

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE RANGIORA
SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021 AT
3.30PM.**

PRESENT

Michael Blackwell (Chairperson) Erin Harvie, 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).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor P Redmond (WDC Councillor), Councillor G Edge (ECan Councillor), M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), R Johnston (Oxford Farmer), J Ensor (Mandeville Resident), D Hill (North Canterbury News) and J Benn (Department of Conservation).

S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), D Lewis (WDC Land Drainage Engineer), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), K Whitwell (ECan Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

KARAKIA

M Griffin provided the karakia to open the meeting.

1 BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Moved: E Harvie

Seconded: A Reuben

Apologies were received and sustained from Martha Jolly and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor) for absence.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all the members present and requested members and attendees to introduce themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

1.3 Register of Interests

E Harvie advised that she had been appointed as the Lead Co-ordinator for the Waimakariri Landcare Trust and she was now also a full member of the New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management. She therefore requested that the Register of Interests be updated accordingly.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident

M Bate showed various photos of dead trees and new growth in the Lineside Road Drain, Courtney Steam, and Kaiapoi River (near the Askeaton Boat ramp) area. He noted that if the trees had died due to saltwater intrusion, there would not be any regeneration or new trees growing in these areas. Also, some of the dead trees were not close enough to the waterways to be effected by saltwater intrusion. He therefore believed that the trees had been poisoned by the spraying of chemicals.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned when the older trees had died, she asked if it was possible that the 2011 earthquake could have caused a surge in saltwater intrusion thus killing the trees. She noted that the killing of the trees by spraying chemicals would mean that the spraying had to have occurred on a regular basis over a long period of time, and it was unclear who would have done this. She therefore suggested that the possibility should be investigated that the trees died due to the occurrence of a natural event.

M Bate noted that the saltwater intrusion was still occurring annually, if the trees had therefore died due to saltwater intrusion, there would be no new trees growing in these areas. He therefore maintained that the trees had been poisoned over an extended period of time by the consistent spraying of chemicals along the waterways.

M Bate also tabled a notice that appeared in the local newspaper that listed the various rivers in the Canterbury Region that were scheduled to be sprayed in 2022. The notice also listed the chemicals to be used such as glyphosate, triclopyr, metsulfuron, etc. He noted that the food chain was continuously being poisoned and the biodiversity along the waterways was declining each year.

M Bate expressed his dismay with the spraying for weed control done by ECan between the Ashley Gorge and the Okuku River confluence. Although the undergrowth in this part of the river was not indigenous, it at least provided some biodiversity and assisted with the controlling of flooding.

In conclusion, he noted that the birds were being blamed for the deterioration of the Lineside Road Drain. However, the fact that the drain had been sprayed with chemical for the last 20-years was not being taken into consideration.

A Reuben advised that Ngāi Tūāhuriri also objected to the use of the Sodium fluoroacetate, and other chemicals, due to their effect on the natural environment. The effect of the chemicals could be observed in sharp rise in illnesses that modern communities were struggling with. He further noted that the Christchurch West Melton Water Zone Committee was able to persuade the Christchurch City Council not to use chemicals around public open spaces.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if the Waimakariri District Council also had a Global Spraying Plan. S Allen confirmed that the Council had a holistic weed control plan. However, she advised that the notices that appeared in local newspaper usually listed all the areas that may need weed control in the next year. She clarified this was a generic notice, and did not mean that all the areas listed would actually be sprayed.

2.2 **R Johnston – Oxford Farmer**

R Johnston enquired if there had been any process made with the exploratory drilling to establish the relationship between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River. He noted with concern that the winter feed crop restrictions contained in Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan were based on the relationship to the Christchurch aquifers. However, R Johnston's inquiry on this matter suggests it would now seem that the connection was not based on proven fact, but rather on opinion. He therefore believed that the public was led astray on this matter, as the possibility of contamination of the Christchurch Aquifer System by the Waimakariri District's groundwater was very small.

R Johnston also raised a point regarding the zoning colour coding used for parts of the Waimakariri District in the Plan Change 7 maps, as it was no true indication of the ground coverage in the district. He further also believed that the Ashley/Rakahuri River should not have been sprayed for weed control, as a more forceful approach was needed to ensure effective results.

In conclusion, R Johnston again invited the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee members to visit his property to look at the damage that the Ashley/Rakahuri River 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.

2.3 **J Ensor – Mandeville Residents**

J Ensor believed that the Council had successfully managed the nitrates in the Waimakariri District's water supply and the maintenance of its water infrastructure, thereby ensuring the high quality of its drinking water. He expressed a concern that ECan and the Council would not have control of the district's water supplies under the proposed Three Waters Reform. He therefore questioned if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would play a role in the monitoring of water standards after the proposed reform.

M Blackwell advised that the Three Waters Reform was outside the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's brief. Councillor S Stewart confirmed the matter was being dealt with by the Council.

3. **REPORTS**

3.1 **ZIPA Implementation – First Quarterly Update 2021/22 – S Allen (WDC, Water Environment Advisor) and M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, Ecan)**

M Griffin and S Allen took the report as read.

A Reuben sought clarity on the matrix used by Council staff to classify priority indigenous habitats for protection and enhancement. S Allen noted that the Council was using a matrix adapted from ECan's criteria for Significant Natural Areas (SNA) for the District Plan review.

A Reuben noted that Ngāi Tūāhuriri's views may differ on what should be considered a priority. J Roper-Lindsay explained that cultural, historical and educational values were excluded from the ECan criteria to ensure a matrix based solely based on ecological and biodiversity values.

In response to questions, S Allen advised that, based on past experience, the sampling being undertaken to test the nitrate limits in private wells would only be completed by end of November 2021. It was envisaged that a report on the results of the study would be available in February 2022. She noted that the Council had been advised that all results of private well testing must be submitted to the Ministry of Health and eventually to Taumata Arowai. It was hoped that more information on the state of private well supplies would become available as more data was collated by the Ministry of Health.

Councillor S Stewart requested additional information on the work being done by ECan in defining the boundaries of Private Supply Well Areas. S Allen undertook to ensure that the information was provided as part of the next quarterly update.

Councillor S Stewart also asked for additional information on the realignment of tributary of North Brook and the sampling at Tūtaepatu Lagoon. M Griffin undertook to ensure that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was updated on these matters.

J Roper-Lindsay noted that she was also interested in the results of the sampling at Tūtaepatu Lagoon. She suggested that the General Manager of the Tūhaitara Coastal Park, Greg Byrnes, be invited to update the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the general health of the park.

Moved: J Roper- Lindsay

Seconded: A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

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

CARRIED

3.2 **Braided River Revival Programme – Update – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and A Arps (Northern Zone Manager, ECan)**

A Arps provided the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee with an update on the Braided River Revival Programme (Whakahaumanu Ngā Awa ā Pākihi). He highlighted the following:

- A brief outline of the Braided River Revival Programme, including ECan's role in managing braided rivers in the region.
- Explained that the Programme would not be regulatory driven, but would endeavour to create a holistic approach to braided river management.
- Clarified how the Ashley/Rakahuri River would be effected by programme, by focusing on current and planned projects.
- Community resilience issues, such as later erosion, gravel lock up, and habitat loss.
- Provided an overview of Ashley/Rakahuri River Vegetation Clearance Project.

M Blackwell stated that it was heartening to note that that an effort was being made to create more biodiversity along the braided rivers.

J Roper- Lindsay noted that the Biodiversity Working Group was very interested in the work being done to ensure biodiversity along the Ashley/Rakahuri River. She questioned if biodiversity assessments were done as part of the proposed Braided River Revival Programme. She was concerned that large areas of vegetation, including willows, were being removed without biodiversity assessments. She further noted that for the preservation of the food chain, it was also important to protect the instream biodiversity and not only focus on the banks of the river. A Arps explained that islands of vegetation had been left in the areas which had been cleared to maintain the biodiversity values in these areas. He noted that Courtney Bamber had been appointed by ECan as a Braided River Advisor, she and a team of specialists would be conducting various assessments of the braided rivers in Canterbury, including cultural and biodiversity assessments.

J Roper- Lindsay and A Reuben noted their worry that ECan's Braided River Revival Programme Plan did not make provision for consultation with the community and the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee. A Arps confirmed that the community and the Committee would be consulted on the programme.

In response to questions, C Latham advised that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee did not have sufficient information to make a decision on the future flow of the Ashley/Rakahuri River. She believed that the community needed to be consulted on what vegetation would be considered acceptable to grow in the river. The Committee also needed more clarity on how the braided rivers would be managed once the work had been done.

J Roper-Lindsay raised a concern that the main objectives of the Braided River Revival Programme had never been discussed with the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee. There seem to be different anticipated outcomes from the programme, which was causing confusion. She suggested that there should be a discussion with all parties involved in the programme to ensure consensus on the future of the Ashley/Rakahuri River.

A Reuben agreed with J Roper-Lindsay, and stated that he was struggling to ascertain the benefits of the Braided River Revival Programme, as it did not seem to be a holistic consultative programme, but rather just many smaller projects along the Ashley/Rakahuri River. He questioned how ECan would be measuring the success of the programme.

A Arps advised that a large amount of the planned consultation for the Braided River Revival Programme had been delayed due to the May 2021 floods and the COVID-19 restrictions. He explained that the overall aim of the programme would be to return the Ashley/Rakahuri River to its natural character.

C Latham and J Roper-Lindsay stated that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee needed more information on what would be considered the natural character of the Ashley/Rakahuri River and what projects needed to be implemented to return the river to this state.

M Blackwell noted that it may have been more productive if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee and other stakeholders were consulted earlier on the Braided River Revival Programme.

Councillor G Edge advised that ECan had established a new Catchment Subcommittee, which would be looking at the future management of all the Canterbury Rivers in line with the National Policy Statement of Freshwater. He assured the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee that ECan would work with the Committee and other stakeholders to achieve the best possible outcome for the Ashley/Rakahuri River.

Moved: J Roper- Lindsay Seconded: W Main

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receive** the information taken into consideration the Committee's Action Plan Priorities and Engagement for 2021-2024.

CARRIED

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)

4.1 Proposed Plan Change 7 – Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

In response to a question from E Harvie, M Griffin advised that the additional time granted by the Minister for the Environment had allowed the OVERSEER review report to be included in the documentation to be considered by the ECan Council on 17 November 2021. M Griffin confirmed that the ECan Council meeting to be held on 17 November 2021 would be open to the public.

Councillor G Edge explained that the ECan Council would be briefed on the recommendations of the independent hearing commissioners and the OVERSEER report on 10 November 2021, where after the information would be made available to the public on 11 November 2021.

4.2 Essential Freshwater Package – ECan Update on Freshwater Farm Plans

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.3 CWMS Progress Report 2021

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.4 **Zone Committee Working Groups**

- Landcare Working Group

E Harvie noted that all the interested parties that attended the meeting on water quality monitoring in the Waimakariri District were very receptive to having a holistic approach to water quality monitoring.

- Biodiversity Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Coastal Catchments Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

- Monitoring Working Group

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.5 **Zone Committee Action Plan 2021-2024**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.6 **WDC Land and Water Committee**

Councillor S Stewart noted that the Land and Water Committee meeting would be held on 16 November 2021, were ECan would be updating the Committee on the work being done by the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee.

4.7 **Waimakariri Zone Communications Report (July – October 2021)**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.8 **Lineside Road Drain**

M Blackwell advised that the problems being experienced at the Lineside Road Drain had also been raised at the Central Rural Drainage Advisory Group meetings. The responsibility for dealing with the Lineside Road basin drainage issues seemed to circulate between ECan and the Council, with the landowners getting frustrated in the middle. However, there seemed to be consensus that it is both a drainage problem and a water quality concern. He therefore urged ECan and the Council to work together in resolving this matter. If the problem could not be resolved, then ECan and the Council should at least take some action to mitigate the landowners' problems.

Councillor S Stewart endorsed the abovementioned comments made by M Blackwell. She was a member of the Central Rural Drainage Advisory Group and there was consensus within the Group that this was a drainage issue, caused by the Council's lack of maintenance of the Lineside Road Drain. She noted that resolving the problem was being delayed by the lack of clarity on the definition of a natural wetland in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. She noted that until the problems with the drain were solved, sediment would continue to flow and build-up in the Kaiapoi and Cam Rivers.

4.9 **Action Points from previous Zone Committee Meetings – August 2021.**

J Roper-Lindsay requested that the quarterly updates on water quality and ecological data for the Waimakariri District be included as a standard item in the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee's calendar.

Moved: J Cooke

Seconded: E Harvie

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

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 2 August 2021

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay

Seconded: A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the amended Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 2 August 2021, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

5.2 Matters Arising

None.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Submission on the Minister of Environment's discussion document on wetlands

J Roper-Lindsay tabled ECan's submission on the Minister of Environment's discussion document on wetlands, as she believed that members would benefit from studying the submission. The submission included the apprehensions surrounding the definition of a natural wetland. She commented that there seemed to be pressure on the Minister of Environment to ease the protection on natural wetlands, to allow, farming, quarrying, mining etc.

A Reuben confirmed that Ngāi Tūāhuriri had also made a submission on the Minister of Environment's discussion document on wetlands.

9.2 Relationship between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River

C Latham expressed her concern about several inaccuracies in the statements made by R Johnston. The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was extensively briefed on this matter and the relationship between the Christchurch Aquifer System and groundwater sources north of the Waimakariri River with the best science information available at the time. The committee consequently had to accept this relationship in its ZIPA recommendation for PC& and the drilling of monitoring wells was undertaken to help monitor this relationship with the Christchurch aquifers over time.

9.2 Work being done by the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee

The Chairperson thanked Michael Bate for his continued efforts to preserve the waterways in the Waimakariri District. He also expressed his gratitude to the Committee members for their support during the year.

The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee expressed their thanks for the governance work being done by Council staff, and presented T Kunkel with a gift voucher in appreciation.

KARAKIA

A Reuben provided the karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee was scheduled for the 31 January 2022 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.45 PM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson

31 January 2022

Date