

# **MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 12.30PM ON FRIDAY 25 JUNE 2021 AT THE KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL, COUNCIL CHAMBER**

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**PRESENT:** Ted Howard (Chair), Rob Roche (Deputy Chair), John Murray, Nicky McArthur, Gina Solomon

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Murray Griffin (ECan Facilitation Team Leader), Jaimee Grant (ECan Zone Facilitator), Kim Whitwell (ECan Communications), Heath Melville (ECan Land Management Advisor), Desiree Bolton (Dairy Farmer), Bruce Apperley (Engineer, KDC).

## **1. Order of Business**

**APOLOGIES:** Clint McConchie, Aroha Boyd, Tony Blunt, Kevin Heays, Teri Sonal, ECan Cr Grant Edge.

Moved N McArthur      Seconded R Roche

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee  
Accept all apologies.

**CARRIED**

Meeting opened 12:45 pm.

**KARAKIA** led by G Solomon

## **Register of Interests**

No changes.

## **Urgent Business**

No urgent business.

## **2. Opportunity for the public to speak.**

No public in attendance.

## **3. Biodiversity Immediate Steps - Update**

H Melville provided the Zone Committee (ZC) with a summary update on Immediate Steps Biodiversity (IMS) funding and projects for Financial Year End 2020-21.

# Immediate Steps Funding

Total for Kaikōura Zone 2020-2021 : \$100,000

The following summary clarifies the proposed allocation of funding:

- o \$5,581 Mount Fyffe Wetland
- o \$9,025 Kōmanawa o te Waikōau
- o \$21,100 (previously \$15,520) Poipoi Kotare Riparian Restoration
- o \$16,732 (previously \$10,000) Waiiau Toa Hapua Protection
- o \$11,550 Lynton Downs Restoration Stage 2
- o \$28,400 Clarence Waiiau Toa Weed Control
- o \$7,612 Tirohanga Wetland Restoration

**\$0 remaining in 2020/21**

## Tirohanga Wetland Restoration

The managers are very keen on this restoration project and have suggested a planting day. This is a good opportunity for the ZC to get involved. Harakeke seed was collected a few years ago which will go well in there. The area is progressing well and is reverting back into native vegetation. The owner noted it is not worth putting stock in there. The owner is not keen on the drilling and poisoning of willows, but H Melville will suggest treating a couple to test the outcome. There is currently good screening from the road for them. The owner's contribution is going towards fencing materials and planting. Heath has not had any discussion with the Papatipu Rūnanga about this area. G Solomon has some information that she can share with Heath of a *kōiwi* (bones) discovery when the road was widened (not earthquake related).

**Action: G Solomon to send Transit NZ Report to H Melville.**

## Poipoi Kotare Riparian Restoration

H Melville provided an update following additional monetary contribution the ZC recently endorsed. \$5K of IMS funding is going towards the drilling and poisoning of the large willows by the road. The project area adjoins the closed school owned by Papatipu Rūnanga who are very keen to get involved. The project details and management of the area were discussed. It was noted there is an opportunity for the ZC to include this project as part of a winter site visit. G Solomon requested a future visit as a significant contribution has been made to this project. It is also an opportunity for landowners to see how passionate the ZC is about the environment and the good work the community is doing.



For any visits, the ZC must be very clear around objectives of any visits e.g., a learning opportunity. Potential sites for visits were discussed.

**Action: J Grant to work with H Melville to organize an IMS winter visit.**

It was noted Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) are a requirement. There was interest from the ZC to learn more about FEPs and their value.

**Action: J Grant will follow up on FEP information for the ZC.**

## Mt Fyffe Wetland

There is some final planting to be done next week then it will be complete.

## Greenburn Wetland (N Graham)

The fence is almost finished. The fence line expenditure was less than anticipated due to his son being an arborist and doing a lot of the willows work himself. It was noted the funding arrangement for this project is not ideal funding as there are ongoing administration requirements for Environment Canterbury for the maintenance of the plants.

## Poipoi kotahi (Mill Rd)

This project is complete.

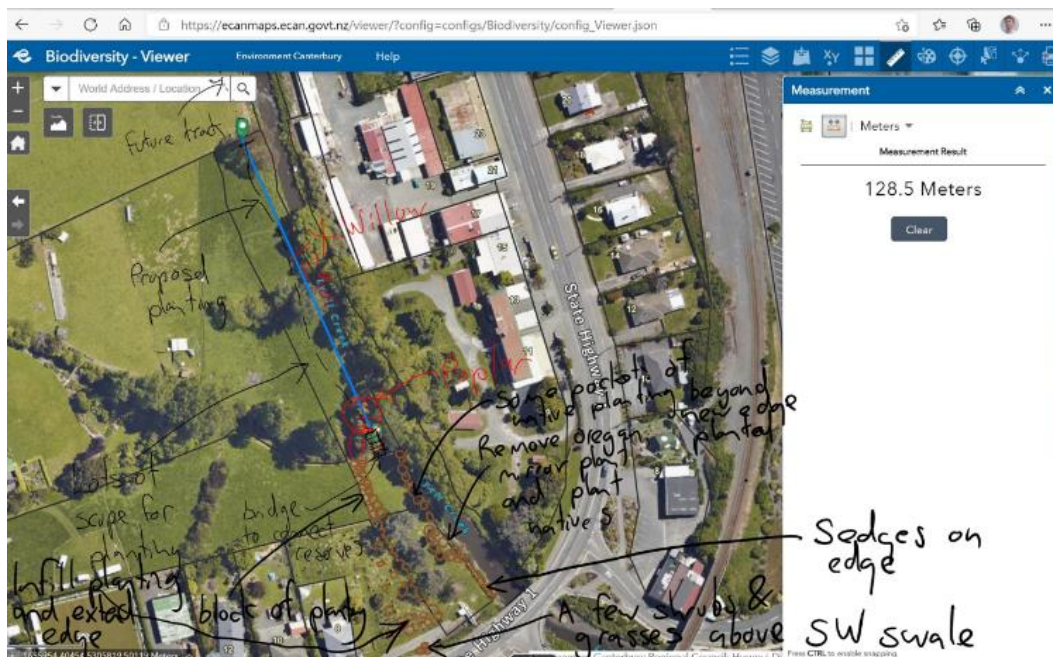
## Other projects:

For the Braided River bird surveys - Hapuku, Kowhai, Kahutara, Charwell, lower Waiau Toa/Clarence, there are two allocations that are yet to be spent. H Melville will make sure this happens this year. Waiau Toa Hapua Protection is progressing.

## Lower Waikōau

There is some funding left over from Bill Bayfield's time at Environment Canterbury (\$20k) which will go towards further funding of work along the Lower Waikōau and an extension of the reserve with the vision of it being the start of the cycle way. To make this happen, it would need a bridge which would require a full reserve extension.

Kaikōura District Council (KDC) has the reserve for the bike trail to go along behind the businesses. The fence needs to be moved and will be done soon to secure the land should it be put up for sale. It is 128 m of extra reserve. For the bike trail to go forward, a pedestrian bridge is needed which would require a high level of reporting, river engineering, and a structural engineer to design the bridge. There is an opportunity for this site to be used for community engagement and for consideration of future funding.



H Melville thanked the ZC and acknowledged it was the end of Immediate Steps but not the end of this conversation.

### **Black billed gull predator control**

Control works will be undertaken soon using SA2 traps which target feral cats and ferrets. Leg-hold trapping is being considered which is the most successful way of getting feral cat numbers down. The allocated funds will not cover all the costs. It is worth noting that leg-hold trapping does catch the odd Kahu so a conversation with the Rūnanga on the topic is needed. Control works need to be site specific and with all the tools at our disposal. There are currently no funds available, but it is what H Melville would love to see. If this could cross pollinate with 'Jobs for Nature' and wider takiwā predator control, there would be a lot of merit in that.

G Solomon noted, on the subject of Rūnanga, that the value of partnership is a two-way conversation and opportunities are being missed due to the lack of two-way open kōrero. G Solomon would like to remind organisations like Environment Canterbury that they have a requirement under the Treaty of Waitangi to not only consult with just Rūnanga, but to also with whānau and hapū in Kaikōura. It is her view that Government agencies continue to put this in the "too hard basket". There are lost opportunities to engage with whānau and hapū and ensure their voices are heard. Her *taki* (challenge) to Environment Canterbury is to start talking to hapū and whānau as they are waiting for that conversation to begin, and it is a Treaty requirement.

D. Bolton and H Melville left at 2.15 pm.

#### **4. Committee Check In**

Round table update from committee members provided.

#### **5. Committee Updates (J Grant ECan)**

##### ***CWMS Zone Committee Refresh Schedule 2021 update***

All workshops have been held now; and the selection panel have made their recommendations. For the Kaikōura ZC, the recommendations are still in the process of being confirmed with both Environment Canterbury and KDC. M Griffin is currently completing the paperwork for those meetings. All appointments to ZC are expected to be confirmed with their respective Councils by the end of July 2021.

##### ***CWMS Regional Committee Review***

The final meeting for the Regional Committee was held on 15 June 2021 prior to the Regional Committee refresh which T Howard attended. The purpose of hui was to acknowledge the Regional Committee and its members contributions and achievements. It was also an opportunity to update the committee members about the Regional Committee changes that were adopted by the Regional Council.

The key changes include:

- Reduction in membership although no reduction in Ngāi Tahu membership.
- Introduction of a Ngāi Tahu Co-chair. Environment Canterbury will be working with Ngāi Tahu on that process.
- Change in how the Chairperson is appointed. They will be appointed by a subgroup of Councillors. This position is to be advertised 28 June 2021 for two weeks.
- Letter of Shared Priorities (like what the ZCs see in their 'Action Plans') which replaces what used to be the objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference. By regularly refreshing the priorities the Regional Committee can focus on the current regional issues.

For clarity, the regional membership consists of up to six community members, one ECan Councillor (Councillor Lan Pham), three Papatipu Rūnanga (representing North, Mid and

South Canterbury) representatives, one representative for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, one member to represent CDHB and South Canterbury DHB (this role previously had an observer status and was not part of the committee).

### **Proposed Plan Change 7 – Land & Water Regional Plan**

Status remains the same as last month with hearings having been held and the panel currently deliberating on its recommendations. There is an aim to update the public in July.

### **Regional Council Long Term Plan (LTP) update**

The Regional Council have adopted the LTP with 12.6% rates increase which was better than originally thought.

For more information, go to [Priorities and transformational change: Long-Term Plan 2021-31 adopted](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2021/priorities-and-transformational-change-long-term-plan-2021-31-adopted/) on ECan website ([www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2021/priorities-and-transformational-change-long-term-plan-2021-31-adopted/](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2021/priorities-and-transformational-change-long-term-plan-2021-31-adopted/)).

### **KDC Works and Services Committee Meeting – 26 May 2021**

The previous KDC Works and Services committee meeting was held on 31 March 2021. Please find this report attached as **agenda item 5.1**.

Three pages from this report include the Three Waters and related works update on pages noted as 10-12 of 17 of this report.

Bruce Apperley, KDC Three Waters Engineer, will be presenting this afternoon to the ZC.

### **Action Points from the Previous Meeting – 28 May 2021**

Update of Register of Interest complete.

**Moved:** J Murray      **Seconded:** R Roche      **CARRIED**

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:  
Receive these updates for its information.

**Meeting closed at 2:30 pm to allow for workshop to commence.**

### **Meeting re-opened 3:15 pm.**

B Apperley confirmed nitrate levels are less than 10% of the Maximum Allowable Value (MAV) and explained the nature of the water flow from the alps to the sea. MAV for nitrate-nitrogen is 11.3 mg/L. The Kaikōura urban water supply is sitting around 0.92 mg/L. G Solomon noted there seems to be a general desire or want for lower nitrate levels of around 2 mg/L.

T Howard would like to see the previous test results of nitrate-nitrogen levels in order to look at the sequence of nitrate-nitrogen levels over time. B Apperley confirmed the levels have been quite consistent and will provide the test results for T Howard.

**ACTION: B Apperley to send past test results to T Howard.**

B Apperley provided an update on the Three Waters reform and shared current thinking around who will hold what responsibility going forward. Taumata Arowai is expected to come into effect in August 2021. KDC have provided submissions on the Water Services Bill. The Ministry of Health's (MOH) role has changed with the establishment of Taumata Arowai

who will take a primary responsibility for duty of care. It is a change as previously MOH have held that role.

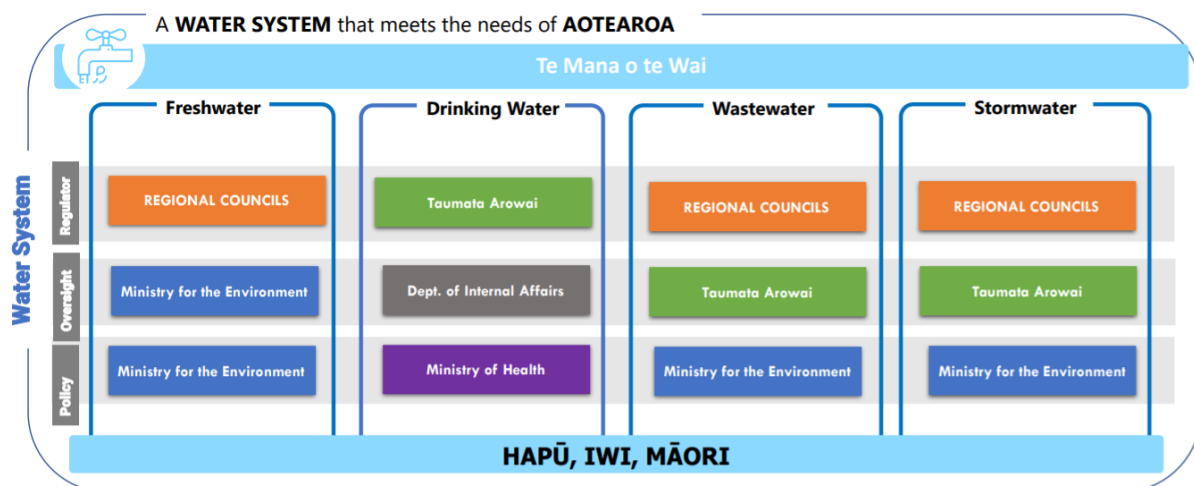
N McArthur requested clarification on the definition of a public supplier of drinking water. Under new regime if you are supplying two or more properties, you are considered a drinking water supplier and have requirements to meet. Drinking water suppliers likely include camping grounds, marae, and schools. A farmstead with three shearers' cottages will be classified as a supplier.

Local authorities will act as eyes and ears. The expectation is that Taumata Arowai will work with KDC who will follow up with property owners on any issues.

T Howard asked if there was any allowance in the framework for temporary factors impacting water e.g. groundwater level getting below a certain level, having to implement filters, chlorine etc. B Apperley noted that as a drinking water supplier, local authorities would need to know that filters are changed to ensure UV light is killing protozoa. Apart from small suppliers, there is an expectation there will be chlorine in the water.

It was clarified that whilst Council supplies always have a continuous flow of drinking water, for rural domestic suppliers where supply can change, the UV expectation will be flow sensitive. If flow is on, then UV is on.

**ACTION: B Apperley will send links to Taumata Arowai information on requirements.**



For wastewater and stormwater, regulatory function remains with Environment Canterbury. Taumata Arowai will have oversight and Ministry for the Environment will be responsible for policy setting. Te Mana o te Wai sits over the system and is firmly embedded in this regulation.

G Solomon requested clarification on what hapū, iwi, Māori mean on the Water System diagram given the changes that are coming and wanted to know how they are being considered. B Apperley stated Taumata Arowai have a specialist Māori advisory unit working at the national level.

T Howard asked about sea level rise and climate change as most wastewater structures in the country are close to seawater level and at risk from any sea level rise. B Apperley stated Kaikōura is well positioned partially due to the land rise from the earthquake and explained the nature of the wastewater treatment.

The Kaikōura Wastewater Treatment Plant is a pond-based treatment facility utilising just

sunlight and wind. The electrics have been turned off with just the “bugs” doing the work. The water is then discharged through fine sand and out to sea. G Solomon asked how it is being monitored. B Apperley noted the discharge is clear of the two creeks on either side. For water source planning, drinking water sources like those indicated in Slide 3 have been managed by Environment Canterbury up until now. Going forward, Taumata Arowai expects suppliers to have a lot more vigilance over what is happening in water source zones which is important for farmers. Consideration will need to be given to what is happening upstream, any activities that may impact on drinking water, and whether the protection of the zone is adequate or needs adjustment.

During extreme drought conditions, the first rain after the drought is the primary risk to water supplies. The ground acts like a filter however, towards the end of drought, bug levels tend to be elevated with bugs getting in to the water through ground cracks caused by the drought.

Estimates on spend for the Three Waters work programme are getting better with more information becoming accessible. There are several projects that have environmental benefits e.g., power and control systems in sewer pump systems that will allow early identification and mitigation of risks, and spare pumps and generators. Prior to the earthquake, there was a lot going on with the Kaikōura Wastewater Treatment lagoon. However, the impact on the lagoon has lessened with the diminished use and there has not been a need to turn the aerators on with its current usage level. Further work is being done on odour control.

Pipe replacements are being undertaken to minimise the chances of water leakage and spills. N McArthur noted a lot of work had been done pre-earthquake. Around 10% pipes replaced. B Apperley explained that the Kaikōura earthquake was long and strong compared to the sharp earthquake Christchurch experienced so there was not as much damage like that seen in Christchurch. Kaikōura is in good shape compared to the rest of country. R Roche noted that Kaikōura infrastructure is in good condition.

Cost per m<sup>3</sup> are likely to change going forward.

B Apperley clarified the \$1.8 million for the Three Waters work is part of the Government allocation which is based on land and population. It was noted that \$168 K is for the supply east treatment and the filtration and UV light treatment that goes into bore.

J Murray noted  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the supply that will be chlorinated is stockwater and felt the decision making had been rushed through.

B Apperley clarified the supply goes up the hill with some to farms and most going to stock. The balance goes around to the village where there will be a chlorine treatment plant so only the village receives chlorinated water. This is yet to be approved by Taumata Arowai. Clarification was sought around the Kekerengu homes and it was noted that individual suppliers would need their own UV system if they were not on the main source.

G Solomon noted the Zone Committee (ZC) used to work hard on good thinking around water quality in respect of the East Coast and Fernleigh areas. It would be useful for ZC to have an update on those two water schemes to provide some assurance on those schemes. It was noted that Fernleigh has had chlorination and UV light treatment.

G Solomon sought clarification on the Ocean Ridge demand and the capacity going forward given the development still to be undertaken. The Ocean Ridge infrastructure was designed for full development. The current supply only draws 200 m<sup>3</sup> a day.

G Solomon would like B Apperley to pass on to staff how much the Kaikōura Water and Services meeting minutes and presentations are appreciated and well received. R Roche seconded this.

Odour control methods were discussed including the use of activated carbon which absorbs odour and adding one way valve to stacks on houses which lets air in and retains odour from the main sewerage line.

## **6. General Business**

**Moved:** R Roche      **Seconded:** J Murray      **CARRIED**

THAT the CWMS Kaikōura Zone Committee:

Confirm that the minutes of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting held on 28 May 2021 are a true and accurate record.

G Solomon suggested the ZC send a card to all landowners 'Had an update we think what you are doing is fantastic, we appreciate the work being carried out'

N McArthur noted the five-year support on Plains Recovery and Drylands projects have been a long work stream delivering good outcomes which has been fantastic.

R Roche noted the reliance and the cost of the work undertaken on everyone including facilitators and whether there was some form of acknowledgement and support for staff. M Griffin noted the collegial nature of the team and the support provided to one another. There was also a need to be aware of staff capacities.

In the wider context, N McArthur would like to see the ZC host a field day and invite the farming community to keep the conversation going on what is on offer and what is out there.

**Meeting closed 4:20 pm.**