

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, RANGIORA TOWN  
HALL, 303 HIGH STREET RANGIORA ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021 AT 3:30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Cameron Henderson (Acting Chairperson), Dave Ashby, Carlyne Latham, Wendy Main, Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor) and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), J Ensor (Mandeville Residents Association), R Johnston (Farmer), M Mckeown (WGA Environmental Consultants), G McKenzie (Real Communications), C Butler (Water Strategies NZ), J Benn (Department of Conservation) and H Zervos (Student).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), T Davie (ECan Director: Science), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), M Cataloni (ECan Northern Zone Delivery Lead), Z Ploeg (ECan Biodiversity Officer), 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: D Ashby

Seconded: W Main

Apologies were received and sustained from Michael Blackwell, Erin Harvie, Judith Roper-Lindsay and John Cooke for absence.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Welcome and Introductions**

The Acting 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. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

**2.1 C Butler - Water Strategies NZ**

C Butler highlighted the Ministry of Primary Industries' (MPI) Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Project which would be led by the farming community. It was envisaged that farmer-led groups would share and explore knowledge, ideas and solutions supported by facilitators, with experts brought in as required. Water Strategies NZ would be supporting the Waimakariri farming community to proactively explore solutions to sustainability challenges.

Funding received from the MPI would be used for the following:

- Facilitate and co-ordination of farmer groups.
- Technical expertise to exploration of future farm systems and to pilot whole of Farm Business Plan approach.

- Implement an Evaluation and Monitoring Programme to ensure the project progress was measured, reported on and adapted. Farmer case studies would also be undertaken over the next three years.
- Updates on progress and findings to farmers and wider community.

C Butler elaborated on the approach taken to establish farmer-led groups. Water Strategies NZ was currently drafting up ideas and proposals that were raised during the high level workshops with the farmer-led groups. It was agreed to first determine what existing practices and information were available, before commencing work. C Butler noted that the project would be undertaken in collaboration with other groups and organisations such as ECan, the Waimakariri Landcare Trust, Beef and Lamb New Zealand, and Waimakariri Irrigation.

C Henderson advised that although the project fell under the auspice of the Waimakariri Landcare Trust, a steering group had been established to manage the project. W Main would be representing the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the said steering group, to ensure constant feedback to the Committee. He advised that a website was currently being developed for the project to keep interested parties updated.

Councillor S Stewart sought clarity on the kind of ideas for study that were being raised at the farmer-led workshops. C Butler noted that issues such as fertigation, on pasture activities, effective engagement with iwi and the wider community, and environmental measures on farms seemed to be the main concerns.

In response to questions, C Butler confirmed that just under \$500,000 funding was received for the three year project.

## 2.2 **R Johnston – Farmer**

R Johnston raised a concern that, as a farmer, he believed that he was not being represented in government. He advised that the flow of communication from the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee to the general public was not affective enough to keep the community informed on the work being done by the Committee.

R Johnston expressed further apprehension regarding the lack of public consultation by Central Government on issues relating to fresh water prior to realising the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water 2020. This lack of consultation has led to ECan's proposed rates increase of 24.5 per cent, to cover the fallout of the Government's new freshwater regulations. He noted that many of the residents in the Waimakariri district would not be able to afford the proposed rates increase.

R Johnston noted that to date the funding allocated for the Ashley River Clearance Project had not been spent. M Cataloni confirmed that ECan was in the process of procuring contractors for clearing the vegetation. It was envisaged that the project would commence in April 2021.

## 2.3 **M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident**

M Bate showed recent photos and videos of the Kaiapoi River, emphasizing the lack of aquatic weeds and the algal bloom in the river. However, he noted the improvement in the aquatic weed growth in the Kaiapoi River behind the Kaiapoi Borough School. There also seemed to be an increase in the growth of aquatic weeds on the mud flats near the State Highway Bridge. However, there still seemed to be no aquatic life in the waterway.

M Bate also showed a video highlighting the effluent that Christchurch Ready Mix Concrete was releasing into the Waimakariri River. A Reuben expressed a concern that ECan was not advised immediately of the effluent running into the Waimakariri River and requested M Cataloni to investigate the matter.

In conclusion, C Henderson expressed the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's appreciation for the continued campaigning done by M Bate. He was encouraged by the increase growth of aquatic weeds in the Kaiapoi River.

### 3. REPORTS

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

Z Ploeg advised that the Council, ECan and the QEII Trust were collaborating with the landowner to support the retirement, fencing and permanent protection of approximately 150-hectare on Mount Lawry Station, including part of the Waipara River. The proposed project would involve fencing and covenanting four area on the station to exclude farmed stock and feral deer. The areas to be fenced consisted of a low nutrient sphagnum bog, primary beech forests, manuka, kanuka and several other nationally and locally rare plants. It was envisaged that by fencing the area, the native vegetation would be able to recover.

In response to questions Z Ploeg explained that it was anticipated that the project would cost approximately \$590,000, and application had therefore also been made to the Jobs for Nature Fund for \$400,000. Due to the high cost of the project it was recommended that the funding be allocated over two financial years.

A Reuben sought clarity on what would happen to Immediate Steps Funding, if the applicants were unable to raise additional funding. Z Ploeg confirmed that the funds would revert back to the Immediate Steps Fund.

Moved: D Ashby

Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Supports** an allocation of \$50,000 of Immediate Steps funding for the Mt Lawry Covenant project over two financial years.

**CARRIED**

A Reuben Against

C Latham noted that the funding application was supported by the Biodiversity Working Group.

A Reuben advised that the Rūnanga did not currently consider the protection of these areas as a high priority from a cultural and fresh water perspective.

#### 3.2 Zone Implementation Programme Addendum Implementation – Second Quarterly Update 2020/21 - S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator – Waimakariri, ECan)

M Griffin tabled a report on the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) for the Waimakariri Water Zone for the period 1 October to 30 December 2020. He noted that the report had not been finalised at the time the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee agenda was being compiled, hence the tabling of the report at the meeting.

Subsequent to discussion, it was agreed that consideration of the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum Implementation – Second Quarterly Update 2020/21 lay on the table until the next meeting to enable the members to study the report.

Moved: Councillor S Stewart

Seconded: C Henderson

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Lay** the report on the 'Update on Zone Implementation Programme Addendum Implementation for the Second Quarterly 2020/21' until the next meeting of the committee.

**CARRIED**

#### **4 COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)**

##### **4.1 Proposed Plan Change 7 (Waimakariri)**

M Griffin noted that the Reply Hearing was concluded on 26 February 2021 and the ECan Council decision was expected in June/July 2021.

##### **4.2 CWMS Regional Committee**

The CWMS Regional Committee meeting scheduled for 16 February had been postponed and a rescheduled date would be advised shortly. M Griffin undertook to keep the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee updated on this matter.

C Henderson enquired if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would be able to provide input on the proposed new Terms of Reference for the CWMS Regional Committee. M Griffin explained that there was no formal feedback process, however, the Committee could make a submission to the ECan Council on this matter.

T Davie confirmed that the review of the Terms of Reference for the CWMS Regional Committee would be considered by the ECan Council on 11 March 2021.

##### **4.3. Zone Committee Working Groups**

- Landcare Working Group

C Henderson noted that the Waimakariri Landcare Trust main focus was on delivering the Next Generation Farming Project in conjunction with Water Strategies NZ.

- Biodiversity Working Group

C Latham reported that the Group was still in the process of ascertaining the need for a Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. Next they would be focusing on finding potential trustees and investigating funding options for the proposed Trust.

- Coastal Catchments Working Group

The working group had a field trip to the Saltwater Creek on 23 February 2021, where S Allen demonstrated how to take a stream water sample and do a quick stream health assessment.

##### **4.4 Communications and Engagement**

- Zone Committee 2020 Annual Progress Report

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Other communications

G McKenzie from Real Communications would be assisting with communications for the Waimakariri Water Zone.

4.5 **WDC Land and Water Committee.**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.6 **CWMS Zone Committee Review and Refresh Schedule 2021**

M Griffin provided a brief update on the proposed timeframe for the CWMS Zone Committee Review and Refresh.

4.7 **NIWA Advice – Aquatic Macrophyte loss in lowland waterways**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.8 **Action Points from previous CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee meetings**

- Action point from the 7 December 2020 meeting:

Councillor Stewart again stated that she found the information on the LAWA Website inadequate, as the data was 15 months out of date. She believed that the water quality and ecological data available on the LAWA Website was not sufficient for the Committee to make informed decisions about the districts waterways. Nor did the out-of-date information provide the general public with an understanding of the state of the ecology and water quality in the Waimakariri district.

Councillor Stewart therefore requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be updated on the uploading and maintenance of data on the LAWA Website.

T Davie explained where the data captured on the LAWA Website was sourced from. He noted that the website was designed to show state and trend over a period of time (mostly five, 10 and 15 years), and not to provide 'live data'. The data on the LAWA Website was therefore updated on an annual basis. However, ECan was currently working on the Water Data Project to 'clean-up' its data sets. As part of the project, a Water Quality Data Viewer was being developed, which would enable the public to access the latest water quality data.

In response to questions T Davie confirmed that the locations of the motoring sites would not be reviewed as part of the Water Data Project.

C Henderson requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be provided with information on how much funding would be available for the monitoring of water quality in the Waimakariri Zone, and what future monitoring was proposed. T Davie undertook to report back to the Committee on this matter.

- Action points from the 1 February 2021 meeting:

C Henderson reported that Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd had decided not to submit an application for funding to the Freshwater Improvement Fund, for the Bennett's Diversion Enhancement Project, at this time.

Moved: W Main

Seconded: D Ashby

**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 – 1 February 2021**

Moved: Councillor S Stewart      Seconded: C Latham

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 1 February 2021, as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Matters Arising**

None

**7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7.1 Time of CWMS Zone Committee meeting**

A Reuben noted that due to other commitments he was struggling to attend the workshop being held prior to the CWMS Zone Committee meetings. He requested the Committee to consider rescheduling the workshops.

**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 3 May 2021 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.14 PM.

CONFIRMED



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Chairperson

3 May 2021  
Date