

**Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy
Regional Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Environment Canterbury
200 Tuam Street, Christchurch,
on Tuesday, 13 October 2020 at 1.00 pm**

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Present

Community Representatives:	Hugh Canard Jane Demeter (meeting chair) Ross Millichamp
Zone Representatives:	
Kaikoura	Ted Howard
Waimakariri	Carolyn Latham
Selwyn Waihora	Annie McLaren
Christchurch West-Melton	Les Wanhalla
Banks Peninsula	Rima Herber
Ashburton	Angela Cushnie
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora	Lucy Millar
Lower Waitaki	Barney Hoskins
District Council Representatives:	
Mid Canterbury	Cr Angus McKay
Ngā Rūnanga	Benita Wakefield
Environment Canterbury:	Cr Claire McKay Cr Craig Pauling
Central Government Observer	Lorretta Dobbs MPI

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Tim Davie (Director Science) , Dann Olykan (Team Leader Strategy & Planning Canterbury Water Management Strategy) and Louise McDonald (Senior Committee Advisor).

Opening Karakia

Jane Demeter welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that she had been asked to chair the meeting in Hugh Logan's absence. Cr Craig Pauling opened the meeting with a mihi and a karakia.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Hugh Logan, John Preece, Cr Pauline Cotter and Kerry Stevens.

2. Conflicts of interest

A Register of Interests was provided with the agenda and members were asked to advise the Committee Advisor of any changes and updates. The updated Register will be included with the agenda for the next meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 11 August 2020

Refer pages 1 to 6 of the agenda

The Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Committee agreed that the minutes of its meeting held on 11 August 2020 were a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Land, Air and Water Aotearoa (LAWA) 2020 – National Summary of River Water Quality

Refer to pages 7 to 8 of the agenda

Tim Davie spoke to the report and a powerpoint presentation and highlighted key aspects of the LAWA summary of water quality. He explained that the data was for rivers and streams and did not include lakes.

Nationally the state of water quality has not changed markedly over the last 10 years. Dr Davie described the findings for phosphorus, E.coli, ammonia and macroinvertebrates. This included comparing Canterbury data with national data.

He clarified that most of the data sites in Canterbury were not in the alps or pristine areas, as they tended to be in areas where there were water quality problems.

The most disappointing data for Canterbury was for macroinvertebrates that are a biological indicator of ecosystem health.

As part of the presentation Dr Davie gave examples of the range of data available on the LAWA site noting that it was a powerful tool that allowed users to zoom on maps and select information including periods of data and trends.

Acknowledging the value of the data, the question was asked what is being done with the data? Dr Davie explained that a range of work including sub-regional plans and farm environment plans, plus the work being done by zone committees and communities was being undertaken to improve water quality.

The matter of having enough monitoring sites was raised. Dr Davie explained that Canterbury has 105 water quality sites for streams, and these will be reviewed. In respect to citizen science he explained while there were strict protocols for the data collected by scientist, there were still a place for data collected by individuals and communities. Environment Canterbury have people that can help with this.

It was agreed that local information was the best way to achieve the aims of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. This provides relevant information for communities and zone committees who can then take ownership.

It was suggested that the LAWA site provide some context with the data for example that the swimmable river data only starts in November each year for rivers where people swim over the summer. An explanation that the native vegetation areas cited while was predominately native vegetation, these areas also include other conditions including pasture and exotic forest.

6. **Regional Committee Review**

Refer to page 9 to 13 of the agenda and the tabled paper

A revised report was circulated that included some additional information on the options for the committee to consider. Paragraphs 14 to 19 of the tabled report.

Cr Craig Pauling spoke to the tabled report and confirmed that no decision had been made by Environment Canterbury. Councillors had had a briefing and at this stage there was a range of views and they were interested to receive feedback from the CWMS Regional Committee. The additional detail in the tabled report included the option of an independent advisory panel that would not be a committee of the regional council. It also included reference to the relationship with the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

The Acting Chair Jane Demeter summarised the ensuing discussion that considered possibilities ranging from small variations to status quo through to disbanding the committee entirely. There was consensus around the committee currently not being as effective as it could be and a willingness to deliver more value via a suite of options.

The following points were raised to provide useful input to Councillors as they progress their discussions and subsequent decision:

1. There is considerable value in the diverse network currently generated, particularly in these uncertain times. Social capital and independent views should not be undervalued.
2. Zone Committee Representative participation has value as the conduit for bi-directional sharing of regional insights. Other forums could provide similar opportunities if held regularly through the year (Watershed type forums, Chairs/Deputy Chairs meetings).

3. The independent Chair should drive the agenda with a focus on strategic direction to ensure the committee adds value.

4. There is a need to refocus on the purpose of the committee: 'advise and monitor'.

This would be supported by developing a work programme for the group.

The implementation of Te Mana o te Wai would seem to be a programme where the committee could provide significant value via support and monitoring. Working Groups add value by providing independence and insights into complex issues.

5. Long term member involvement brings institutional knowledge that is valuable to newer members. Induction of new participants is essential but has not been happening.

John Preece, who was unable to attend this meeting, had circulated a paper 'Issues for October meeting'. This report was received and is appended to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned between 3.15 and 3.28pm

7. **Government's Essential Freshwater Package**

Refer to pages 14 to 17 of the agenda

Cr Claire McKay presented this report on the implications for Environment Canterbury and the wider community of the Government's Essential Freshwater package. The report was presented to the Environment Canterbury meeting held on 24 September 2020.

It was acknowledged that there was still uncertainty about the implications for rural and urban activities and further conversations will be needed.

Lesley Woudberg recommended the information that was available on the Council's website "Essential Freshwater package and Canterbury Rules – FAQs."

The comment in the report that Environment Canterbury will engage with Papatipu Rūnanga to understand what the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai will look like in each rohe was noted.

Trudy Heath suggested that decision makers will need an understanding of Te Mana o te Wai and shorter consent terms and consent reviews may be required. Also, a tribal position may be needed before the Papatipu Rūnanga engagement.

Benita Wakefield explained that the Ngāi Tahu position on Te Mana o te Wai was that the decline in the quality of waterways required a fundamental change to the management of freshwater. The rights of Ngāi Tahu need to be protected and their role, rights and rangatiratanga need to be recognized.

The Acting Chair requested regular updates to the Committee on this matter and invited zone committees to report back to the Committee with any concerns.

8. **Mayoral Forum Plan for Canterbury 2020-2022**

Refer to pages 18 to 20 of the agenda

Lesley Woudberg spoke to this report and confirmed that the letter attached to the agenda with the Committee's response had been sent to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum.

The Committee will be updated on the Mayoral Forum's proposal regarding the review and how the CWMS can be delivered.

9. **Open session – news from members and zone committees**

Due to time restraints there was no time for the open session. It was requested that written reports be provided for future agendas and that the zone committee updates be scheduled earlier in the agenda.

10. **Facilitator's Report**

Refer to pages 57 to 58 of the agenda

The Committee noted the Facilitators update.

11. **Other business**


There was no other business.

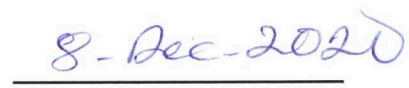
12. **Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting, 8 December, would be a good opportunity to clarify the Committee's purpose. A field trip could be organised for the beginning of 2021.

The Acting Chair encouraged members to contact herself, the Chair Hugh Logan or Lesley with items for the December meeting agenda.

Jane Demeter was thanked for chairing the meeting and Craig Pauling closed the meeting with a karakia at 4.18pm.


Chairperson *Acting*


Date