

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEING HELD AT 12.30PM ON FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY AT THE KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL TAWA MEETING ROOM

PRESENT: T Howard (Chair), R Roche (Deputy Chair), ECan Cr G Edge, KDC Cr T Blunt, N McArthur, J Murray, C McConchie, A Boyd

IN ATTENDANCE: M Griffin (ECan - Facilitation and minutes), K Heays (ECan Zone Delivery Lead), W Doughty (KDC CEO)

APOLOGIES: G Solomon, T Sonal

Moved N McArthur Seconded by John Murray

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee
Accept all apologies.

CARRIED

Meeting opened 12.33pm

KARAKIA led by A Boyd

1. Urgent Business

The upcoming South Bay Beach action plan meeting on Thursday 4 March at 5pm, at the Kaikōura Coast Guards in South Bay.

2. Committee Check In

T Howard welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the year and opened a round of introductions and updates around the table.

- A Boyd noted she was taking things quietly to maintain her health and wellbeing.
- N McArthur spoke to the Dark Sky initiative for Kaikōura she has been spearheading, with the confirmation of an invite from Environment Canterbury Chair, Jenny Hughey, to provide a briefing to Council on this initiative and the associated issue of light pollution.
- C McConchie noted the milestone of his son beginning his studies at Lincoln.
- G Edge confirmed the ECan draft Long-Term Plan 2021-31 has been approved and will be out for consultation on 8 March.
- T Howard noted a lot is happening across the community, but largely happening in silos. He felt people in the town were very focused, but with little time or energy to engage on issues beyond their own. He confirmed his own agenda is very full at present, across the groups and initiatives he is associated with.
- T Blunt noted the recent evening event to conclude the Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project highlighted the project had been a real success and some great work had been done. He noted getting a free Farm audit was a significant outcome for local farmers.
- J Murray noted the normal summer dry season was being experienced in the Clarence. He added the government's Essential Freshwater reforms were a major worry for farmers locally and highlights a better understanding of farming is required is real change is to be achieved. J Murray also noted his concern with KDC Water Scheme approach, and the proposed 25% rates increase in the ECan Long-Term Plan.

- G Edge responded to J Murray's concerns and highlighted how important the messaging is to explain the proposed rates increase, against the challenge of not being able to put off some significant issues and challenges any longer. He added Environment Canterbury Councillors are scheduled to meet with KDC Councillors on 19 March.
- K Heays explained his haircut and the pending arrival of his grandchildren for a visit.
- R Roche acknowledged the passing of M Solomon and M Griffin's current circumstance. He also noted he has now concluded his role with NCTIR and looking forward to a new role as a driving instructor. He added both he and T Blunt were now 'biodiversity champions' for the Mayoral Forum. He concluded with a acknowledgement of Angela Oosthuizen's contribution as KDC CEO and Will Doughty commencing in this role.
- A discussion concluded this session which noted the recent low community engagement on consulted issues, especially the waste minimization strategy. There was collective concern with the government's proposed freshwater reforms.

3. Register of Interests

- T Howard – remove his 2020 election candidacy.
- N McArthur, R Roche & C McConchie also noted changes to the register which M Griffin will email them to confirm.

4. Committee Appointments

M Griffin provided an overview of the proposed approach to confirming the committee's appointments at this first meeting of the Zone Committee for 2021. He confirmed T Howard and R Roche are happy to continue in these roles in 2021 up to the CWMS Zone Committee refresh, scheduled to be held between April and June this year. At the conclusion of this CWMS Zone Committee refresh the committee will again appoint its Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

M Griffin also clarified the 10 December 2020 decision by Environment Canterbury to reduce the size of the CMWS Regional Committee thereby removing zone committee and territorial authority representatives and reducing representation of Environment Canterbury to one councillor. Consequently, there is no requirement for the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee to appoint a CWMS Regional Committee representative for 2021.

Following a discussion on the CWMS Zone Committee Refresh schedule for 2021 the following was agreed:

Moved T Blunt Seconded N McArthur

THAT the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:
Extend the 2020 appointments of Chair and Deputy Chair until the 2021 CWMS Zone Committee refresh is conducted.

CARRIED

5. Committee Updates

5.1 CWMS Regional Committee

M Griffin provided an overview of the 10 December decision by Environment Canterbury on the CWMS Regional Committee which adopted the staff recommendation to:

- o Retain the function of the Regional Committee,
- o Retain the Regional Committee as a committee of Council,
- o Reduce the size of the committee by removing zone committee and territorial authority representatives and reducing representation of Environment Canterbury to one Councillor,

- Invite a District Health Board representative to join the committee as a member.

M Griffin also noted the 10 December Council paper recognized the need for continued engagement across zone committees and proposed to facilitate this through more regular Chairs/Deputy Chairs meetings and other bilateral engagement opportunities, such as field visits and workshops, for zone committees.

T Howard followed with his reflections on his experience over years on the Regional Committee, noting one of the most valued aspects being the connection to other zone committee representatives and their issues, challenges, and experiences. G Edge noted a 25 February paper to Council which highlighted the probable direction on the future role and purpose of the CWMS Regional Committee.

T Howard reflected on the tendency towards overplanning and populating space to fulfil targets. He noted this was a critique of governments generally. He emphasized the need to devolve decision making to people responding on the ground to issues and opportunities. In contrast, he suggested, hard rules end up being a basis for covering up situations where the rules don't work when applied locally.

C McConchie queried if this is like finding a balance between the current and previous government's approaches. T Howard added that creating more rules ends up creating more problems. He cited the Kaikōura community's post-earthquake experience where the community was forced to act responsibly given the lack of applicable rules during the immediate earthquake recovery.

G Edge suggested adding the paper on the CWMS Regional Committee from their 25 February meeting to the next meeting agenda.

C McConchie asked about the Hurunui Waiapu Uwha Zone Committee (HWUZO) and the HDC proposal for a new committee. M Griffin clarified the HWUZO was effectively in abeyance while the HDC sought to introduce its own Water and Land Committee. A recent HDC council paper confirmed a draft Terms of Reference for this proposed committee, with further discussions to be conducted by HDC with Environment Canterbury and Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga on this proposed committee.

J Murray reflected on the HWUZO being the first zone committee to be established under the CWMS and, consequently, would have done a lot of pioneering work over the years.

5.2 Zone Committee Meeting Schedule 2021

A round table discussion on preferences for either monthly meetings, as in previous years, or variations of workshops and field introduced to address specific topics or issues. The consensus from this discussion was to:

- Continue to meet monthly, but
- Introduce workshop sessions and field trips with a specific focus, and engagement opportunities across the calendar year.

5.3 Zone Committee Refresh 2021

A discussion followed on the zone committee refresh this year and what sectors weren't represented by the current committee membership. M Griffin clarified the committee currently had six community representatives and could have up to seven. J Murray felt that there was a lack of engagement with the local dairy farmers and wondered if there was a local farmer that could be encouraged to put in an expression of interest to join the committee. This proposal was further endorsed by committee members with K Heays offering to follow up and confirm interest in this proposal with a local dairy farmer.

The local Dairy Discussion Group was another group noted that would be good to engage with. A further discussion followed this discussion on the Dairy Discussion Group, with both T Blunt and T

Howard highlighting the significant improvement that had occurred over the decades, particularly around effluent management. T Howard noted it shouldn't be forgotten how poor some of the environmental management was several decades ago, with a range of significant improvements in farm management becoming the standard practice in recent years. T Howard encouraged the committee to identify other local groups they could connect with. J Murray suggested the approach of listening more than speaking, to better understand what is happening around freshwater management in the District.

M Griffin confirmed that T Howard, R Roche, and J Murray were the current committee members scheduled to go through this year's refresh.

5.4 Communications

M Griffin led a review of the communications update provided by ECan Communications Advisor, K Whitwell. R Roche commended K Whitwell and team on the impressive work done and presented.

G Edge suggested a story on the ECan Long-Term Plan would be timely, including key points from the document.

5.5 KDC 3 Waters Report

R Roche provided an overview of the report on the private wastewater system detailed in the report. He noted that at present KDC had not accepted any proposals.

T Blunt provided some background on the Fernleigh rural water supply also presented in the report.

This expanded into a broader discussion on drinking water and the Government's establishment of Taumata Arowai as a national regulator for drinking water later in 2021.

5.6 PC7 Hearing

M Griffin provided an update on the Plan Change 7 (of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan) Hearing and highlighted the consideration that will be given by the Hearing Panel to Government's Essential Freshwater Package and Te Mana o Te Wai. He noted the Hearing Panel are expected to provide their recommendations to Environment Canterbury in mid-2021.

G Edge clarified the new National Environment Standards for freshwater (NES) requires Environment Canterbury to have new plans in place by 2024. He also noted a Climate Commission is also to be established by 2025.

T Blunt reflected on the impact of Environment Court decisions, who went against the position of Environment Canterbury, to enable the intensification of the Canterbury Plains. He noted the challenge we face collectively now to pull back from those decisions and remedy the environmental impacts of intensive farming on the plains.

Moved R Roche Seconded Ari Boyd

THAT the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:
Receive these updates for its information and reference to its 5 Year Outcomes and engagement priorities.

CARRIED

6. General Business

6.1 Confirmation of previous minutes – one correction at bottom of page 42, to “in order for people to”

Moved J Murray, seconded by G Edge and resolved that the minutes of the Friday 30 October 2020 be confirmed a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

Matters Arising

N McArthur put forward the option of a field trip to Puhi Peaks with a biodiversity focus.

7. Workshop – Action Plan

M Griffin provided a short overview of the CWMS Zone Committee Review and the new focus on Zone Committees preparing their own 3 Year Action Plans.

A short discussion followed on this template and how to use the previous KWZC 5 Year Outcomes and Milestones (2015-2020). G Edge suggested changing the milestones to actions. He also queried where monitoring should be placed in the new action plan. T Howard also raised the consideration of the transport corridor for the new action plan.

It was agreed the most practical way to advance this action plan, as a priority for the zone committee, was for M Griffin to prepare an initial mock-up of the action plan, based on the KWZC 5 Year outcomes and milestones, for the committee to review. It was also agreed to make the next KWZC meeting, on Friday 19 March, a workshop to provide the committee with time to review and advance the 3 Year Action Plan. M Griffin to arrange.

W Doughty joined the meeting at 3.05pm.

M Griffin left the meeting at 3.10pm.

8. Kaikōura District Council Draft Long-Term Plan – Update

Will Doughty (KDC CEO) joined the meeting to discuss the KDC draft Long-Term Plan 2021-31 to get the committee’s feedback on community engagement on this plan. R Roche and T Blunt provided a handout for the committee and an overview of the key points noted on this draft Long-Term Plan.

W Doughty introduced himself to the committee having recently been appointed to the role of CEO at KDC. He noted the preparation of the draft Long-Term Plan meant his introduction to the role was intense and immersive, in understanding Council’s priorities and forward work programmes. He noted it is the largest piece of work on any council's calendar every 3 years, with teams on – asset management plans, activity plans, strategies, and budgets.

W Doughty noted this draft Long-Term Plan will go out to formal consultation in late May, early June. Rather than leaving it until this round of public consultation KDC are going to key groups of stakeholders early to make them aware of this plan. He added they are also presenting this plan to Audit NZ in April.

W Doughty clarified a key priority of this plan will be striking a rates balance. KDC doesn't have a massive source of alternative revenue. He noted every \$80K of operational expenditure equated to 1% on rates. In recent years Council’s expenditure has been run tightly, but we have some infrastructure priorities coming up, including discussions of kerbside refuse collection. With the landfill closing in 2024, a transfer station needs to be established and ensuring the overall approach to

collection is user pays.

He explained KDC is currently planning the owning and operating of assets for the next 10 years. Natural hazards will be a focus in the next few weeks, towards a prioritizing of spatial plans including commercial, urban residential. He highlighted roading reseals has a backlog of 2.6M over 10 years which also needs to be planned for. Tourism and economic development are other priorities for the community, with international visitors not expected again in significant numbers until 2024. W Doughty concluded the discussion by noting that alternative revenue sources are another challenge and consideration for Council given these priorities in front of Council over the next 10 years.

R Roche expressed his disappointment at the loss of focus on waste minimization and recycling. He noted recycling has been particularly difficult with issues from Covid, yet it needs to be done.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at **4:05pm**

CLOSING KARAKIA – All