

MINUTES

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

Monday, 2 November 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, 2 November 2020 at 9.30am**

Present: Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Phil Driver (Deputy Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith, Cr Barbara Gilchrist (until 11.25am), Cr Tom O'Connor

In Attendance: Dr Anita Wreford (Lincoln University)(for item 9.1)(via zoom link)
Janine Roux (Facilitator), Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Jessica Bond (Land Management and Biodiversity Advisor), Shirley Hayward (Scientist), Brian Reeves (Zone Delivery Lead, Kate Doran (ECan), John de Witt (member of the public)

1 Opening Karakia

The meeting opened with a welcome from the Chairperson and a karakia from John Henry.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

3 Public Forum

Pareora Water Allocation

John de Witt addressed the meeting to convey his concerns on the over allocation of the Pareora River. He queried how this was going to be addressed, and asked when the Pareora Catchment Environmental Flow and Water Allocation Regional Plan is up for review. He said that he has not yet seen any change in agricultural practice to reflect less water available in the catchment. He queried whether Plan Change 7 will sufficiently address the lack of water.

It was suggested that as a first step, the Committee seek information from ECan on when the Pareora Catchment Flow and Allocation Plan is up for review and whether the allocations will be reviewed at that time.

4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent business items.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no minor nature items.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest identified.

7 Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson's report was delivered under item 9.2.

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2020

Pest Control

Clr McKenzie reported that she has followed up on wallaby pest control. Funding is concentrating on control measures around the perimeter area (essentially South Canterbury) but there are no subsidies available for farmers and no funding available for the problem areas. To be effective there would need to be a poisoning programme followed by a shooting operation.

It was agreed that Clr McKenzie and Clr O'Connor discuss the issue further.

Climate Change

The comments in regard to climate change were clarified in that Clr O'Connor did not agree with the symbolic climate change emergency declaration. However OTOP does have an advisory role but not an implementation role.

The informal Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Informal Meeting held on 5 October 2020 were noted.

9 Reports

9.1 Deep South Science Challenge

Dr Anita Wreford, who leads the Impacts and Implications programme at Lincoln University, appeared via zoom and delivered a presentation on some of the research being undertaken to support New Zealand's response to a changing climate.

The Deep South project involves research and modelling and developing tools that will help to New Zealanders to adapt, manage and thrive in a changing climate, enabling planning ahead in an uncertain environment.

In regard to precipitation trends for South Canterbury, indications are that there will be more variability - an increase in extreme rainfall, rain will likely be more intense and severe rain when it does happen, there will be a decrease in snow, and an increase in the severity and intensity of drought. Seasonal changes are where the impact will occur most.

Tools being developed include dynamic adaptive policy pathways, to provide for future resilience and allowing for flexibility in the changing environment.

The Committee then asked questions including modelling climate refugee problems; modelling prediction scenarios; local government's resourcing to respond to climate change; wider consequences of irrigation; ocean warming and coastal inundation.

While it was acknowledged that the timeframes are too long for most people making decisions, the predictions provide a range and direction or trend, to enable more informed decision making for the future. One of the main messages is to remain flexible in the face of uncertainty.

Dr Wreford advised that input is welcomed from stakeholders regarding any area that may be worthy of detailed research in the future.

9.2 Chairperson's Report and Update Committee Members' Activities

The Chairperson advised that since the last meeting, contributions totalling \$32,500 from the Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils and from ECan, had been made towards the combined catchment group organisation, with additional resource from ECan for such things as mapping.

The Chairperson has attended a meeting of the Regional Committee. This large Committee is currently being reviewed with the possibility that representation will be reduced. Options for a revised structure may include an independent committee that provides ECan with a letter of expectation and members would be selected for their particular knowledge and expertise.

The Regional Committee recent meeting included a presentation on LAWA (Land Air Water Aotearoa). LAWA River Water Quality Lead Dr Tim Davie may present to zone committees in the future.

9.3 South Canterbury Swimming Grades

The OTOP Zone committee was provided with information on South Canterbury Swimming Grades, with Water Scientist Shirley Hayward elaborating on the report and advising that further information, including the annual report, will be available soon.

Of note is that the Waihi River at Geraldine has a poor grade and steps will be taken to inform the public of this and to investigate the reasons for this poor grade. The Pareora River at the huts site has improved.

A more detailed paper with historical and current gradings on South Canterbury rivers will be presented to the next meeting.

Recommendation

The paper was received and a more detailed paper is to be presented to the next meeting.

Attachments

- 1 SC Swimming Grades report

9.3 Immediate Steps Projects

The Committee considered a report by Janine Roux and Jessica Bond, Land Management and Biodiversity Advisors Environment Canterbury, setting out recommendations on the allocation of Immediate Steps funding for the 2020/2021 financial year. \$47,867 is left to be allocated for this financial year. The report outlined projects to the sum of \$27,500.

Ohapi Creek and Spider Lagoon Restoration

A request was made for information on the type of spray to be used in the killing of willows and canary grass. There was some concern that the Committee should be aware of what sprays are being used on a project that is supported and partially funded by the committee. The meeting was advised that the helicopter would be avoiding areas where there is currently native vegetation.

John Henry requested that the marae be used as the point of contact for Immediate Steps applications at an earlier stage than is currently being done, and not just through the iwi members on the Committee.

The Committee agreed to defer the application until information on the spraying operation is available and satisfactory iwi engagement through the local runanga is completed.

Clr Gilchrist retired from the meeting.

Taniwha Gully

Assurance was given that the Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Trust is involved in this project. The project was supported.

Immediate Steps Process

Clr O'Connor queried the Immediate Steps Process, suggesting that more comprehensive information should be provided to the committee as he felt that to allocate public money, the Committee should know more detail of the projects presented.

It was explained that the Immediate Steps Process involves applications being processed by officers in the first instance, to ensure the projects fit the IMS criteria, before involving the Committee. The Committee then has the opportunity to review the proposals that meet the criteria, and make recommendations on whether to financially support the projects.

Serpentine Creek

This project was supported subject to knowing further details on the spray to be used..

Resolution 2020/21

Moved: Phil Driver

Seconded: Elizabeth McKenzie

That the OTOP Zone Committee recommends to Environment Canterbury the following Immediate Steps funding allocations:

1. Ohapi Creek and Spider Lagoon – application deferred pending further iwi consultation and additional information on the spraying operation
2. Taniwha Gully Restoration - \$14,000 (\$7,000/year)
3. Serpentine Creek, Geraldine - \$2,500 – subject to further information on the spray to be used.

Carried

9.4 Climate Change and Slow Water

The Committee considered a report by Committee member Phil Driver and an additional paper from Clr O'Connor from January 2019 on climate change.

Phil Driver spoke to his report on the proposal to focus its efforts on climate change and the concept of “*Slow Water*”. The Committee discussed the recommendations set out in the report and noted that the Committee has a role in facilitation/cooperation/collaboration/advice, but does not have an implementation role. However as an advisory body, the Committee could be influential.

There was some debate as to whether agreeing, as per recommendation 3, that our climate emergency is the single biggest physical issue, would make a difference to what the committee does and how it engages.

The OTOP Zone committee received the report from Dr Phil Driver and Cr Tom O’Connor and:

1. Agreed to make recommendations and endorsements.
2. Agreed to learn more in order to make better recommendations and endorsements.
3. Agreed that climate change in South Canterbury should underpin the work that the Committee undertakes.
4. Agreed to consider if stakeholders in the OTOP zone adopt a theme of ‘slow water’ as being the best way of addressing our biggest challenge, how this would tie in with what Councils want from the Committee and be consistent with how it fits with shared priorities. The appropriate statement/catch phrase is to be explored for future use.
5. Agreed to explore, develop and disseminate recommendations on how best to achieve ‘slow water’ (these could be both regulatory and non-regulatory), once tied to Council shared priorities. The next step being to create an action plan.

9.5 Private Drinking Water Supplies - Surface Water, Groundwater and Rainwater

The Committee was provided with a draft campaign proposal to raise awareness among private landowners to regularly test and manage the risks associated their drinking water supplies.

There are two Zone Committees that are looking at bore water, with the plan being to help people test their own water. This would involve showing how to undertake the test correctly, but also what to test for and to assist with solutions.

Private drinking water is connected to outcomes in the ZIPA, raising awareness for people to think about their own private water supplies, bores and water collection from roofs.

The intention is to find the right way to get this information out to the target audience, including the possibility of attending several farmers’ markets with information.

ECan staff will be running this project and will provide advice, with some support being sought from the OTOP Committee.

The Committee supported and endorsed ECan staff to continue with the planning of phase 1 of this project.

The OTOP Zone Committee receives the report from and:

1. **Agreed** to develop an awareness raising campaign for domestic drinking water supplies in order to ensure the OTOP community has “safe and reliable drinking water for community and domestic supplies both now and in the future”.
(ZIPA Community Outcome page 13)
2. **Agreed** that phase 1 of the campaign will be to;

- (a) Disseminate existing information to committee member's networks and catchment groups;
 - (b) Discuss existing information with community members at four farmers markets to determine what they know, what they would like to know and what they see as the barriers to ensuring their drinking water is safe.
3. **Agreed** that phase 2 of the campaign will address the information gaps and barriers that have been identified through the discussions at farmers markets. This may include a community meeting with representatives of registered testing laboratories, South Canterbury District Health Board and district and regional council as well as preliminary screening of samples for nitrate levels.
4. **Agreed** that phase 3 will evaluate the campaign and decide on what next.

9.6 Facilitator's Update

The Facilitator sought confirmation on the Committee's wish to have a meeting on 8 December.

It was decided that there were sufficient agenda items to hold the meeting. The timing of the meetings for next year need to be considered, especially once new members come onto the Committee next year.

The items to be on the next Agenda:

- Background around Monitoring
- Slow Water
- Update on drinking water
- Essential fresh water
- Pareora River – Status of Allocation Regime
- Government Three Waters Review
- Resource Management Act.

Discussion was held as to whether the issues that were not agreed in the ZIPA should be brought back to the table and whether the Committee has any influence over decisions.

The Committee decided that these issues could be discussed with new members and possibly with education provided.

The report was received.

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

There were no urgent items.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

There were no minor nature matters.

12 Closure Karakia

John Henry provided a closing Karakia for the Committee.

The Meeting closed at 12.24pm.

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Chairperson