

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM AT THE RANGIORA
TOWN HALL, 303 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021 AT 3.30PM.**

PRESENT

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson) [left 5.30pm], Erin Harvie, Martha Jolly, Carlyne Latham, Wendy Main, Judith Roper- Lindsay, John Cooke (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative), and Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor) [left 5.30pm].

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond (WDC Councillor), Councillor G Edge (ECan Councillor), M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), R Johnston (Farmer), and J Benn (Department of Conservation).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor, A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), A Meredith (ECan Principal Water Quality and Ecology Scientist), A Kreleger (ECan Senior Groundwater Scientist), A McLeod (ECan Senior Communications Advisor), M Cataloni (ECan Northern Zone Delivery Lead), Helen Greenep, (ECan Scientist), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided the karakia to open the meeting.

1 BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved: E Harvie

Seconded: A Reuben

An apology was received and sustained from Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor) for absence.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present and extended a special welcome to M Jolly, who is a new CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee member. He requested members and attendees to introduce themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

1.3 Register of Interests

J Roper- Lindsay advised that she had been elected as the Chairperson of the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. She therefore requested that the Register of Interests be updated accordingly.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 R Johnston – Farmer

R Johnston invited the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members to visit his property to look at the damage that the Ashley River/Rakahuri had done to the river frontage of his property. He noted that the river protection work done at his property frontage had survived the recent flood event in May 2021. However, it directed the water downstream and caused destruction further down the river.

R Johnston believed that the maintenance of the section of the Ashley River/Rakahuri from the Ashley Gorge Bridge to the Okuku River confluence had been neglected by ECan. He questioned if the Committee intended to monitor the 21 kilometres between the gorge and the Okuku River confluence, which had been sprayed for weed control. He commented that it would be interesting to ascertain how much of the sprayed undergrowth was washed away in the flood and what the next step would be to rehabilitate this part of the river into a braided river.

R Johnston advised that, to his knowledge, winter grazing restrictions were agreed on during Plan Change 7, depending on the size of properties. Subsequently, the winter grazing threshold was lowered, without consultation, based on the connection of the Christchurch Aquifer System with groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River. He expressed a concern that the ECan report now seemed to question the relationship between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River. He raised a further concern regarding the physical and mental detrimental effect caused by the conditions being promulgated on farmers.

A Kreleger elaborated on the modelling done by ECan to measure the potential connection between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River. She noted that ECan was aware of the high likelihood of the connection and would be conducting further studies as to where and when potential connections were likely impact the city's aquifer.

In conclusion, M Blackwell commented that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone committee recommends to increase monitoring.

2.2 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident

M Bate showed photos of the stormwater sump in the reserve near Sutton Tools NZ, where the oil discharged in the Kaiapoi River originated from five months ago. J Cooke, who worked at Sutton Tools NZ, explained that one of the tanks at the Sutton Tools yard filled with water during an extreme rain event. Because oil floated on water, the oil flowed into the stormwater sump, which was blocked at the time. Sutton Tools NZ had subsequently been working with the Council to put measures in place, such as filters, absorption mats and a holding pond, to ensure that this did not happen again. J Cooke confirmed that all the pipes at Sutton Tools NZ had been professionally cleaned after the incident to ensure no residual oil was trapped in them. Councillor S Stewart noted that the Council had also cleaned the pipe from the stormwater sump to the Kaiapoi River.

M Bate also showed photos of the Cust Main Drain taken in May 2021 near Skew Bridge. He advised that all the toxic algae that could be seen in the photos had been washed away by the flood. He presented recent photos of the Cam River, near Revells Road, and emphasised the river's lack of aquatic life. A Reuben commented that he lived in that area and had observed aquatic weeds in the Cam River near Revells Road.

M Bate further advised that contractors chopped down some of the Willows at the Kaiapoi River behind the Kaiapoi Borough School; while chipping the branches, some of the chips had spilt into the river and were left there. M Cataloni was requested to follow up on this matter and report back to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

M Bate noted a newspaper article regarding the Council's achievements in Three Waters' Management. However, in his opinion, the Council had failed to effectively manage the water in the Waimakariri district, as many birds were being poisoned at the wastewater plants, and there was no aquatic life in the rivers. He also expressed his concern about the deteriorating water quality in the high country lakes, where the Waimakariri district drinking water emanated from.

In conclusion, M Bate requested the Committee to encourage the Council to continue desludging the wetlands at the Kaiapoi Wastewater Treatment Plant. The desludging seemed to control the botulism toxins, thereby lowering the death rate of waterfowl.

3. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021/22 - M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, Ecan)**

M Blackwell stepped down as Chairperson, with the CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, temporarily facilitating the meeting.

M Griffin reminded the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee that a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson needed to be appointed annually. In February 2021, it was agreed that M Blackwell and C Henderson would remain as Chairperson and Deputy Chair, respectively, until the scheduled CWMS Zone Committee Refresh had been concluded. The Refresh had now been completed, hence the need to appoint a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. M Griffin called for nominations for Chairperson.

Moved: W Main

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Appoints** Michael Blackwell as the Chairperson of the for CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee from 2 August 2020 until 31 August 2022.

CARRIED

The CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, then vacated the Chair in favour of the Chairperson, M Blackwell.

M Blackwell called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.

Moved J Roper- Lindsay

Seconded: Councillor S Steward

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (b) **Appoints** Arapata Reuben as the Deputy Chairperson of the for CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee from 2 August 2020 until 31 August 2022.

CARRIED

M Blackwell thanked the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee for the trust placed in him. In addition, he acknowledged the excellent service of D Ashby and C Henderson during their time on the Committee.

4. **REPORTS**

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

M Griffin and S Allen took the report as read.

J Roper-Lindsay suggested that the Council stop using the term "drain" in their documentation, as they were natural waterways. S Allen acknowledged J Roper-Lindsay's concern and undertook to investigate alternative terminology.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that the Council was mapping significant indigenous habitats to prioritise protection and enhancement for the District Plan review. She questioned if the Council would only be focusing on significant habitats. S Allen confirmed that the Council would not, at this stage, be undertaking the mapping of all indigenous habitats.

Regarding the Taranaki Stream inanga improvements, A Reuben explained that the report should refer to the Tangata tiaki, who were the people, and not the kaitiaki, which referred to stewardship.

In response to questions, S Allen advised that the private wells being tested as part of the Council's study would only be tested for chemicals and not microbiological contamination.

M Blackwell noted that he attended a Green Peace water testing session in Woodend, where they were able to test approximately 100 samples brought in by members of the public. He questioned if the Council had the capacity to do the same. S Allen explained that the Council wished to establish long-term trends regarding nitrate levels in groundwater and therefore needed the controlled test results verified by an accredited lab.

C Latham stated that she was encouraged by the Silverstream spring sampling data. However, she requested that future reports include geographical data on the underlying soil types. It would be interesting to ascertain any correlation between the nitrate levels and the soil types. M Griffin noted that it may be interesting to discuss the matter further in a workshop and have a field trip.

C Latham expressed her concern that she had not been advised of the current community engagement being undertaken about the Braided River Revival Programme work for the area from the airfield to the racecourse area. She requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be advised of any planned community engagement so that they could assist.

C Latham asked if the 70+ landowners identified as potentially needing to apply for Farming Land Use (FLU) consents were across the whole zone. M Catalonia confirmed that this was for the entire zone.

E Harvie requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be kept updated on the proposed Groundwater Monitoring Network Review for the Waimakariri Zone. A Kreleger explained that the review had commenced in the Selwyn district. ECan was not undertaking the review for a specific project but wished to monitor the state of the environment as a whole.

Councillor S Stewart sought clarity on why there were only 300 wells included in ECan's Annual Groundwater Quality Survey for the region. She believed that more wells would have to be tested to ensure the statistical significance of the study. A Kreleger elaborated on the process ECan followed in undertaking the survey. The study focused on the wells ECan has in its network and therefore had long term records to determine trends.

Councillor S Stewart acknowledged ECan's lack of resources to conduct an extensive Groundwater Quality Survey. However, only 44 wells were tested in the Waimakariri district. This was not a large enough sample for ECan to base any significant decisions on. A Kreleger explained that ECan did not only take the data contained in the Groundwater Quality Survey into consideration when making decisions about groundwater. ECan had other data sources that influenced their decision making.

Moved: C Latham

Seconded: A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

4.2 Land use change on Canterbury's lowland braided rivers – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

H Greenep updated the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the presentation from the recent Braided Rivers Seminar hosted by BRaid on 14 July 2021. Braided

rivers were iconic features of the Canterbury landscape and are of national and international significance, with "endangered" tread status. H Greenep focused on the change of the Ashley River/Rakahuri riverbed over time.

E Harvie commented that it was not the land-use change in the margins of the braided rivers that caused problems, but rather the riverbeds being overgrown with broom and gorse. H Greenep advised that the threat to braided rivers was due to loss of area and function. The loss of function was due to the river beds being overgrown with vegetation.

C Latham noted that the Crown had granted freehold land titles that extended into the rivers. She questioned how the land was being managed and if it could be better managed through Farm Environment Plans. H Greenep commented that it depended on the approach to be taken. However, she acknowledged that it was hard to balance farming production and the need to manage biodiversity.

J Roper- Lindsay questioned what percentage of the land-use change in the margins of the braided rivers was illegal. H Greenep advised that the study had not looked at identifying illegal land use. She noted that ECan's grazing leases were very specific regarding land use and only allowed for grazing. J Benn explained that the Department of Conservation's grazing licences were also very prescriptive and did not allow for land-use change.

J Roper- Lindsay suggested that the matter should be further addressed as part of the River Management Plans in which the values on the river edge would be identified.

Moved: J Roper- Lindsay

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) **Receives** the information contained in this report.

CARRIED

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)

5.1 Inanga Spawning Habitat and Management on Courtenay and Taranaki Streams

S Allen advised that the Council sought to update its inanga spawning survey in autumn 2021. Aquatic Ecology Ltd were contributing to this and surveyed the Courtenay Stream in March, April and May 2021, and also surveyed the Taranaki Stream in March and June 2021. The Council would be looking at implementing the recommendations in Aquatic Ecology Ltd's report.

J Roper- Lindsay asked if the Council had considered having a plan for the overall habitat in the areas adjacent to the inanga spawning habitat in a bid to manage the sites. S Allen explained that the Taranaki Stream Advisory Group managed the area along the Taranaki Stream, which was predominately owned by the Council. Along Courtenay Stream, there was mainly grazing and farming on private land. The banks of the streams were, however, being planted and maintained.

A Reuben noted that it was essential to maintain the water quality in the streams to ensure inanga spawning.

5.2 **Essential Freshwater Package – ECan Update on Freshwater Farm Plans**

No discussion emanated from this point.

5.3 **Proposed Plan Change 7 – Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan**

M Griffin advised that ECan's Council had applied to the Minister for the Environment for an extension to the timeframe to make its decision on Plan Change 7 and Plan Change 2, until 31 October 2021.

5.4 **Zone Committee Working Groups**

- **Landcare Working Group**

No discussion emanated from this point.

- **Biodiversity Working Group**

No discussion emanated from this point.

- **Coastal Catchments Working Group**

No discussion emanated from this point.

- **Monitoring Working Group**

C Latham noted the formation of a new working group. However, there still needed to be a discussion on what the Monitoring Working Group would be focusing on and what the Council would expect the Working Group to monitor. Councillor S Stewart explained the work the Council was undertaking to coordinate environmental monitoring in the district.

After discussion, it was agreed that a workshop would be held on the environmental monitoring currently being done ECan's on Monday 16 August 2021.

M Blackwell and Councillor S Stewart left the meeting at 5.30pm.

5.5 **WDC Land and Water Committee.**

In response to questions, A Arps explained that it was very likely that the source of the sediment in the Lineside drain was caused by the numerous birds congregating at the drain while the water was low. However, no correlation had been found between the wetlands on the properties in the upstream Lineside Road and the sediment collecting in the drain.

C Latham questioned why ECan had temporarily removed its wetlands map layer from Canterbury Maps. A Arps advised that this was to ensure that ECan presented information in a way that was consistent with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, which described how Regional Councils should undertake the mapping of wetlands. The public could still access information regarding wetlands by contacting ECan directly.

5.6 **Communications and Engagement.**

No discussion emanated from this point.

5.7 **Kaiapoi River – Salinity Monitoring**

A Meredith confirmed that ECan continued to monitor the Kaiapoi River for the last 12 months while developing a more continuous water monitoring system for the river at the Mandeville Bridge. A Meredith explained that the data collected showed that the Waimakariri district had a dry spell for the last 12-months, which had been earmarked with low Waimakariri River flows and high salinity intrusion. A Meredith noted that the data had shown that the salinity intrusion into the Kaiapoi River up to Lineside Road was becoming more frequent.

5.8 **ECan Long-Term Plan 2021-31 Work Programmes**

A Arps provided the Committee with a brief update of the Braided River Revival Programme, as there would be a workshop on this matter at the next Committee briefing and highlighted the following:

- The programme had been slightly delayed due to the recent flood event.
- Twenty-one kilometres of woody weeds clearance had been carried out between the Ashley Gorge and the Okuku River confluence.
- It seems that most of the broom and gorse had been washed away by the flood; however, the trees were still there.
- The contractors would be working in this area until late September 2021.
- The project would also include woody weeds clearing up in the Okuku River and in the Waipara River.

Rangiora Reach Advisory Group was compiling a Community Advisory Plan that would be shared with the Committee. The Advisory Group was also working on a Master Plan for the Ashley/Rakahuri reach. J Roper-Lindsay asked if a Habitat Biodiversity Survey had been done for the river and its margins to determine a baseline for the Master Plan. A Arps undertook to follow up and provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting.

In response to questions, A Arps explained that the Braided River Revival Programme had not been undertaken to provide new rules; hence it was not statutory. Instead, it was about using the current tools available for on the ground understanding of the river, supporting the education of people about the current rules and the enforcement of the current regulations.

In conclusion, A Arps, provide a brief overview of ECan's 2021-31 Long-Term Plan's Priority Work Programmes and future reporting.

5.8. **CWMS Regional Committee Review**

No discussion emanated from this point.

5.9 **Action Points from Previous Zone Committee Meetings.**

No discussion emanated from this point.

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: J Roper- Lindsay

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

6. MATTERS REFERRED FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Water and Sanitary Services Assessment – proposed Water Services Act 202X amendment to Local Government Act – Report to Council meeting 25 May 2021.

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: J Roper- Lindsay

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** receives the report in item 6.1 for its information.

CARRIED

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 3 May 2021

Moved: J Roper- Lindsay

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the amended Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 3 May 2021, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

7.2 Matters Arising

None

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024

M Griffin explained the amendments made during the previous workshop. It was agreed that M Griffin and A Reuben would liaise on the final amendments to be submitted to the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members for final review.

Moved: W Main

Seconded: E Harvie

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024 as prepared by the Zone Committee including any final amendments to this action plan.

CARRIED

9.2 Development of Catchment Management Plans

Councillor G Edge encouraged the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee to advance work being done in the establishment Management Plans for the Sub-catchment areas in the zone, i.e. the Waimakariri tributaries and the Ashley River/Rakahuri. This would allow for engagement with farmers about what was happening on their properties and future biodiversity planning.

He noted that this was important in light of the changes of the Resource Management Act. The proposed new Strategic Planning Act would be mandating spatial planning on a regional basis. This was exactly what could also be done with Catchment Management Plans, identifying key problems, setting goals and defining priorities, thereby providing a holistic view.

C Latham explained that it was difficult to get buy-in from the various landowners to form part of a Catchments Working Group and actively develop local catchment priorities and solutions and it would be even harder to get this engagement on an imposed Catchment Management Plan.

A Arps noted that ECan was working with communities to develop a “catchment based approach” for specific areas to ensure that the community was involved from the beginning. He added the establishment of a catchment group was a five to seven year commitment for.

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 –
1 November 2021 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.35 PM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

1 November 2021

Date