

**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 31 JANUARY 2022 AT
3.30PM.**

PRESENT

Arapata Reuben (Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga representative and Acting Chairperson) Erin Harvie, Martha Jolly, Carlyne Latham, Wendy Main, Judith Roper-Lindsay, and Councillor Sandra Stewart (WDC Councillor).

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor G Edge (ECan Councillor), M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident) and L Burbery (New Zealand Dairy).

G Cleary (Manager Utilities and Roding), S Allen (WDC Water Environment Advisor), A Arps (ECan Zone Manager), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation 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: A Reuben

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

Apologies were received and sustained from Michael Blackwell, John Cooke and Councillor Megan Hands (ECan Councillor) for absence.

CARRIED

1.2 Welcome and Introductions

The Acting Chairperson welcomed all the members present.

1.3 Register of Interests

J Roper-Lindsay advised that she was no longer Director/Ecologist at JR- L Consulting Ltd. She, therefore, requested that the Register of Interests be updated accordingly.

At this time, Item 3.1 "Zone Committee Action Plan Initiatives – Recommendations" was taken. The Minutes have been recorded in the order of the Agenda.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

2.1 M Bate – Kaiapoi Resident

M Bate showed various photos of the Kaiapoi River, noting that usually 90% of the river would be covered with aquatic life. However, it was clear from the images that there was no life in the river. He also emphasised the lack of aquatic life in Courtney Stream. M Bate remained convinced that the pesticides used in farming were poisoning the waterways.

M Bate also showed photos of the Council's Wastewater Plant in Kaiapoi, which showed rotting vegetation in the treatment ponds and the effects of chemical spraying on the edges of the ponds. He noted that the wastewater plant needed to

be better maintained to guard against the spread of avian botulism. M Bate also tabled photos of the oil that spilled in the Kaiapoi River due to the fire on 30 January 2022 at Sutton Tools NZ in Kaiapoi.

In conclusion, M Bate explained that the continued encroachment on Braded Rivers would cause problems with flooding and the spreading of toxic algae in future. He also tabled a newspaper article about climate change causing water temperatures to rise, which would trigger toxic algae blooms that was killing shellfish at Kaikoura. M Bates was requested to forward the newspaper article to M Griffin for circulation to members.

A Reuben commented that he was keen to secure funding to conduct testing on the sediment in the Cam River in a bid to understand why slick was present in the river during high tide. Until the toxins captured in the river sediment have been removed, no aquatic life would thrive in the rivers.

In response to questions, M Bate advised that he did not have information on the level of pesticides in the Kaiapoi River. C Latham commented that tests done approximately five years ago indicated that the pesticide levels in the river were non-lethal. However, this information seemed to be outdated.

J Roper-Lindsay requested that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee be updated on the work Environment Canterbury (ECan) and National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) was doing to ascertain why aquatic life in New Zealand waterways was declining.

J Roper-Lindsay questioned why the Council had sprayed so close to the edges of the treatment ponds at the wastewater treatment plant. S Allen explained that there were significant berm areas in the plan that the Council did not spray. She highlighted the various operational reasons for chemical spraying in other areas of the plant, such as halting the spread of avian botulism and stopping willow establishing. G Cleary noted that the Council was very aware that the wastewater treatment plant included a wetland and was therefore careful when spraying at the plant. S Allen undertook to follow up on the matter.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Zone Committee Action Plan Initiatives – Recommendations – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator)

M Griffin introduced several initiatives that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee could consider supporting using the Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan Budget established in the Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2021/31. These initiatives included:

- Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning improvement,
- Sefton Saltwater Creek Catchment Group Monitoring Programme,
- Northbrook Stream corridor,
- Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust Establishment Programme.

M Griffin proceeded to highlight the locations and the aims of the various projects, which would be at an estimated cost of \$27,435.

C Latham expressed a concern that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee was not provided with detailed budgets for the various projects. She was not comfortable recommending projects be funded with public money without members being able to ascertain what the funding would be spent on.

Subsequent to discussion, it was agreed that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would support the funding of the initiatives in principle and that

Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson would be authorised to give final approval subject to the requested budget information being provided to their satisfaction. It was also agreed that the information would be circulated to Committee members for comment.

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) **Supports** in principle the use of the Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for the initiatives listed below

(i)	Taranaki Stream Inanga Spawning improvement:	\$ 8,600
(ii)	Sefton Saltwater Creek Catchment Group Monitoring Programme (Year 1 of 3):	\$ 3,835
(iii)	Northbrook Stream corridor (Year 1 of 2)	\$10,000
(iv)	Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust Establishment Programme:	\$ 5,000
		Total: \$27,435

(b) **Requests** further budget information on the initiatives before recommending funding support using the 2021/22 Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan Budget.

(c) **Agrees** that the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson be authorised to give final approval, subject to the requested budget information being provided to their satisfaction and after circulation of the information to members.

(d) **Agrees** that all future requests submitted to the Committee to recommend funding from the Waimakariri Zone Committee Action Plan Budget should include detailed financial information.

CARRIED

3.2 **ESR Nitrate Sensor Field Study in Waimakariri – Update - M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator) and A Arps (Northern Zone Manager, Ecan)**

M Griffin explained that the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) was a Crown Research Institute that undertook scientific research to improve the health of freshwater and groundwater resources. The ESR had found that New Zealand's groundwater systems seemed to have reached the limit of mitigating nitrate pollution through natural dilution. Therefore, the ESR research focused on developing options to address nitrate pollution, including means to enhance denitrification of groundwater. The ESR's work in the Waimakariri District focused on the Kaiapoi catchment, particularly Silverstream.

L Burbery presented the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee with the findings from the ESR recent surface and groundwater nitrate monitoring in the Silverstream catchment. He highlighted the following:

- Reasons for monitoring surface water nitrate in Silverstream.
- Background on the Silverstream catchment area.
- Methods used to conduct the in-stream nitrate survey.
- Results of the surface water nitrate monitoring survey.
- Methods used monitor nitrate in groundwater on a daily basis.
- Monitoring stations set-up.
- Results obtained from the various monitoring stations.
- Conclusions and scope for future studies

Councillor S Stewart requested additional information on the Eyreton septic tank study. L Burbery explained that the study aimed to investigate wastewater contaminant transport under "real-life" use conditions. The ESR had therefore installed a septic tank, which was currently just sand-filled trench on which affluent was being sprayed without any treatment. As this was a staged approach, the next stage would entail switching on the secondary treatment of nitrates and UV filtration. L Burbery noted that the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee had a site visit plan of the septic tank project in the next two weeks, which would also include the Woodchip Permeable Reactive Barrier.

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: C Latham

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information and with reference to the Committee's working groups, action plan, and engagement priorities in 2022.

CARRIED

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (ECAN)

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

M Griffin reported that ECan was working through the content of the appeals lodged to the proposed Plan Change, where after the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would be briefed on this matter.

4.2 Essential Freshwater Package – ECan Update on Freshwater Farm Plans

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.3 Zone Committee Working Groups

- Landcare Working Group

Councillor S Stewart enquired if some of the Government funding that the Waimakariri Landcare Trust received could assist the ERS in further investigating the origins of the nitrates in the Kaiapoi catchment. E Harvie agreed that the research done by the ERS was necessary, however, the Government funding that the Waimakariri Landcare Trust received was contingent on specific outcomes, and the ERS study was not included.

- 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.

4.4 **ECan Biodiversity Snapshot 2020/21**

C Latham noted that the work being done at the Ashburton River/ Hakatere in collaboration with agencies and community groups. She asked if the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee may have more information on the project, as it may be relevant to the work that the Committee was doing at the Ashley/ Rakahuri River. M Griffin undertook to circulate a copy of the project report to Committee members.

4.5 **WDC Land and Water Committee – 16 November 2021**

In response to a question raised by J Roper-Lindsay, S Allen acknowledged that there were various options that the Council could consider, however, the Council could at present only commit to the Instream physical works programme and rural catchment component.

4.6 **Waimakariri Zone Communications Report (November 2021 to January 2022)**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.7 **Waimakariri Water Zone Committee Schedule and Priorities for 2022**

No discussion emanated from this point.

4.8 **Action Points from previous Zone Committee Meetings – November 2021.**

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

5. **REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

5.1 **Stormwater Management from Sutton Tools Ltd – S Allen (WDC, Water Environment Advisor)**

G Cleary updated the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee on the fire on 30 January 2022 at Sutton Tools NZ in Kaiapoi. The Sutton Tools site discharged through the Council's drainage system and ultimately into the Kaiapoi River. Hence, while the fire was being fought at the site, there was some discharge into the Kaiapoi River. ECan had taken measures to remove the discharge from the Kaiapoi River, which included flotation booms and sucker trucks. In addition, the Council had physically plugged the stormwater drain to prevent any run-off during the anticipated rain event later in the week. The Council was cleaning out the stormwater system between the Sutton Tools site and the Kaiapoi River.

G Cleary noted that there had been some concerns about asbestos in the roof of the Sutton Tools workshop. The Council was looking into the matter, however, the current concern was about immediate neighbouring properties which may be contaminated. In addition, the Council was aware that there were probably legacy chemicals (zinc, nickel and cutting oil) and other contaminants on the site that needed to be dealt with.

Councillor S Stewart questioned if the Council was aware of the fire's impact on the surrounding wildlife. A Reuben noted that ECan's Mahinga kai Facilitator, Makarini Rupene, had visited the site early on 31 January 2022 and could not detect any impact on the wildlife as yet. G Cleary confirmed that ECan would address any questions about the possible contamination of the Kaiapoi River.

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: Councillor S Stewart

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the report for information from the EDC Utilities and Roading Committee.

CARRIED

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 1 November 2021

Moved: A Reuben

Seconded: W Main

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the amended Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 1 November 2021, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

6.2 Matters Arising

None.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion Document on the Ashley / Rakahuri River

Following discussions in the Workshop session held on 31 January 2022, the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- The Committee recorded its interest in the “Discussion Document” on the Ashley Rakahuri currently being prepared by ECan under the Braided River Revival programme umbrella.
- Noted its interest in developing a “Vision” for the whole river in collaboration with the community; and
- Agreed to invite Sarah Worthington (co-ordinator/author of the Discussion Document) to meet the Committee as soon as practicable, to discuss its interests and concerns.”

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 4 April 2022 at 3:30pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.56 PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date