

MINUTES

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone
Committee Meeting**

Monday, 12 April 2021

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 12 April 2021 at 9.30am**

Present: Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Phil Driver (Deputy Chairperson), John Henry, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith (from 9.50am)

In Attendance: Bailey Lissington (co-opted member), Suzanne Eddington, Janine Roux (Facilitator), Chris Eccleston (ECan Southern Zone Manager), Shirley Hayward (Senior Team Leader – Water Quality and Ecology), Kate Doran (ECan Communications), Sriyan Jayasuriya (Senior Scientist - Water Quality and Ecology), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Jan Finlayson (from 10.10am)

1 Opening Karakia

The meeting opened with a karakia from John Henry.

2 Apologies

An apology was received from Cr Barbara Gilchrist.

The meeting was informed that Te Runanga O Waihao does not endorse any person to act as a representative of Waihao on the OTOP Committee. Sue Eddington, of Waihao, is continuing as a non-voting interested member of the community.

3 Public Forum

The public forum was held later in the meeting, when a member of the public joined and indicated an intention to speak.

4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent business items.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

Introduction - Sriyan Jayasuriya, the new Senior Scientist - Water Quality and Ecology was introduced to the Committee.

Zone Committee Chairs/Deputy Chairs/Secretaries meeting - Phil Driver advised that due to technology/connectivity issues he was unable to participate in the meeting held on 9 April. It was noted that there was also insufficient notice of the meeting.

The OTOP Facilitator, who did attend, advised that none of the southern zones were able to attend the meeting and an option of holding a meeting in Timaru to cover the same topics is being considered. The power point presentation from the 9 April meeting will be circulated to Committee members.

It was requested that meetings have a clear aim and outcome, especially for those travelling some distance to attend.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The register of members interests will be included in future OTOP agendas. Members who have not yet submitted their details are encouraged to do so.

7 Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson had nothing further to report, other than issues already on the agenda.

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2020

In discussing the confirmation of minutes of the December meeting, a number of items were queried as to progress -

Item 3 - Canterbury Regional Water Committee Structure Review – the meeting was advised that the letter had been sent.

Stokells smelt – the meeting was informed that the survey has been undertaken and a draft report prepared. OTOP will receive an update when completed.

Item 9.2 – Swimming Water Quality Update – it was noted that with mild autumns, cyanobacteria warnings are now extending into autumn and sometimes into winter. A request was made for an updated report for the next meeting as to when and where the cyanobacteria outbreaks are occurring. In the meantime the Committee was directed to the LAWA website which details current warnings.

Glen Smith joined the meeting.

Item 9.4 - Spider Lagoon and Ohapi Creek – these have been actioned.

Resolution 2021/1

Moved: Anne Munro

Seconded: Elizabeth McKenzie

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

9 Reports

9.1 Private Drinking Water Supplies

The Committee considered a report by the Chairperson to review the decision made at the November OTOP meeting, regarding a campaign for drinking water supplies. The report sought

clarification on the focus of the campaign being either domestic drinking water or specifically private drinking water supplies.

The Committee confirmed that the intention was for a campaign for private drinking water supplies, to create awareness around the need for regular monitoring and to encourage bore owners to test their bore water.

Discussions included communicating directly with bore owners, increasing awareness through industry organisations, having a presence at community events and making test kits more readily available. The meeting discussed whether funding should be sought to cover testing. It was noted that while nitrates are relatively easy to test, testing for E.coli needs to be a laboratory test. The Committee considered a drop-in day with portable nitrate meters and take-home laboratory test kits, as well as having information on hand about who to contact to get a bore tested.

The Committee agreed as an initial step, it should be made aware of the current strategy for notifying for high levels of nitrates through a report to the OTOP Committee.

Resolution 2021/2

Moved: Phil Driver

Seconded: Elizabeth McKenzie

1. That the report be received.
2. That the following resolution of the minutes of the OTOP Committee meeting of 2 November 2020 be **revoked** –

The OTOP Zone Committee receives the report from and:

1. **Agreed** to develop an awareness raising campaign for domestic drinking water supplies in order to ensure the OTOP community has “safe and reliable drinking water for community and domestic supplies both now and in the future”.
(ZIPA Community Outcome page 13)
2. **Agreed** that phase 1 of the campaign will be to;
 - (a) Disseminate existing information to committee member’s networks and catchment groups;
 - (b) Discuss existing information with community members at four farmers markets to determine what they know, what they would like to know and what they see as the barriers to ensuring their drinking water is safe.
3. **Agreed** that phase 2 of the campaign will address the information gaps and barriers that have been identified through the discussions at farmers markets. This may include a community meeting with representatives of registered testing laboratories, South Canterbury District Health Board and district and regional council as well as preliminary screening of samples for nitrate levels.
4. **Agreed** that phase 3 will evaluate the campaign and decide on what next.

3. That the resolution be **replaced with** –

The OTOP Zone Committee receives the report and:

1. Agreed to develop an awareness raising campaign for private drinking water supplies in order to ensure the OTOZ community has “safe and reliable drinking water for community and domestic supplies both now and in the future”. (ZIPA Community Outcome page 13)
2. The campaign will be to -
 - (a) Disseminate existing information to committee member’s networks and catchment groups;
 - (b) Draft a letter to send to Environment Canterbury’s list of known private bore owners within the OTOZ Zone, which includes information on how to get private supplied drinking water tested;
 - (c) Seek options from Environment Canterbury for drop-in sessions to offer on-site indicative private bore drinking water testing and investigate having laboratory testing kits and information readily available at these sessions;
 - (d) Request a report to the Committee on the current strategy for high levels of nitrates found in private groundwater supplies in Canterbury.

Carried

9.2 Flows and Allocation Request

The Committee considered a draft letter to Environment Canterbury requested by the Committee at a workshop in March and prepared by Phil Driver, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, and Cr Tom O’Connor. There was debate on whether the letter should be sent, given the Plan Change 7 process and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

With only two people in agreement to send the letter, the Committee agreed that the letter not be sent from the Committee at this time.

Resolution 2021/3

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Luke Reihana

1. That the Zone Committee notes the draft Flow and Allocation letter presented.
2. That the letter **not** be sent to Environment Canterbury.

Carried

9.3 Facilitator's Report

The Committee considered the Facilitator’s report. The Committee queried whether the budget for zone delivery has increased over the years and if there is any allocation OTOZ could use for field days etc. A budget of \$5000 per annum is allocated from Environment Canterbury’s Zone Delivery team for catchment activities, this was spent on the South Canterbury Catchment Collective for the 2020/21 financial year.

Resolution 2021/4

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Anne Munro

That the report be received and noted.

Carried

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

There was no urgent business.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

It was agreed that the Chairperson would send a letter of sympathy to Cr Barbara Gilchrist on behalf of the Committee, on the death of her mother.

12 Public Forum

Jan Finlayson took the opportunity to refer to long term freshwater issues, the need for retention of tussock country and rainforest and consideration of future contaminants.

Slow Water – it was agreed to discuss the paper prepared by Phil Driver on Achieving Slow Water in South Canterbury at a future OTOP meeting.

12 Closure Karakia

The Meeting closed at 11.12am with karakia from John Henry.

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Lucy Millar
Chairperson