



**Mackenzie**

DISTRICT COUNCIL

## **MINUTES**

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management  
Committee Meeting**

**18 June 2021**

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON ZOOM  
ON FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 2021 AT 9.30AM**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Simon Cameron, Matthew Bayliss, Cr John Sunckell, Joy Paterson, Cr Ross McRobie, Cr Stuart Barwood (until 10am), Michael Mcmillan

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cr Miriam Morton (Waimate District Council), Janine Roux (Committee Facilitator, Ecan), Graeme Clark (Ecan), Kate Doran (Ecan), Rick Ramsay (Aquaculture Group), April Hussey (LINZ), Karina Morrow (DOC), Arlene Goss (Governance Advisor), Debbie Eddington (Ecan, from 10.45am)

**1 OPENING**

The chairman opened the meeting and Michael Mcmillan gave a karakia.

The governance advisor noted that this meeting was held fully on Zoom but that Parliament had extended the Epidemic Preparedness (COVID-19) Notice 2020 for a further three months. This included the amendment to enable meetings via audio or visual link to meet quorum requirements regardless of Council Standing Orders.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Richard Subtil and Lisa Anderson.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 VISITORS**

There were no visitors.

**5 REPORTS**

**5.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 MAY 2021**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/89**

Moved: Chairperson Simon Cameron

Seconded: Cr John Sunckell

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 21 May 2021 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 TWIZEL RIVER RESTORATION

Matt Bayliss explained the background to the initiative to carry out river restoration work. Challenges for this area included mixed land ownership and unallocated crown land. The first step is the development of a plan for the area. This required money and help to employ the right set of skills to assist with a plan.

Karina Morrow from the Department of Conservation (DOC) said there was only budget for low level weed control for this particular section of the river due to competing priorities throughout the district. She was supportive of a plan and of another organisation taking the lead on this work. She said DOC was open to the options of vesting land in council or a community agreement and was happy to work with other groups. She did not have anything to financially contribute but was happy to provide expertise.

April Hussey from Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) said LINZ did not have any land in the area of the proposed restoration work. Unallocated land did not sit with LINZ. There is a process that could be followed to allocate the land but it is lengthy and expensive. LINZ would not be a party to any contracts or agreements regarding the land as they aren't responsible for land in this particular area.

Matt Bayliss suggested the next steps should be to engage with Mackenzie District Council (MDC). Karina Morrow suggested raising this as part of the Parks Strategy consultation process. It was agreed to engage with MDC.

Matt Bayliss offered to organise a meeting with Tim Harty at MDC in the next few weeks.

### **COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2021/90**

Moved: Chairperson Simon Cameron

Seconded: Cr John Sunckell

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee delegates Matt Bayliss and Joy Paterson to progress the Twizel River Restoration initiative further with Mackenzie District Council.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Stuart Barwood, Karina Morrow and April Hussey left the meeting.*

## 5.3 RUATANIWHA UPDATE

Joy Paterson updated the committee on a meeting of people involved with Lake Ruataniwha. She said there was immense goodwill from them to ensure the water quality issue did not happen again. They will be meeting again in August to review the communications material.

Regarding the need for a permanent toilet, an application for funding had been lodged by Mackenzie District Council and a decision would not be made until the outcome of this was known.

## 5.4 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT

This report was from Janine Roux, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury. This report provided

information of interest to the Zone Committee that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Janine Roux outlined the contents of her report. Cr Ross McRobie confirmed he was assisting with the Omarama Stream planting location. Regarding the committee refresh, there was concern that the new applicant had so far been unable to attend an interview or meeting.

The next meeting was discussed. There was a concern about the TLI numbers coming through and it was suggested that a meeting be held in conjunction with the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group and stakeholders in July to discuss this issue. This would be held at Omarama.

The initial preference was to wait for August to hold the meeting, however the committee heard that farmers in the area preferred July so they could make decisions before irrigation began. The committee agreed to do it in July.

Cr Sunckell asked if it was timely to have a discussion with Benmore Irrigation. Janine Roux said yes, either before or during the public consultation process.

Kate Doran asked if the July meeting would be a workshop or a formal zone committee meeting. The committee preferred a workshop to allow free and frank discussion.

Janine Roux then updated the committee on the Immediate Steps budget. This would no longer exist but would change to a “community engagement fund”. The zone committee would have more say over how it would be spent, although the amount would be halved in the first year to \$50,000.

It was noted that member Lisa Anderson finishes her term with the committee at this meeting however, the committee agreed to invite her to the July workshop at Omarama. Her efforts during her time on the committee were acknowledged.

## **5.5 UPDATE ON TLI RESULTS**

Water scientist Graeme Clark updated the zone committee on the latest TLI (Trophic Level Index) results in the upper Waitaki lakes and gave his views on what was causing the TLI increase in the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore. He said they were also keeping an eye on the smaller lakes such as Lake Alexandrina and Lake Middleton.

Extra water sampling was done at Lake Middleton to determine the impact of the fire and work is being done on these samples currently.

Michael Mcmillan asked if Lake Middleton and Alexandrina had any consents tied to them. No, but they are in sensitive lake zones and farmers are required to be working to good management practice.

The role of the calm, warm summer in contributing to the results was discussed. Environment Canterbury’s compliance and land management advisor teams were keeping an eye on the affected catchments. Graeme Clark said there was a range of drivers behind any lake result and understanding these was really important.

## **5.6 ENVIROSCHOOLS, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION**

Debbie Eddington informed the zone committee about the Youth Engagement & Education and Envrioschools programme undertaken by Environment Canterbury. A copy of her presentation is available as an attachment to these minutes.

The committee discussed working further with Twizel School and this would be followed up.

**The Meeting closed at 11.05am 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**