

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1 (UPSTAIRS), RUATANIWHA  
KAIAPOI CIVIC CENTRE, 176 WILLIAMS STREET, KAIAPOI ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY  
2021 AT 3:30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson), Cameron Henderson (Deputy Chairperson), Dave Ashby, Erin Harvie, Carlyne Latham, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), and Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), J Ensor (Mandeville Residents Association), T Wells (Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd.), B Walton and (Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd.) M Mckeown WGA Environmental Consultants.

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), K Simpson (3 Waters Manager), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), A Meredith (ECan Principal Water Quality and Ecology Scientist), M Cataloni, (ECan Northern Zone Delivery Lead), Z Ploeg (ECan Biodiversity Officer), A Veltman (ECan Land Management Advisor), M Rupene (ECan Poū Matai Kō), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitator) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

**KARAKIA**

Arapata Reuben provided the karakia to open the meeting.

**1 BUSINESS**

**1.1 Apologies**

Moved: J Cooke

Seconded: A Reuben

An apology was received and sustained from Wendy Main and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor) for absence. Apologies were also received and sustained from Erin Harvie and Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor) for late arrival.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present. He requested the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members, and attendees to introduce themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

**1.3 Register of Interests**

No discussion emanated from this point.

**2. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021**

*M Blackwell stepped down as Chairperson, with the CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, temporarily facilitating meeting.*

M Griffin reminded the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee that a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson needed to be appointed at the first meeting of each year. He noted that it might be sensible for M Blackwell and C Henderson to remain as Chairperson and Deputy Chair respectively until the scheduled CWMS Zone Committee Refresh was concluded in May 2021. With the 10 December 2020 decision by ECan to reduce the size of the CMWS

Regional Committee, there was no longer a need for the Committee to appoint a CWMS Regional Committee representative for 2021.

Both M Blackwell and C Henderson confirmed that they would be willing to continue in these roles until after the CWMS Zone Committee Refresh.

Moved: Judith Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: D Ashby

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Extend** the 2020 appointments of Chairperson and Deputy Chair until the 2021 CWMS Zone Committee Refresh is conducted.

**CARRIED**

*The CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, then vacated the Chair in favour of the Chairperson, M Blackwell.*

### **3 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

#### **3.1 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident**

M Bate also showed photos and video taken of the Ashburton River over December 2020, he expressed a concern regarding the spraying of chemicals along the river, over the nesting areas of indigenous birds. He also expressed his concern about the lack of aquatic life in the Ararira-LII and Ashburton Rivers, as well as the surrounding wetlands, especially the lack of weeds and indigenous species. He stated that from his investigation it appears that the spraying was done by ECan. A Arps requested M Bate to provide ECan with the exact information on where the chemical spraying had occurred to enable them to investigate the matter.

M Bate also showed photos a willow tree killed at Silversteam and raised a concern regarding the tree being drilled and poisoned. A Arps advised that the willow tree was being removed at the request of the landowner. Unfortunately, the willow tree had to be poisoned prior to removal to prevent them from growing back. A Arps noted that the willow trees were considered weeds in this area.

M Bate stated that there seemed to be an improvement in the health of the Taranaki Stream with oxygen weeds in the middle of the stream, however, there was an animal carcass in the stream, just below the Kaiapoi Pa. There seemed to be no aquatic weeds in Pegasus Lake, but some aquatic life was observed at the outflow of the lake into the wetlands. There also seemed to be more weed in the wetlands than in previous years.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if M Bates showed the photos of the Ashburton and Ararira-LII Rivers to the CWMS Selwyn Zone Committee. M Bates confirmed that the matter had not been raised with the CWMS Selwyn Zone Committee, but ECan had been advised.

*Councillor S Stewart joined the meeting at 16:23.*

#### **3.2 T Wells – Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd (WIL).**

T Wells elaborated on the drain in Bennett's Diversion Enhancement Project that WIL, wished to launch in collaboration the Next Generation Farmers Trust and local landowners in the Oxford area. It highlighted the proposed waterway along which the project would be undertaken, which included the urban stormwater drain that ran from Oxford Town, through farmland and into Coopers Creek. It was also known as the Bennett's Diversion which ultimately flowed into the Eyre River. The Eyre River was dry for most of the year, but this waterway flowed more regularly. Currently the waterway was overgrown, it therefore envisaged to enhance the flow of this waterway by removing the overgrown willows and doing riparian planting.

T Wells explained that one of the local landowner's had already started the habitation of the waterway by doing some doing riparian planting. WIL believed that this would be a

good project to invest in as it was not only a rural waterway and its close location to Oxford meant that it could be developed for recreational purposes. He noted that currently WIL was soliciting support for the project from various interest groups, landowners and the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

T Wells advised that WIL wished to apply for funding from the Freshwater Improvement Fund, thus the urgent support of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was being sought as the funding applications closed on 10 February 2021. WIL believed that the proposed project meets most of the criteria of the Freshwater Improvement Fund and was therefore requesting a letter of support from the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that preference would be given to projects requesting less than 50 percent of the project's total costs, she asked who would be providing the co-funding. T Wells noted that WIL would be looking at other shareholder and landowners to contribute. It was also envisaged that some of the funding could be provided as "services in kind".

C Latham sought clarity on the length of the waterway to be included in the proposed project. T Wells noted that it would be approximately one kilometre, but the project may be extended towards Oxford in future.

C Henderson enquired what recreational activities were proposed on the property owned by ECan. T Wells noted that it was hoped to develop mountain bike and tramping trails, incorporating the natural features.

Moved: C Henderson

Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Provides** a letter of support to Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd to submit with their application for funding from the Freshwater Improvement Fund for the Bennett's Diversion Enhancement Project.

**CARRIED**

A Reuben Against

M Blackwell noted that WILL should not only concentrate on the removal of overgrown willows and doing riparian planting needed to ensure that the quality of the water improved.

#### 4. **REPORTS**

##### 4.1 **Immediate Steps Biodiversity – Update – Z Ploeg (Ecan Biodiversity Officer)**

Z Ploeg advised that the Richon Wetland project would involve erecting stock proof deer fencing around this wetland located in the Lees Valley to protect it from livestock and deer. The new fence would include the wetland areas that were not previously protected by fencing. The area to be fenced consisted of 0.9 hectare of swamp dominated by indigenous vegetation which includes the Canterbury Pink Broom which was Nationally Critical. It was envisaged that by fencing the area, the native vegetation would be able to recover. She highlighted the various wildlife that was observed in the area

Z Ploeg further explained that the Sladdens Bush Road Fencing and Weed Control project would entail the fencing and woody weed control to protect a gully stream and a small wetlands. The 0.8 hectare site consisted of a small gully stream with a regenerating broadleaf forest area. She highlighted the various wildlife and indigenous vegetation that was observed in the area.

C Henderson enquired if the drain located to at the top of the Richon Wetland, was draining the wetland. Z Ploeg confirmed that the drain did not have an impact on the wetness of the wetland.

A Reuben asked if it was envisaged to expand the project in the future. Z Ploeg advised that the land owner had a number of areas where he was trying to encourage natural regeneration on. A Reuben suggested that the land owner should be encouraged to also fence the areas that have potential for future projects.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Supports** an allocation of \$14,800 of IMS funding for the Richon Wetland project.
- (b) **Supports** an Allocation of \$14,700 of IMS funding for the Sladdens Bush Road Fencing and Weed Control project.

**CARRIED**

J Roper-Lindsay noted that the two funding applications were presented to the Biodiversity Working Group and the Group was in support of the projects.

4.2 **Zone Delivery Quarterly Report – October to December 2020 – M Cataloni (Ecan, Northern Zone Lead)**

M Cataloni provided an update of the ECan's Zone Delivery in the Waimakariri for the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year. He highlighted the following:

- Pegasus Lake – Concerns had been raised about the further outbreaks of algae bloom at the Lake. Ecan needed to reinitiate the compliance work process with the new owners of the lake. Ecan was, however, working closely with the Council and the new owners to resolve the matter.
- Daikin - Concerns had also been raised regarding the emission for the Daikin factory in Sefton, and it seems that an overhaul might be needed.
- Faxton/ Lineside Road area - An Ecologist had scoped the site and had mapped it out, in a bid provide Ecan with a plan for this area.

M Blackwell acknowledged that this would be a long process, but expressed his concern regarding the quality of water from the Lineside Drain. He therefore urged Ecan to resolve the matter as soon as possible. Councillor S Stewart concurred and stated that the problem had been persisting for at least the last five years.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned who set the milestones for the Waimakariri - Work Programme Progress. M Cataloni explained the process of setting the "internal" milestones set by Ecan.

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: C Henderson

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receive** the Zone Delivery Quarterly Report for October 2020 to December 2020 for its information.

**CARRIED**

4.3 **Mahinga Kai – Update – M Rupene (Ecan, Poū Matai Kō)**

M Rupene provided a brief overview of the ECan's current Mahinga Kai priorities in the Waimakariri Water Zone and the work he had been doing as Poū Matai Kō. In his role as Poū Matai Kō he aim to cultivate an understanding of Mahinga Kai on farms, he therefore leads talks with landowners, farmers and interest groups on Mahinga Kai. He stressed that Mahinga Kai was not only about the food, but rather about the connection to the natural environment.

M Rupene explained that due to an unfortunate drowning in the Waimakariri River, between the State Highway 1 Bridge and the Old Waimakariri Bridge, two days ago, the Rūnanga would place a rāhui on that part of the river. A rāhui would safeguard the area for people, so that they do not collect kai or swim in this area, as there was still someone missing in this area. He would be meeting with Ecan, the Council, the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Police to discuss the Rūnanga's tikanga and kawa with regard to certain events, to safeguard the public.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired who farmers responded to the concept of Mahinga Kai. M Rupene advised that in the beginning he encountered a lot of negativity from landowners, until they start seeing the benefits from restoration work and Mahinga Kai. A Arps noted that due to the previous work done by M Rupene farmers was now reaching out to Ecan to restoration work and Mahinga Kai on their farms.

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: C Henderson

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receive** the Mahinga Kai Update report for its information.

**CARRIED**

*E Harvie joined the meeting at 17:21.*

**5 COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)**

**5.1 Proposed Plan Change 7 (Waimakariri)**

No discussion emanated from this point.

**5.2 CWMS Regional Committee**

No discussion emanated from this point.

**5.3. Zone Committee Working Groups**

No discussion emanated from this point.

**5.4 Communications and Engagement**

No discussion emanated from this point.

**5.5 WDC Land and Water Committee.**

Councillor Stewart noted that the Council's draft 2021/31 Long Term Plan would be approved for consultation at the end of February 2021.

C Latham enquired if the concerns from landowners of the Lineside Road - Bramley Road area that the wetland being mapped by ECan was due to the deferral of drain maintenance by the Council was justified. S Allen advised that the area was difficult to drain, but it was difficult to prove that the situation was made worse by delayed maintenance.

**5.6 CWMS Zone Committee Review.**

J Roper-Lindsay expressed a concern regarding the lack of communication with the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee regarding the proposed CWMS Regional Committee Review. Also, she requested that the CWMS Regional Committee's disappointment with the lack mechanisms for CWMS Zone Committees collaboration and interaction be recorded.

M Blackwell agreed that it was a lost opportunity if CWMS Zone Committees were not able to collaborate and work together.

C Henderson noted that the proposed purpose and function of the revised CWMS Regional Committee's was "*Facilitating community engagement and collaboration – continuing an active programme of engaging with communities on freshwater management matters.*" It was however unclear how this would be achieved, in light of the fact that there would be no CWMS Zone Committees representatives on the Regional Committee.

5.7 **Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) Website – Waimakariri and Kaiapoi/Silverstream data**

A Meredith noted he was still waiting for the brief position paper from Climate, Freshwater and Ocean Science (NIWA) on this matter.

Councillor Stewart advised that she requested an update from the ECan Council on ECan's plans for increasing groundwater and stream and river monitoring in the light of the new requirements under the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water 2020, the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater and of course Plan Change 7. She also expressed the Council's frustration at the out-of-date information on the LAWA website that did not allow for an understanding of the state of the ecology and water quality in a particular waterway. As well as the inconsistency in the monitoring data being recorded at the various sample sites.

Councillor Stewart further also noted that the cultural assessment that Ngai Tuahuriri undertook in 2012 on the Ruataniwha-Cam River with Council funding seem to be missing from any monitoring across the district. She further noted that the information on the present LAWA website was totally inadequate to be able to benchmark the current state 2021 of the district's freshwater waterways and the results of improvement works that needed to be undertake.

Councillor Stewart suggested that all relevant parties in the district - ECan, the Council, WIL, Ngai Tuahuriri, Fish and Game, etc. should work together to outline their monitoring and measurement needs for ground and surface water in the Waimakariri and collaborate in a district-wide programme which published this information at least monthly on a dedicated public website. This collaboration would ensure resources were shared and that the district and the relevant parties were all benefiting.

C Henderson concurred that the only way to ensure holistic monitoring was through a collaborate approach.

5.8 **Ashley/Rakahuri River Vegetation Clearance.**

A Arps advised that the weed clearance in the upper Ashley/Rakahuri River was in the procurement faze, it was anticipated that the work would be done in April 2021. A Arps advised confirmed that feedback had been provided to the affected landowners.

5.9 **Action Points from 7 December meeting**

No discussion emanated from this point.

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: J Roper-Lindsay

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information, and with reference to the Committee's 2021 Work Programme and Community Engagement priorities.

**CARRIED**

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### 6.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 7 December 2020

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: J Roper-Lindsay

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 7 December 2020, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

### 6.2 **Matters Arising**

None

## 7 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### 7.1 CWMS Zone Committee Review

C Henderson requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be provided with a timeline for the proposed CWMS Zone Committee Review. Also more information on the proposed appointment of a youth representative to the Committee.

### 7.2 Expression of interest (EOI) to the Freshwater Improvement Fund

S Allen highlighted the noted that the Council submitted an EOI to the Freshwater Improvement Fund for the Arohatia Te Awa project and the Cam River. We would like to provide some further information about the Arohatia Te Awa project and the Ruataniwha-Cam River.

### 7.3 Expression of interest (EOI) to the Freshwater Improvement Fund

The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee had a general discussion on wetlands

## KARAKIA

A Reuben provided the karakia to close the meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for the 1 March 2021 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.03 PM.

CONFIRMED



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Chairperson

1 March 2021  
Date