP zone. Mark is the Chairman of the Rural Support Trust in South Canterbury and Chairman of the Environmental Reference Group for Beef and Lamb NZ and sees an opportunity for the zone to access significant government funding that could be applied to local projects in the zone.

After years of work towards the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum, there is a perceived lack of action on the ground at catchment group level in the OTOP zone. The significant focus towards the plan change work has possibly detracted from the work on the ground, where the community is connected, and the work is more visible.

A collaborative strategy for projects that could take advantage of government funding is an opportunity that should be taken up. Looking at the success in other provinces and the models driving that success, have inspired him, along with other rural leaders, to champion the idea of forming an incorporated society, in order to provide structure and purpose, and an entity for seeking funding. Reference was made to successful groups such as the Rangitikei Catchment Collective and Driving Southland. A similar group for the OTOP zone could learn from what has worked and what has not worked in these other areas and create a community entity that has skill, impetus and knowledge, to work towards a common environmental goal for the community. A key part to this

plan would be a close relationship with local iwi and a deeper understanding of the local whenua and its history.

In order to form a society and develop a funding strategy, seeding funding of approximately \$30,000 will be required. Accessing local knowledge and expertise and working with catchment groups will be part of the plan, with the goal of establishing a vehicle that will be valuable for generations to come. From his discussions in the community he is aware that there is appetite to form a group to see greater action on the ground. The group would collate environmental information, oversee projects and manage funding.

Canterbury Regional Water Manager Committee Representative

Kerry Stevens introduced himself, as the recently appointed South Canterbury Territorial Authority representative on the Regional Water Management Committee, representing the Waitaki, Waimate, Mackenzie and Timaru District Councils. He intends to attend southern zone committee meetings to be informed and connect with the zone committees.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

While not a conflict of interest, Cllr Anne Munro advised that she is the Acting Chairperson of the Te Ana Wai Catchment Group.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 3 August 2020

Resolution 2020/20

Moved: Cr Anne Munro

Seconded: Cr Barbara Gilchrist

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 3 August 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, subject to 'Orari Catchment Group' in clause 7.3 being amended to 'Orari River Protection Group'.

Carried

6 Urgent Business – Proposed New Entity for Funding and Work in the Catchments

The Committee discussed the proposal presented by Mark Adams in the public forum. There was general consensus that the proposal be supported. Given that the OTOP Committee does not have the funding requested, it was agreed that OTOP write to the Waimate, Mackenzie and Timaru District Councils and ECan, formally supporting the proposal and seeking the \$30,000 required. It was noted that the proposal aligns with the non-statutory recommendations in the OTOP ZIPA. The Committee agreed with Mark that the work needs to be strategic and not ad hoc.

Action to assist with the request Mark Adams was asked to prepare a one-page outline of the proposal with a clear description of the project, the benefits to the community and an idea of the level of government money that the seeding funding could unlock.

Action: Luke Reihana offered to discuss with rūnanga the best ways of providing background information and the history of the catchments from an iwi perspective. The Tangata Whenua Facilitator will also contact Suzanne Eddington in this regard.

Proposed Cr Barbara Gilchrist
Seconded Cr Tom O'Connor

That the OTOP Zone Committee resolves to immediately send a letter to ECan, Timaru District Council, Waimate District Council and Mackenzie District Council requesting that they provide financial support to the umbrella catchment group as described by Mark Adams on their behalf. The total support requested is \$30,000. This is to fund professional funding applications to, but not limited to, the 1 Billion Trees Partnership fund and the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The projects covered by the applications will be within the bounds of the OTOP region.

Carried

Pest Control

Cr O'Connor raised the issue of funding for pest control. He believes there is a need for a major pest control operation in the region between now and the next planting season. Biodiversity and riparian plantings are at risk if pest control is not carried out. Other options include planting species wallabies don't eat and using wallaby proof fencing. Significant funding will be required for a pest control operation, and it was suggested that territorial local authorities be asked for support.

Action: The Facilitator will seek further information on the wallaby control programme and provide it to the Committee.

7 Reports

7.1 Update Committee Members Activities

Committee members shared activities they have been involved in over the last month that contributes to implementing the CWMS in the OTOP zone.

Catchment Groups

Brief discussion took place on OTOP representation on catchment groups and noting the Orari Protection Group is a separate group but participates as part of the Orari Catchment Group, Upper Orari is an informal group and Waitara kao is not a catchment group but a working group.

The Committee noted the report and activities members have been involved in.

Action: Lucy Millar and Barbara Gilchrist offered to join additional catchment groups. The Facilitator will progress OTOP representation on catchment groups.

7.2 Youth Representative

Bailey Lissington put forward suggestions as to how the Committee could support youth participation on the committee and the committee's action plan that included -

- Developing political skills
- Forming connections
- Engaging other young people for project work, including the newly formed South Canterbury Enviro Army
- Facilitating projects
- Considering other viewpoints.

The Committee is to give some thought as to what actions the young people can assist with – ideas put forward include

- spending a day with a farm advisor,
- following the course of a river from the mountains to the sea with a science advisor or similar,
- helping with planting programmes, visiting schools and kindergartens.

Action: The Facilitator will pursue options, in particular as to any Immediate Steps Funding that would benefit from voluntary labour.

7.3 ZIPA Non-Regulatory Recommendations

The Committee considered the list of non-regulatory recommendations in the OTOP Zone Implementation Addendum to assist in determining the Committee's focus for the next three meetings.

It was noted that a number of actions were the responsibility of territorial local authorities and there is not significant work where OTOP has direct input other than encouraging local authorities to do what is set out in the ZIPA. OTOP does not have the resources to undertake significant work but it does need to support catchment groups and ask the local authorities what is actually happening on the ground.

It was acknowledged that the community could be included more in activities that align with OTOP's objectives such as community workshops, shed talks, or field trips.

A suggestion was made to hold a strategic session at the next meeting identifying what has changed in last 12 months and confirming that the Committee is on the right track. This led to discussion on climate change and what measures that fall within OTOP's scope, could be taken to help address this issue in the OTOP zone.

It was noted that a report is due to ECan soon and can be shared with the Committee for information. Reference was also made to the Resource Management Act review, National Environmental Standards and National Policy Statement on Freshwater.

The Committee talked about holding a series of workshops and/or field trips (after formal Zone Committee meetings), covering National Environmental Standards, climate change, mahinga kai, cultural values. The invitation could be extended to other interested groups in the community (using Mark Adams' contacts also). The Facilitator will progress this suggestion.

It was further suggested that the non-regulatory recommendations be grouped together, and liaison occur with local authorities as to how they are addressing the ZIPA recommendations, similar to the current quarterly report prepared by ECan to the OTOP Committee.

Action: It was agreed that the document compiled by Committee member Glen Smith be circulated in spreadsheet form with additional space for comments and the document then be updated.

7.4 Otipua Saltwater Creek Catchment Annual Report

The Committee considered the Otipua Saltwater Creek Catchment Annual Report. The Community Engagement Coordinator said the catchment group is a small group with good

voluntary input and goodwill, helping the urban/rural contribution awareness. Rhys updated the meeting on the current situation with the Timaru Rowing Club.

7.5 ECan Zone Delivery Update

The Committee considered a report by the Zone Delivery Lead presenting the Work Programme Progress for Quarter (April-June).

The current focus is on fish screens, an area which has always been problematic. ECan is working with industry and the farming sector, focussing on the higher risk areas. Illegal rubbish dumping is also an issue at the moment which is costly to ratepayers and the environment. Settlement runoff from building sites is a further area ECan is working on.

Good progress is being made monitoring consented and unconsented activities in the Waitarakao/Washdyke zone, with approximately 30 sites visited to date.

7.6 Facilitator's Update

The Committee considered the Facilitator's update. A request was made for an interested member of the Committee to assist with the OTOP Facebook page.

The Meeting closed at 11.25am with a karakia from Luke Reihana.

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Chairperson