

# MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON FRIDAY 30 APRIL 2021 AT THE KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** M Griffin (ECan Facilitator), K Heays (ECan Zone Delivery Lead), Jaimee Grant (ECan new Zone Facilitator), Sandy Bowman (ECan CWMS Administrator), Kim Whitwell (ECan Communications), Stephen Bragg (ECan Tikanga Facilitator), Peter Bradshaw (ECan Land Management Advisor); Michael Gilliver (ECan River Engineer), Desiree Bolton (Dairy Farmer)

A Boyd left meeting at 2.53pm  
C McConchie left meeting at 3.30pm

**APOLOGIES:** N McArthur  
Moved A Boyd                      Seconded Cr G Edge

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee  
a) Accept all apologies.

**CARRIED**

Meeting opened 12:45pm

**KARAKIA** led by Gina Solomon.

## Register of Interests

- Gina Solomon to email changes to Murray Griffin

## Urgent Business

No urgent business.

### 1. Committee Check In and Order of Business

Round table update from committee members provided.

### 2. Opportunity for the public to speak

No public speakers in attendance.

### 3. Zone Delivery – Quarterly Update (K Heays ECan)

K Heays presented the Zone Delivery Quarterly update to the committee, refer attached KWZC Zone Delivery Quarterly Update (April 2021) presentation (Quarterly Update PPP). The team have had an “on the ground focus” over the last quarter. ECan have been holding regular and informal road shows every 2-3 months.

K Heays then highlighted further action being done by the team around Warrens Creek. He also noted the work supporting the Waiiau Toa Biodiversity Action Plan, and the further contribution of \$50K/annum in funds granted from LINZ as reported previously to the committee.

K Heays noted we await a confirmation of funding through the ECan Long Term Plan (LTP) to see what money is available, but supporting work programmes are well advanced to 'hit the ground running' at 1 July. He noted there was a lot coming down in the last and next 6 months from the Government for ECan to consider, including Te Mana O Te Wai and Resource Management Act reform changes. He concluded with a reflection on ECan's relationship with the Kaikōura community which he sees as being in a positive space.

P Bradshaw then provided an update on the SCAR Project (Soil Conservation and Regeneration Programme), including the use of poplar poles which have been installed to address high country erosion and regeneration.

G Solomon queried whether farmers were aware of Poplar Pole use and P Bradshaw confirmed they are aware of the benefits of growing poplars. T Blunt confirmed they were aware post-earthquake and spoke of his use of poplar poles on his property with some success. He acknowledged some have not grown. They have been working with farmers who have had significant earthquake damage or erosion damage.

G Solomon queried whether natives could be used as a suitable alternative to the exotic poplar. The SCAR project aims to stabilise hills as quickly as possible. T Blunt explained that poplars have a wider root spread which provide greater protection and will have a greater environmental impact.

C McConchie asked about the financial support provided to farmers through the SCAR project. P Bradshaw noted the project has been well received by farmers, with good up take. He added some farmers were still focused on other on-farm pressures and had not utilized the project as to date.

K Heays then provided an update on the Middle Creek stream walk. He noted the benefits of this mapping which will provide a useful resource to support farmers and is 100% free.

K Heays then covered the Fonterra funded project highlighting project work has commenced which ECan manages and is currently focused on stream and wetland fencing.

P Bradshaw then provided the committee with an overview of the Irrigation testing he has been doing with local farmers, including bucket tests. He noted the importance of farmers making time to do this monitoring.

K Heays then referred to the NCTIR Consents being overseen by R Hubbard (ECan Compliance Officer) and the ongoing site visits he is doing for current projects as work sites along the transport corridor are closed off (please refer to Slide 14 of the presentation). K Heays led a short discussion on one of the significant final NCTIR projects, the canopy installation at Peketa.

H Melville provided an update on recent biodiversity work for the quarter. Investigations have been undertaken on Middle Creek and Rakautara Stream on fish species and passage. Plenty of inanga observed at the bottom in the Rakautara Stream. They are looking at options to investigate threatened short jawed kokopu fish species in adjacent catchments where they have been caught in the past.

Immediate Steps (IMS) wetland work updates provided for Greenburn, Mt Fyffe, Hapuku Wetland and Komanawa o te Waikōau, refer Slide 18 of Quarterly Update PPP.

KKPS Waikōau Immersion day was held. Despite the students not catching any species, it is a thriving freshwater system. Discussion followed on around school involvement in Enviro Schools. H Melville noted there was a lack of response to his engagement with schools on project involvement.

An update was provided on the South Bay Beach Action Plan progress and lupin control with Hinds School. Workshops held sought to tap into local knowledge and future priorities will include educational signage, and ongoing work with partners. It is hoped that the South Bay community will take some ownership of the work and create awareness of the dotterels. Signage design is being considered around celebrating place, looking after the area and how people can help, e.g. emphasizing some significant things of the area without overloading people with information.

The "Community Shed" group have been building DOC 200 and DOC 250 trap enclosures for the Waiau Toa Hāpua protection to be set out in early May. The Waiau Toa Clarence community were also interested in this. Heath mentioned his meeting with G Solomon about a trapping project with the Ocean Ridge community.

Waiau Toa raft access weed control work commenced with Toitū Te Whenua LINZ providing \$250K towards work for the wider catchment. Team is on track with spending with further work to be undertaken this financial year.

C McConchie updated the committee on the Upper Waiau Toa Black-fronted tern protection work. He noted the focus on keeping as small a footprint as possible and work is around the nesting islands already formed. Predator prevention work undertaken targeting cats, stoats and hedgehogs. There is some spraying work coming up. Maintaining broom but are in a holding pattern. For the last five years, Council have managed this and will look at new approach. There was discussion around a planting trial in weed infested areas to create some seed sources of native vegetation to eventually outcompete some of the broom.

A discussion followed on what to investigate and consider next in terms of predator control in the catchment. T Sonal suggested a focus on raising awareness in the community about making the Waiau Toa predator free for bird species. It was agreed the committee should discuss this further at a future meeting to determine how they want to advance a proposal like this.

#### **4. IMS Biodiversity Update (H Melville ECan)**

H Melville provided an overview of Stage 2 the Lynton Downs Gully Restoration project proposed for IMS funding for the ZC to consider supporting, refer Immediate Steps Presentation April 2021 presentation (IMS PPP).

G Solomon asked if blackberry control was easy to achieve as she has seen some areas where it has taken off. Heath suggested shade does help, and it can be managed but is hard to get on top of in an infested area.

Discussion followed on regarding the potential of trialing seed scattering with limited attempts so far in Kaikōura. Cr G Edge stated this is a good discussion to have based on trying to get a good outcome for the time and money invested. Heath suggested it was worth trialing further, in a targeted way, in some key biodiversity projects, for example, the Waiau Toa. Goose Flat burn area in the Waiau Toa was discussed as a potential candidate for seed scattering. It was agreed this sounds like a compelling option to pursue. Heath to follow up on this as there is mānuka seed available that could be used on the Goose Flat area. Fencing was noted as being important to keep predators out, given how remote the area is.

C McConchie left the meeting at 3.30pm.

Moved T Sonal.           Seconded R Roche.

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- a) Support the recommendation to allocate \$11,900 Steps Biodiversity funding by Environment Canterbury for Lynton Downs Gully Restoration Stage 2.

**CARRIED**

H Melville noted to the ZC, the remaining IMS funds for 2020/21 financial year is just over \$19,904 K.

A short discussion on Wareham property followed with H Melville confirming the project is being adjusted.

Heath presented the waiting list for potential IMS projects, refer Slide 10 of IMS PPP, and provided a short overview of the projects. He drew attention to the Mt Ross wetland and the Tirohanga wetland. G Solomon noted the cultural values in this area. R Roche asked if Ōkiwi Bay had been looked at as a project area, given the wetland areas created by the earthquake. H Melville confirmed it has been looked at.

M Griffin gave the ZC an overview of the proposed changes to Immediate Steps biodiversity funding in the ECan Draft LTP. G Solomon queried what options do we have re: Biodiversity projects? M Griffin confirmed there were other biodiversity funds in the draft LTP, but it would be clearer to review this once ECan had confirmed the LTP. A discussion followed on the committee's June workshop when the ECan work programmes should be available to look at the alignment with the committee's 3 Year Action Plan.

There was discussion on LTP funding and how the ZC can start to review options for supporting projects. Heath highlighted some thought has already been given to how projects could be aligned with the proposed funding areas. He highlighted there is no need to get too concerned at this point until the LTP is signed off by ECan.

G Edge provided an overview on the proposed ECan LTP, and the new ECan committee structures, and Biodiversity Champions.

A discussion followed on possible projects to be picked up again at the committee's May meeting. Options raised for possible funding support included rainwater tanks, the septic tank survey (Rachel at ECan), and nitrate probes.

## **5. Committee Updates (M Griffin ECan)**

M Griffin provided the key messages from updates provided with the agenda on Essential Freshwater Package, CWMS Zone Committee Review and refresh schedule, CWMS Regional Committee Review, ZC communication outputs for Mar-Apr 2021, Kaikōura District Council – 3 Waters and Related Works Update and Proposed Plan Change 7.

Moved by Cr T Blunt                      Seconded by Cr G Edge  
THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- a) Receive these updates for its information and reference.

**CARRIED**

## **6. Committee Action Planning – workshop (M Griffin ECan)**

Not held, it was agreed to defer this workshop to 28 May 2021 meeting.

## **7. General Business**

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

Minutes confirmation for previous meeting were resolved.

Moved by R Roche    Seconded by J Murray  
THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

- a) Confirm that the minutes of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting held on 26 February 2021 are a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

Meeting closed at 4.15pm

***CLOSING KARAKIA – All***