

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 27 July 2021, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Ian MacKenzie, Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Araparta Reuben, Genevieve de Spa, Sidinei Teixeira and Les Wanhalla.

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

6 members of the public in attendance – Councillor Lynette Lovett

Paul Churchill (ADC Surface Water Project Coordinator)

1 Welcome

Araparta Reuben opened the meeting with a Karakia.

A special welcome was extended to the new members Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan and Sidinei Teixeira.

2 Apologies

That an apology for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown and for early departure on behalf of Angela Cushnie.

Thomas/Wilson

Carried

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Genevieve de Spa

- remove Member Mt Somers Walkway Society and Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Group (ADBAG)
- remove Active member and organiser of 'Extinction Rebellion'
- Change Employee to Contractor and member of Staveley Campsite Committee (Previous recipient of Immediate Steps Funding)

Angela Cushnie

- Add Flood Recovery Coordinator

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 25 May 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Wilson/Reuben

Carried

It was noted that Hamish Mackenzie's name was spelt incorrectly in the minutes

5.1 Matters Arising

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Ashburton College Environment Committee – Letter of thanks.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Carters Creek Update – Donna Lill (Ecan) and Paul Churchill (ADC)

The team are continuing to work with the community to support their concerns. There has been a slight delay in progression due to key team members shifting their focus to flood relief recovery. There has been no additional damage reported following the May floods.

Proposed Actions:

Stormwater quality and quantity

- Define urban catchment
- Stormwater education
- Sump replacement and filter sacks

Bank stabilisation and management

- Small planting @SH1
- Education for urban adjoining landowners regarding over steepened banks and garden waste

Selwyn District Council has a programme “Be a Stormwater Superhero” – a mobile programme educating on stormwater.

Get this mobile programme to visit schools – Ange to coordinate with Dave

9 Ashburton/Hakatere Community Flood Update

Shaun McCracken/John Waugh

Report attached to the minutes

Special thanks and acknowledgement was made to Shaun and his team for the outstanding work they have undertaken in restoring stopbanks following the flood.

10 Wakanui Hāpuna Update/Wakanui Wetland Management Considerations

Val Clemens/Adrian Meredith 2.00pm – 2.30pm

Discussions were held on the practicalities of restoring reliable water flows to the Wakanui Hāpuna.

- Project is a shared priority with ADC
- Investigations have been undertaken in regard to alternatives ways of returning water in and whether there would be sufficient water for sustainability.

Action

It was agreed to establish a working group to undertake further investigations and engagement with the community to provide recommendations for feasible options for restoring water flows.

Membership to include representation from:

- Environment Canterbury
- Ashburton District Council

- Rūnanga
- Water Zone Committee
- Wakanui Restoration Group
- Local farmers (Ross Digby)
- Wakanui School

Zone Committee members to contact Dave if they wish to participate.

11 Ashburton Consent Review Update

Henry Winchester/Bianca Sullivan

- 88 originally identified and review notices sent
- 50 hydraulically connected groundwater takes, 36 direct surface water takes, 2 diversion of surface water
- 58 reviews decided
- Remaining 30 reviews on hold
- 14 consent holders remain

12 Hekeao Hinds Catchment Collective

Duncan Barr

Establishment of Catchment groups update

- Group is a way for farmers/landowners to get involved/engaged in land management regulations from the ground level find practical solutions
- April to May – took it out to public meeting mid June, to gauge support, attending by approx. 60 pax
- The Parent Group will be the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, who will hold the Incorporated Society status.
- Each district will establish their own Collective and will provide a representative of their group to the Parent Group
- Collective Co-ordinator to be appointed
- Requesting funding of \$10k (Administration costs - \$1k, Branding - \$2-3k, Wages - \$6-\$7k (10 hours a week for a three month period from September to November)

The funding request has the initial support of the Zone Committee and the Catchment Collective are to provide a formal written application to the Committee for consideration.

Angela Cushnie departed the meeting at 3.13pm

13 Ō Tū Wharekai Lakes Update

Nick Daniels 3.17pm

Ecan and DOC have funded an independent report into the water quality at the lakes. The report reflects concerns that have been raised with the continual deterioration of the water quality. A working group is to be formed to establish actions going forward.

Catchment scale analysis down to individual farm – to see what individual actions are required.

Angela Cushnie rejoined the meeting at 3.30pm

14 Committee Updates

Dave Moore

Special thanks and appreciation was extended to departing Committee member Cargill Henderson.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 24 August 2021.

The meeting closed at 3.41pm with a Karakia by Araparta Reuben.

Dated this 24th day of August 2021 _____ (Chair)

Report on the Flood on the Ashburton River – 29/30 May 2021

John R Waugh, Hydrologist (Retired) 19 August 2021

- The flood was caused by 48-50 hours of persistent rain in Mid and South Canterbury. The Mt Somers rain gauge (Ecan) recorded 526 mm in 48 hours on 29 and 30 May 2021.
- A belt of foothills rain gauges recorded 300-350 mm in 48 hours, these are Mt Hutt (Scotts Saddle) 311.5 mm, Blandswood 316 mm, Mt Francis 310 mm, and Geraldine Forest 350 mm. It is likely that a zone of heavy rainfall extended north across the Taylors Stream catchment, and south across the Hinds River catchment.
- The Ashburton River at SH1 peaked at 1562 cumecs (a 1 in 87 year event). This is the largest flood since the 16-19 April 1951 flood, estimated at 2500 cumecs, a 500 year event. The flood damage in 1951 was at the same places as in 2021. The Selwyn River cut SH1 north of Dunsandel, and the Hinds River cut the highway south. Taylors Stream washed out the approaches to Roxburgh Bridge (in 1951). If we routed the flood overflows down the main channel, the flood would have reached the 1 in 100 year flood flow of 1630 cumecs. Reference is Pearson, C P (1996) Flood Frequency Hydrology of the Ashburton River.
- In 100 year flood events the flood flows always occupy the “flood Plain “. This has happened in all the major floods I have observed over 40+ years, and is clearly shown in aerial photographs published in the newspapers for the May 2021 flood.
- The May 2021 flood was a long duration event as it was produced by 48-50 hours of very steady rainfall. The flood hydrograph was above 400 cumecs for 48 hours (2 days) and more critically it was above 1000 cumecs for parts of 2 days. These high flows are why such large amounts of sediment and shingle were moved. A large flood like the May 2021 event can move as much sediment and shingle as would be moved by 10 years of normal flows and freshes.

Flood Frequency, after Pearson, C P (1996)

Q10 is 820 cumecs	Q20 is 1025 cumecs.
Q50 is 1340 cumecs,	Q100 is 1630 cumecs
Q200 is 1965 cumecs,	Q500 is 2500 cumecs
Q1000 is 2985 cumecs	PMF is 4000 cumecs

The PMF, Probable Maximum Flood is the upper limit of what a catchment can produce under extreme rainfall conditions. With Climate Change we are likely to experience more severe storms, happening more frequently than in the past.