



# **MINUTES**

## **Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting**

**21 May 2021**

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY HOTEL, TWIZEL  
ON FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2021 AT 10.30AM**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Simon Cameron, Lisa Anderson, Matthew Bayliss, Richard Subtil, Joy Paterson, Keiran Whyte, Cr Ross McRobie, Cr Stuart Barwood, Michael Mcmillan

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Janine Roux (Committee Facilitator, Ecan), Chris Eccleston (Ecan), John Benn (DOC), Graeme Clark (Ecan), Mikaela Farr (Ecan), Kate Doran (Ecan), Rick Ramsay (Aquaculture Group), Arlene Goss (Governance Advisor).

**1 OPENING**

The meeting opened with a karakia from Michael Mcmillan

**2 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Cr John Sunckell.

**3 REPORTS**

**3.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 16 APRIL 2021**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/86**

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Ms Joy Paterson

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 16 April 2021 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 INTERESTS REGISTER**

Member Joy Paterson asked for her membership of the Aoraki Conservation Board to be removed from the list of interests.

**3.3 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received:

- Letter from Mark Adams, Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society, dated 19 April, 2021.

- Letter regarding Clay Cliffs erosion from Anthony Blackstock, dated 28 October, 2019.

Regarding the update from the Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society, Janine Roux expanded on the purposes of this incorporated society; one of which is holding funds on behalf of catchment groups. It was noted that catchment groups in the Upper Waitaki might want to be involved with this collective and should be invited to a meeting if the Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society attends.

Regarding the letter on the Clay Cliffs, the chairman and Richard Subtil updated the committee on historical discussions by this committee regarding the Clay Cliffs, and the outcome of those discussions. Graeme Clark responded to specific points raised in the letter, in particular his view that that part of the river was considered to be a braided river system.

Mr Subtil asked for it to be recorded in the minutes that rivers shift over time and this was nature taking its course. He believed this matter had already been considered by the committee and a decision made that the area would not be altered by river works.

The committee heard that the approach to river management had changed over time and rivers were now left to wander, except for those going through highly populated urban areas.

There was no clear statement in the letter asking for action by the zone committee. The committee agreed to respond to Mr Blackstock thanking him for his letter, which had been considered by the committee with no action to be taken.

### **3.4 IMMEDIATE STEPS BIODIVERSITY FUNDING 2020-21**

This report was from Mikaela Farr, Land Management and Biodiversity Advisor, Environment Canterbury. It provided information on the progress of the 2020/2021 Immediate Steps Biodiversity Funding in the Upper Waitaki zone.

Mikaela Farr summarised her report and noted a small amount of funding, about \$8k, was left in the account. She asked if the committee wanted to put that towards a small project that could be done before the end of the financial year. Members Keiran Whyte and Lisa Anderson suggested it go towards restoring an area that is currently used by the tuna trap and transfer team on the Omarama Stream. (A resolution was passed to this effect later in the meeting).

The projects that withdrew their applications for funding were due to landowners having funding difficulties or finding alternative funding elsewhere. The committee asked for clarification around the Quailburn Bog Pine Protection project and asked why it did not go ahead. Mikaela Farr offered to find out and come back later in the meeting with this information.

Member Joy Paterson asked if the left over \$8,000 could go towards a project to upgrade the Twizel River. This would not match the funding criteria which was specifically for biodiversity rather than recreation enhancement.

Member Michael Mcmillan raised the issue of using native plants that come from local seeds but grown in nurseries down on the coast. These plants tend to die when planted in the basin. He suggested starting a nursery in the basin to harden the plants so they would survive. The committee agreed with this idea and discussion followed on various options to advance this. Richard Subtil and Cr McRobie said they would discuss this further.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/87**

Moved: Chairperson Simon Cameron

Seconded: Cr Ross McRobie

1. That the report be received.

**CARRIED**

### **3.5 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

This report was from Janine Roux, Zone Committee Facilitator, and provided information on the Zone Committee's action plan for 2021/2024. A draft action plan was circulated to members and a copy of this document is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Discussion took place on communications and catchment group support. It was agreed that any new catchment group would be supported by the committee. The question was asked about how zone committees could help catchment groups. Member Michael Mcmillan saw zone committees as advisory groups and other members agreed.

The committee agreed to keep the specific catchment group names in the document. It was noted that the action plan would be reviewed in six months.

Member Keiran Whyte asked about the mahinga kai focus. Janine Roux said mahinga kai sites would have more priority for biodiversity funding. He asked for clarification on how many mahinga kai sites would be included in each zone and how this would look. He would like to communicate this information back to runanga. Janine Roux will bring this information back to the committee.

There was general agreement with the staff recommendations in the report.

### **5.6 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT**

This report provided information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Discussion on this report included the following matters:

**School Engagement** – Janine Roux outlined an idea to involve schools in the work of the zone committee, with an emphasis on mahinga kai. She has talked to Twizel Area School to ask what they would like from the committee, and will be meeting with them next month.

She has also contacted Landcare Research who have created a school resource about wetlands which may be useful. There is also a science hub for school resources. It may be possible to link in with the Enviroschools Project.

Discussion took place on needing the schools to initiate this, and tell the committee what they wanted and what was in their curriculum.

**Next meeting** – Janine Roux suggested doing an online meeting in June, or have a winter break. If the agenda was small the committee could meet online to save on travel. A decision was made to hold the June meeting on Zoom.

**Conversation with Benmore Irrigation Company** – Cr Sunckell wanted to initiate this so it needed to be led by him. The committee suggested that Cr Sunckell be asked to talk about this at the next meeting.

**Next update on TLI** - will be within two months. This was likely to come to the July meeting.

**Action List** - Were some of the 2019 actions still relevant? Discussion took place on the Lake Middleton action. John Benn updated the committee on the current situation at Lake Middleton including tree clearance. It was agreed to remove this action point from the list. The dryland area action point was also removed from the list.

**Update on Immediate Steps Funding from earlier in the meeting** - Mikaela Farr said the bog pine applicant withdrew their application for funding and did the project at their own cost. She suggested allocating the remaining \$8k to the tuna project as mentioned earlier in the meeting.

A resolution was passed to this effect (below).

**General Business** - Rick Ramsay from the Aquaculture Group asked for an update on a groundwater study looking at water movement between the Wairepo Arm and Kellands Pond. Graeme Clark updated the committee on this study. Wells had been dug in the area and feedback was that the hydrology was complicated. That report was currently out for external review and would be available for the committee in a couple of months.

Mr Clark also updated on surveys of the Ahuriri Arm looking at sediment. Environment Canterbury was using Provincial Growth Fund money to do this research.

Member Matt Bayliss suggested writing to the Mackenzie Basin Alignment Group asking them to send a representative to discuss a plan for the Twizel River. Most of the agencies held land in this area. Discussion followed on the need for improvements to the river surrounds. Members Joy Paterson and Matt Bayliss agreed to get together and apply for funding to draw up a plan for this.

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/88**

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson  
Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee commits the remaining \$8,000 in the 2020/21 Immediate Steps Fund to tuna restoration and habitat enhancement at Omarama Stream.

**CARRIED**

**The Meeting closed at 12.25pm with a karakia from Michael Mcmillan.**

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

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**CHAIRPERSON**