

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, RUATANIWHA KAIAPOI  
CIVIC CENTRE, 176 WILLIAMS STREET, KAIAPOI ON MONDAY 3 MAY 2021 AT 3:30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson), Erin Harvie, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Wendy Main, John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor) and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor).

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mayor D Gordon, J Ensor (Mandeville Residents Association), S McCullum (Resident), R Whyte (Farmer), M Mckeown (WGA Environmental Consultants), F Smith (WGA Environmental Consultants) G McKenzie (Real Communications), J Benn (Department of Conservation) and B Walton (Waimakariri Irrigation Limited).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), K Steel (WDC Ecologist-Biodiversity), T Davie (ECan Director: Science), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), A Meredith (ECan Principal Water Quality and Ecology Scientist), A Kreleger (ECan Senior Groundwater Scientist) Z Ploeg (ECan Biodiversity Officer), J Grant (ECan CWMS Facilitator), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

**KARAKIA**

J Grant provided the karakia to open the meeting.

**1 BUSINESS**

**1.1 Apologies**

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: Councillor M Hands

Apologies were received and sustained from Cameron Henderson, Carlyne Latham, Arapata Reuben and David Ashby for absence.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Welcome and Introductions**

The 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**

E Harvie advised that she was appointed as a trustee to the Land Care Trust. She therefore requested that the Register of Interests be updated accordingly.

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

**2.1 B Walton - Waimakariri Irrigation Limited (WIL)**

B Walton provide a brief overview of the consenting process that the Wrights Road Storage Ponds had been subjected to. The Environment Court had granted consent for the construction and operation of the storage ponds at the corner of Wrights and Dickson Roads in Burnt Hill, which WIL purchased 14 years ago. There had been concerns from a large number of residents downstream that the Environment Court had tried to address.

B Walton noted that the proposed storage ponds would allow for the storage of excess water diverted from the Waimakariri River during high river flow or low scheme demand.

Stored water would be used to supplement irrigation supply when water from the Waimakariri River was restricted through the intake. He stressed that WIL would not be taking more water from the Waimakariri River than its current allocation. It was envisaged that the storage ponds would provide a permanent solution to reducing the number of days shareholders were subject to water supply restrictions.

B Walton explained that the WIL's shareholders would not be able to achieve the requirements set out in proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan without the proposed storage pond system. Storage gave individual farmers the opportunity to improve farm practices with the comfort of more reliable water. The proposed storage scheme would not undermine existing on-farm storage, rather it would provide an even higher level of reliability to shareholders.

B Walton elaborated on the proposed design and layout of the storage pond system. It was proposed to develop a two pond system with a smaller pond located higher than the larger pond, in a bid to make use of natural flow. He noted that the concerns from the residents downstream was understandable taking into consideration that the embankment on Wrights Road would be approximately 12-meters high.

B Walton highlighted the following environmental initiatives and updates:

- 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> of native filtration planting and 500-meters of riparian planting at strategic points along on-farm waterways.
- Approximately one hectare wetland and riparian restoration planting.
- Three natural waterways and four springs identified for future native planting.
- 14.4 hectares of hillside country earmarked for indigenous forest planting.
- 1.2 Hectares of riparian planting to enhance a waterway corridor.
- "Offline" pond fed by race water to create alternative habitat for indigenous freshwater species at times of low-flow in the race network.
- On-farm indigenous wetland and riparian planting on a mixture of springs and natural waterways in the headwaters of the Hunters Stream

Councillor S Stewart enquired if the storage pond system had been approved by WIL's Shareholders. B Walton advised that all the documentation on the storage pond system would be made available to shareholders before the end of the week, where after a series of meeting on the project would be held at the end of May 2021. It was anticipated that the Annual General meeting would be held on 14 June 2021 where shareholders would vote on the continuation of the project. He confirmed that 75 percent of the shareholders had to approve for the storage pond system project to continue.

In response to questions, B Walton advised that it was envisaged that, if approved by WIL shareholders, construction would commence in November 2021 and would take approximately two years. Irrigation from the storage pond system would commence in 2024. It was an inter-generational project as the pay back on the loan funding would be an estimated 40 years.

Councillor S Stewart asked if the Ecology Reports would also be made available to shareholders before the end of the week. B Walton noted that the Ecology Reports would be made public as and when they become available. WIL would work with ECan and the Council on ecological monitoring.

## 2.2 **J Ensor - Mandeville Residents Association**

J Ensor expressed his concerned about the unexpectedly large increase in ECan's proposed rates. He noted that the 24.5 percent increase in rates in the first year of ECan's Long Term Plan 2021-2031 (LTP) was far too high for the average rural household to absorb at any one time. He believed that the proposed large increase was not justifiable, particularly given the financial burdens already prevalent in vulnerable rural communities. He requested ECan to reconsider its proposed rates increase.

Councillor M Hands advised that the ECan Council would be holding LTP hearings during the next two weeks, where after the ECan Council would deliberate on the proposed LTP on 20 May 2021 and subsequently adopted the Plan on 17 June 2021.

### **3. RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

Moved: M Blackwell      Seconded: J Cooke

**That** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Agrees to consider the following additional report (as previously circulated to members) being:

- Item 4.3 - Immediate Steps Biodiversity – Update – Z Ploeg (Ecan Biodiversity Officer)

**CARRIED**

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **4.1 ZIPA Implementation – Second Quarterly Update 2020/21 – S Allen (WDC, Water Environment Advisor) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, Ecan)**

M Griffin and S Allen presented the update on the implementation of the 2020/21 Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (ZIPA) recommendations during the second quarter (1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020). They took the report as read and called for questions.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned what the conditions were for work to be included as part of the Council's 'maintenance and minor works in waterways' consent. S Allen advised that the Council was still in discussion with ECan on the criteria for minor works. J Roper-Lindsay noted that the challenge was that a minor physical stricture could have a major environmental effect. S Allen agreed and advised that the environmental impact of all physical structures were being evaluated prior to construction.

Councillor S Stewart enquired if the results of the ongoing monthly baseline nitrate concentration monitoring in the Silverstream area would be made available to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee. She also requested if a report on the Infiltration Trench Trial project in South Eyre could be submitted to the Committee. A Kreleger undertook to make the information available to the Committee at the workshop to be held in August 2021.

J Roper-Lindsay requested an update on the state of Lake Pegasus. A Meredith advised that ECan and the Council met with the owners of Lake Pegasus, the Templeton Group last week to discuss the way forward. ECan was waiting for the Templeton Group to provide feedback on proposed actions and timelines. He confirmed that from a compliance perspective action was expected before 1 September 2021.

J Roper-Lindsay sought an update on the liaison and recommendations on ecological and river health considerations for the Ashley River. A Arp confirm that the project to open upriver fairway between Okuku River confluence and Ashley Gorge would form part of the Braided River Revival project. He undertook to provide an update of the Braided River Revival project at a subsequent CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting. He confirmed that, to his knowledge, no work was currently being undertaken in the Ashley River.

Moved: Councillor S Stewart

Seconded: Councillor M Hands

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information and priority setting contained in this report.

**CARRIED**

4.2 **ZIPA implementation – Third Quarterly Update 2020/21 – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, Ecan) and S Allen (Water Environment Advisor, WDC)**

M Griffin and S Allen presented the update on the implementation of the 2020/21 ZIPA recommendations during the third quarter (1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021). They took the report as read and called for questions.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that ECan's Science Teams were planning working programs in the next few months, and requested if the Biodiversity Working Group could be consulted during the planning of biodiversity working programs. A Arp explained that ECan was currently working on integrating external groups and organisations into the planning of their working programs. M Griffin advised that working programs associated with the LTP would be discussed during workshops in June 2021, this would include biodiversity working programs.

Councillor S Stewart enquired if the data pertaining the Waimakariri District on the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) Website had now been updated. A Meredith advised that the LAWA Website was upgraded every 12 months, so it was currently displaying data as at 31 December 2019. The data for the LAWA website was being sourced from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). However, ECan would be taking ownership of the NIWA data, and the information would therefore be displayed on the LAWA Website. T Davie confirmed that the data collected at the old Highway Bridge in Kaiapoi was on the LAWA Website.

Councillor S Stewart questioned the steps being taken to stop the blocking of the floodgate at Taranaki Stream. A Meredith explained that when the fish passage at the floodgate was opened it was found that it gets clogged up and blocked by weeds at both sides. A Meredith was in discussions with ECan's Area Engineer for North Canterbury, Fred Brooks, regarding the regular cleaning of the fish passage.

Councillor S Stewart noted that she was pleased to note that an agreement had been reached with local landowners, and ECan had therefore been able to commence ground survey work in the Lineside Road area. There seemed to be a large volume of sediment in the Upper Kaiapoi and Lower Cam Rivers. A Arp acknowledged that there was large volume of sediment in the drains, however, it still needed to be established if the wetlands in Lineside Road area contributed to this problem.

Moved: Councillor S Stewart

Seconded: Councillor M Hands

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information and priority setting contained in this report.

**CARRIED**

4.3 **Immediate Steps Biodiversity – Update – Z Ploeg (Ecan Biodiversity Officer)**

Z Ploeg elaborated on the proposed Miles Bush and Wetland Project in the Oxford area. The project involved weed control, stock fencing and targeted planting to protect and restore a remnant forest block, turf wetland and stream with a mudfish

habitat. It was anticipated that the project would cost of \$35,400 and the applicant had requested Immediate Steps Funding of \$23,600.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: J Cook

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Approves** an allocation of \$23,600 of IMS funding for the Miles Bush and Wetland project
- (b) **Approves** an allocation of \$6,400 of IMS funding for the Mt Lawry Covenant from this financial year's budget for Stage 2 of the project (scheduled for 2021/22).

**CARRIED**

6. **CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS AND ECOLOGICALLY REANIMATING THE LANDSCAPE PRESENTATION – M MCKEOWN (WGA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS)**

M Mckeown from WGA Environmental Consultants, provided an overview on Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) Concept as implemented in Ireland. She highlighted the following:

- The factors that influence wetland and what defined wetlands.
- Ecologically restoration of wetlands.
- Ecological reanimation through facilitating the natural biogeochemical processes through engineered wetland systems.
- Free surface-flow wetlands
- Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW)
  - ICW multi-cell hydraulic model.
  - Free Surface Flow Wetlands
  - Horizontal Sub-Surface Flow Wetlands
  - Scalability of ICWs
  - Integration people into ICWs
  - Motivation for implementing ICWs

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if integrated constructed wetlands could be used to treat effluent from towns. M Mckeown confirmed that integrated wetlands could be constructed to various scales to deal with effluent from towns, industries or farming.

Z Ploeg noted that especially constructed wetlands were very effective in dealing with effluent, and effluent should therefore not be released into natural wetlands, as they were already over stressed.

In response to questions, M Mckeown advised that it was difficult to alter the design of integrated wetlands once they had been developed. She explained what happened to the constructed wetlands once they reached their end of life after 80 to 100 years.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: E Harvie

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the information and priority setting contained in this report.

**CARRIED**

## **7. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)**

### **7.1 Essential Freshwater Package.**

M Blackwell suggested that a workshop needed to be held to discuss the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee 'generational' vision for freshwater for the Waimakariri Zone.

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

T Davie confirmed that the intention was to create a new Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan, however, the new plan would build on the current plan and would therefore not be totally rewritten.

### **7.3 CWMS Regional Committee**

No discussion emanated from this point.

### **7.4 CWMS Committee Refresh Schedule 2021.**

No discussion emanated from this point.

### **7.5 CWMS Regional Committee Review.**

No discussion emanated from this point.

### **7.6 Zone Committee Working Groups**

- Landcare Working Group

E Harvey noted that the website would go live soon and the link would be provided to members. As part of the Next Generation Farming Project a Pod Group Workshop would be held on Thursday 6 May 2021 on fertigation on farms

- Biodiversity Working Group

J Roper-Lindsay advised that the Working Group was focused on sourcing trustees for the proposed Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. The expressions of interests had been advertised in local newspapers with a closing date of 18 May 2021.

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

No discussion emanated from this point.

### **7.7 WDC Land and Water Committee.**

M Blackwell noted that C Latham requested that the following be noticed in her absence:

- The one well in the Cust area which measured 17.5 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen, which was above the Maximum Acceptable Value (MAV) set for nitrate in the New Zealand Drinking-water Standards for New Zealand (DWSNZ 2005, amended 2018)
- The pamphlet on the management of private well water supply produced by Council was very informative.

W Main asked if it was known why the well found to be over the MAV did not comply. It was agreed that S Allen would be requested to provide an explanation to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee at a subsequent meeting.

#### **7.8 Communications and Engagement.**

G McKenzie highlighted the work that had been done from February 2021 to April 2021 with regards to communication and engagements.

J Roper-Lindsay raised a concern that The Press newspaper would no longer have a dedicated North Canterbury reporter. G McKenzie agreed and noted that the district had lost a lot of local knowledge with the resignation of the dedicated North Canterbury reporter.

G McKenzie advised that the Waimakariri Dryland Ecosystems Fact Sheet had been completed and the Wetland Ecosystems Fact Sheet was in the process of being completed.

#### **7.9 NIWA Advice – Aquatic Macrophyte loss in lowland waterways**

A Meredith advised that, to date, no response had been forthcoming from NIWA. He had however been liaising with various other experts on this matter and there seemed to be many opinions on the reasons for Aquatic Macrophyte loss in waterways. ECan was still investigating the possibility of using passive samplers to collect information on possible diquat toxin in the waterways. It should be noted that NIWA scientist had previously indicated that it was highly unlikely that the loss of Aquatic Macrophyte was being caused by toxins.

J Roper-Lindsay suggested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee should formally engage NIWA to investigate the matter and provide possible solutions. M Blackwell suggested if NIWA could not assist ECan may need to engage another organisation.

#### **7.10 Action Points from previous CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee meetings**

- Action point from the 7 December 2020 meeting:

T Davie advised that ECan was working on a new database monitoring site that would monitor freshwater quality set against specific regulatory benchmarks. It was anticipated that the system would be ready to go live in a few weeks.

Subsequent to discussion it was agreed that T Davies would present the new monitoring system to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee at the workshop to be held in August 2021.

- Action points from the 1 February 2021 meeting:

M Griffin confirmed that Michael Bate's presentation to the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee was very well received.

- Action points from the 1 March 2021 meeting:

With regard to the investigation of the effluent that Christchurch Ready Mix Concrete was releasing into the Waimakariri River, M Cataloni followed up on this matter, however, it was difficult to resolve such matter after the fact. M Griffin therefore highlighted the importance of calling the Pollution Hotline at the time that the infringement occurring, or call ECan or use the Snap Send Solve app.

T Davie provided a summary on the funding being spent on the monitoring of water quality in the Waimakariri Zone, which equated to approximately \$500,000. He noted that it was anticipated that there would be changes to the monitoring that ECan would have to do to ensure compliance with Plan Change 7. He further noted that the increase in motoring included in ECan's LTP related no new projects such as fish monitoring etc.

E Harvey requested if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee could be provided with a list of the monitoring sites and what was being monitored at each of the monitoring sites.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: E Harvey

**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**

## **8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **8.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 1 March 2021**

Moved: Councillor S Stewart

Seconded: Councillor M Hands

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

**CARRIED**

### **8.2 Matters Arising**

None

## **9 GENERAL BUSINESS**

No discussion emanated from this point.

## **KARAKIA**

J Grant provided the karakia to close the meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for the 2 August 2021 at 3:30pm.



THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.10 PM.

CONFIRMED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date