
Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee OPEN MINUTES

Date: Thursday 26 August 2021
Time: 6.02pm
Venue: Held by Audio/Video Link

Present

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| Chairperson | Kevin Brown - Community Representative |
| Deputy Chairperson | Annabelle Hasselman - Community Representative |
| Members | Mike Patchett - Community Representative |
| | Helen Rutter - Community Representative |
| | Shona Sluys - Community Representative |
| | Brynlea Stocks - Community Representative |
| | Abbie Wilson - Community Representative |
| | Emma Norrish - Christchurch City Council Elected Representative |
| | Councillor Phil Clearwater - Councillor Environment Canterbury |
| | Arapata Reuben – Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga |
| | Les Wanhalla - Te Taumutu Rūnanga |
| | Oscar Bloom - ECan Youth Rōpū |

In Attendance: Ken Rouse (Cashmere Stream/Port Hills Working Group); Kit Doudney and Philippa Mein-Smith (Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust); Colin Meurk (Christchurch 360 Trail Inc); Julia Fettes (Cashmere Stream Care Group); John Benn (DOC); Kim Whitwell, Rachel Sinclair, Brad Waldon-Gibbons, Greg Stanley (ECan); Marion Schoenfeld, Jo Golden and Peter Christensen (CCC)

Zone Facilitator
Shelley Washington
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Environment Canterbury

Principal Advisor
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Christchurch City Council

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Brad Waldon-Gibbons opened the meeting with a Karakia/Timatanga.

The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

1. Apologies

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00009

That the apologies received from Councillor Sophie McInnes and Kākati Royal, be accepted.

Kevin Brown/Phil Clearwater

Carried

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

Kevin welcomed the new members to their first meeting and a round of introductions was undertaken.

5. Deputations by Appointment

5.1 Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust

Kit Doudney, Chairperson of the Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust, supported by Philippa Mein-Smith, spoke on behalf of the Trust regarding possible habitat loss that will be associated with a proposed Estuary Green Edge walking and cycling track in the wildlife refuge.

Mr Doudney noted there were 23 at risk and endangered species. This is the only area these birds go to for shelter and sanctuary, and there is a lot of bird disturbance. The Trust does not agree with the new pathway through the wildlife sanctuary.

Discussion was held with questions responded to. It was noted that disturbance is defined as having the presence of humans, one person disturbing the birds can have an effect up to 10 minutes following that. Signage or gates cannot be relied on.

5.2 Christchurch 360 Trail Inc

Colin Meurk gave a presentation about the Christchurch 360 Trail that has evolved over 30 years, showcasing the hidden wonders of the city.

Mr Meurk provided background and history, along with photographs, of the 360 trail. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Discussion was held about dog access to the area, and a gate that would be closed at night, and could possibly be closed a couple of weeks prior to the godwits' flight.

Kevin Brown advised that he provides updates from the Zone Committee to the Christchurch City Council every three months and he will report the concerns raised in the deputations to the Council during his update.

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00010

That the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the deputations from Kit Doudney and Phillipa Mein-Smith of the Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust; and Colin Meurk, Christchurch 360 Trail, on the matter of the proposed green edge estuary walking and cycling track.

Annabelle Hasselman/Abbie Wilson

Carried

6. Identification of Urgent Items

No urgent items were raised.

7. Identification of General Public Contributions

No general public contributions were identified.

8. Upper Heathcote Storage Basins including Cashmere Stream Enhancement Project

Peter Christensen, CCC Surface Water Engineer, and Jo Golden, CCC Project Manager Stormwater and Waterways Delivery, presented to the Committee about the Upper Heathcote Storage Basins, including the Cashmere Stream Enhancement project.

Areas of interest included Sutherlands, Hoon Hay, Eastman basins which will provide flood storage and stormwater treatment and over a 100ha area. The Cashmere Stream Enhancement project objectives and project sequencing were noted. Jo advised that funding for enhancement of Cashmere Stream from the Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund has been confirmed at \$1.49M, plus Council contributing \$1.69M. The works include planting the riparian margins, creating a path beside the stream and footbridges.

Peter and Jo responded to queries from the Committee. It was noted that ecological monitoring fish surveys are being undertaken, and a developing programme for Mātauranga Māori. Jo will provide ecological monitoring baseline survey to members.

Further discussion was held about the capacity of the basins in rain events. Ideas for the area suggested were additional parking for the area, possible dog parks and a bridge in the area.

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00011

That the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receive the information on the Upper Heathcote Storage Basins and Cashmere Stream Enhancement Project.

Kevin Brown/Les Wanhalla

Carried

9. Drylands Biodiversity Protection

Colin Meurk and Greg Stanley provided a presentation on the critical importance of Canterbury's unique drylands.

Some of the issues outlined were:

- Less than 1% of Canterbury Plains retain natural environment
- A dry climate and bony soil
- Dryland species not replicated elsewhere in New Zealand.

Surviving remnants include shrubbery, tussocks and turf as well as water races.

Previous Zone Committee support has been productive in areas we can continue to invest in and maintain, and grow these reserves. Work of the ECan science team has focussed on the purchase of leases, and installing fences on leased grazed areas. We seek to protect the natural land form. A field trip was proposed to view this sort of area.

Discussion about telling the story and use of signage followed the presentation.

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00012

That the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives information on the drylands biodiversity protection.
2. Encourages Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council to continue to allocate resources and take opportunities to protect existing dryland biodiversity.
3. Requests that Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council develop better information about how to transition from cultivated leases to conservation of dryland biodiversity values. This would include trials and research.

Abbie Wilson/Mike Patchett

Carried

10. Facilitator's Update - August 2021

The Facilitator's update was taken as read. Shelley provided some additional information relating to the email she had sent members about the Styx River Living Laboratory Trust online session on 31 August, and World Rivers Day on Sunday 26 September. The Zone Committee could take part in this with the superhero mobile trailer resource.

Discussion was held about the implementation of the Committee's action plan which will be worked on further at the Committee's September workshop. Planning for how to implement each action can be done prior to that workshop, or implementation if already at that stage.

Agreed a desire for action leads to meet with the helpers for their actions, before the September workshop.

Mike Patchett suggested that leaders of the actions report back to each meeting to share progress.

Agreed a desire for every meeting and workshop to include time for action leads to report back on progress

Oscar Bloom reported that he and Annabelle were progressing well with their action about the Community Waterways Partnership, and attended the Community Waterways Partnership on 27 July on behalf of the Committee, along with some other members of this Committee and the Banks Peninsula Zone Committee. Oscar and Annabelle reported that it was a great networking opportunity and resulted in agreement about four key actions.

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00013

That the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee:

1. Receives the Facilitator's report to August 2021.

Oscar Bloom/Phil Clearwater

Carried

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Committee Resolved CWZC/2021/00014

That the minutes of the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 be confirmed.

Annabelle Hasselman/Abbie Wilson

Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Shelley advised that the Cashmere Stream and Port Hills Working Group of the Zone Committee has met and discussed what they heard at the Committee's last meeting from the speakers presenting about erosion and sediment control, and updated their action list.

Brad Waldon-Gibbons closed the meeting with a Karakia/Whakamutunga.

Meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2021

**KEVIN BROWN
CHAIRPERSON**