



MINUTES

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting

19 March 2021

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY INN, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 19 MARCH 2021 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Simon Cameron, Matthew Bayliss, Richard Subtil, Cr John Sunckell, Cr Ross McRobie, Joy Paterson, Michael Mcmillan

IN ATTENDANCE: Janine Roux (Facilitator), Chris Eccleston (Ecan), Kate Doran (Ecan), Shirley Hayward (Science Team Leader Ecan), Sam Kidner (River Engineer Ecan), Hamish Barrell (Waitaki District Council – from about 12pm), Arlene Goss (Committee secretary), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Tim Harty (Mackenzie District Council), Rick Ramsay (aquaculture group), Kirsty Simmonds (Fonterra)

1 OPENING

Member Michael Mcmillan opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/81

Moved: Mr Richard Subtil

Seconded: Cr Ross McRobie

That the apologies received from Lisa Anderson and Cr Stuart Barwood be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 VISITORS

Hamish Barrell from Waitaki District Council visited to update the committee on the District Plan Review.

5 REPORTS

5.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 16 OCTOBER 2020

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/82

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Cr John Sunckell

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 16 October 2020 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED

5.1.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The chairman stood down and facilitator Janine Roux conducted the election. The committee chose system B to conduct the process.

Joy Paterson nominated Simon Cameron for the chair and this was seconded by Cr McRobie. There were no further nominations and therefore Simon Cameron was elected chairperson.

Cr Sunckell nominated Mat Bayliss for the deputy chair and this was seconded by Simon Cameron. There were no further nominations and therefore Mat Bayliss was elected deputy chairperson.

It was noted that the committee refresh process would take place in June. The only member due for refresh was Lisa Anderson.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/83

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Cr Ross McRobie

1. That Simon Cameron be re-elected chairperson of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/84

Moved: Cr John Sunckell

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That Mat Bayliss be re-elected deputy chairperson of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee.

CARRIED

5.2 INTERESTS REGISTER

The Interests Register was noted.

5.3 TAKAMANA (LAKE ALEXANDRINA)

The chairman updated the committee on the recent field trip to Lake Alexandrina. Discussion took place on the good health of the lake and the work being done under the Immediate Steps funding programme.

5.4 LAKE RUATANIWHA CONTACT RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY RESULTS

This report was from Shirley Hayward, Science Team Leader - Water Quality and Ecology, Environment Canterbury. It informed the Zone Committee of the contact recreational water quality results received over the December/January period.

Shirley Hayward provided background information on lake monitoring over Christmas and New Year.

Weekly monitoring showed good results. Bacteria levels remained below alert levels for the period. There was nothing to cause concern.

Additional samples were taken for faecal source monitoring, but because there were no high levels there was no analysis completed.

The area was busy and full of people but not as intense as it has felt at times in the past. The weather during that period was not good so people didn't stay as long. Mat Bayliss asked Environment Canterbury staff to get the occupancy numbers from the motor camp to help assess numbers.

Shirley Hayward said Environment Canterbury staff planned to repeat the water sampling next summer.

Loch Laird is on the same sampling run and is sampled weekly from November to March. Loch Cameron is not monitored. Joy Patterson asked if Loch Cameron could be added to the water sampling run. Shirley Hayward offered to look into this and come back to the committee. This area is on Meridian Energy land.

A resolution was passed to this effect.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/85

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That Environment Canterbury staff investigate whether Loch Cameron can be added to the schedule of contact recreational water quality testing.

CARRIED

5.5 "ONE POO CAN CLOSE THE LAKE" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN SUMMER 2020/21

This report was from Kate Doran, Senior Communications & Engagement Advisor, Environment Canterbury. It informed the Zone Committee of the highlights and opportunities of the 'One Poo Can Close the Lake' Public Awareness Campaign.

Kate Doran described visitor numbers as steady over the summer period and anecdotal evidence was that there were more dogs in the area. Dog poo bags were handed out as part of the campaign. The campaign got a lot of media coverage. The committee asked to keep this going. It

cost about \$3,500 which was modest. There was enough collateral material to last the next season.

It would be good to acknowledge the work done by those people who worked hard on this and Kate Doran was asked to do a press release outlining the water testing results and thanking the people who made a difference. It was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Tony Ritchie from the committee.

The committee agreed to do this again next year. Waitangi weekend was recognised as equally important as the Christmas period.

The committee agreed to reconvene the Lake Ruataniwha working group to further discuss the issues.

Cr McRobie said funding has been received to build a permanent toilet on the Alps2Ocean trail between Sailor's Cutting and Benmore Dam.

A question was asked about communicating current water quality information and how to do this. The official LAWA website says the water quality in Lake Ruataniwha is "fair" due to last summer's high E. Coli test results. This fair grading would remain on the website for some time as it is based on 5-years of data. The meaning of fair was that the water was usually safe for swimming, but people should look at the most recent results.

Kate Doran said a campaign called "Can I swim here" directed people to the most up to date results and maybe this needed to be promoted locally.

Communication on aquatic weeds was also requested.

The camp toilet at Haldon Arm was discussed. This toilet is a soak pit and Mr Harty said it is the responsibility of LINZ. The committee would like to see the soak pit replaced with a different system. The Waitaki Lakes committee is discussing this.

Mat Bayliss asked if there was evidence the toilets were creating a water quality problem. He said the trust was doing a good job and the committee should approach this with an open mind.

Michael Mcmillan said even if the toilet was not an issue now it would eventually become an issue, so why not do something about it now.

Mr Harty said it was a consented activity so could be addressed in this way.

Mr Subtil suggested inviting LINZ to the next meeting to talk about this, and the Lagarosiphon survey outcomes and control plan. Janine Roux offered to arrange this.

5.6 ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY TWIZEL RIVER WORKS

The purpose of this report was to inform the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee of proposed works in the Twizel River by Environment Canterbury. This report was from Sam Kidner, River Engineering Officer, Environment Canterbury.

Sam Kidner spoke to this report. Unfortunately now they were past the time to do work on the river because it was salmon spawning and this would go until November, then people would be

using the river after that. Dry work would be carried out in the meantime. The committee suggested the work be done in October to prevent a longer delay.

There was a potential for the swimming hole to dry up. Some willows would be taken out at the same time. If there was a need, a new swimming hole could be dug to provide a swimming space for the community.

Mat Bayliss was disappointed at the response from the alignment committee (attached to the agenda) and said there was a need for a plan for the area so everyone worked together with the same aims.

Tim Harty alerted the committee to current work on a trails and parks strategy that would include the Alps2Ocean trail. The committee would be approached for input. Mat Bayliss and Joy Paterson offered to represent the committee in regards to this.

Rick Ramsay said the work done to date in the area had made a big difference and thanked Joy Paterson for her work.

5.7 MACKENZIE BASIN AGENCY ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO TWIZEL RIVER RESTORATION

The purpose of this report was to inform the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee of the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Committee response to the Twizel River restoration concept.

5.8 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT

This report was from Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury. It provided information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Janine Roux spoke regarding the committee review. This had been signed off by the Ecan Council and would go to the district councils next. The main difference was the letter of shared expectations from the councils, and the members' code of conduct. There would also be a change to the member refresh process. This had been moved to the middle of the year with advertising in April and confirmation by the end of June.

The committee discussed a request from Lisa Anderson to consider other days of the week for meetings. The members noted their commitments on other days and discovered that Friday was the only day that suited everyone.

It was suggested that zoom meetings be held in the winter months, and the possibility of evening meetings. Zoom meetings eliminated the opportunity for public contribution so were not preferred.

Mat Bayliss raised the question of the purpose of the CWMS Regional Committee if it did not include zone committee and territorial authority representatives.

The governance advisor asked if member's still required printed agendas to be posted to them. It was agreed this would stop and printed agendas would instead be made available at the meeting.

The timing of meetings in winter was discussed and the committee agreed to move the meeting time later in winter to avoid travel on icy roads.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 11.10am and reconvened at 11.27am. The formal meeting closed at this point and the committee conducted a workshop on its action plan for the next three years.

Hamish Barrell from the Waitaki District Council then gave a presentation on the Waitaki District Plan Review and answered questions from members.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on .

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CHAIRPERSON