

**MINUTES OF THE 110th MEETING OF THE SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
HELD VIA TEAMS ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2022 COMMENCING AT 4PM**

AGENDA SUMMARY

Item	Time	Description
		<i>Public meeting begins</i>
1	4.00pm (20 min)	<p>Meeting commences with Karakia Tīmatanga and formal order of business:</p> <p><i>Co-chair(s)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies • Identification of Urgent General Business • Confirmation of minutes – 8 November 2021 • Public contribution • Correspondence
2	4.20pm (20 min)	<p><i>Presentation for decision</i></p> <p>CWMS Action Plan Budget – proposal: Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hamish Jones will lead a presentation on this project for the committee.</i> • <i>The recommendation is for the committee to support this project as a SWZC Action Plan project for 2021/22 and 2022/23.</i>
3	4.40pm (20 min)	<p><i>Presentation for information</i></p> <p>Living Waters – Re-imagining the Ararira/LII drainage catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Robin Smith (DOC) and Peter Savage (Fonterra) will lead this presentation as part of the stakeholder engagement on this draft plan for the Ararira/LII drainage catchment.</i>
4	5.00pm (40 min)	<p><i>Presentation for decision</i></p> <p>Waikirikiri/Selwyn River catchment group establishment project report and preferred project plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Charlotte Wright & Matt Highway (Element Environmental) will present a report on this project for discussion with the committee.</i>
5	5.40pm (25 min)	<p><i>Presentation for discussion</i></p> <p>Waikirikiri/Selwyn Near River Recharge – project update & next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brett Painter (ECan) will provide this update on this environmental enhancement project.</i> • <i>This presentation will include a proposal for the committee to consider supporting as a SWZC Action Plan project for 2021/22</i>
6	6.05pm (15 min)	Committee & Working group update(s) – for information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Working group(s) to provide a verbal update of action plan progress (if applicable)</i> • <i>Short updates on the Plan Change 7 of the Canterbury Land & Water Plan, CWMS Regional Committee, and ECan Annual Plan 2022/23 are also provided.</i>
7	6.20pm	Meeting close and karakia whakamutunga <i>Co-Chairs</i>
	6.20pm	<i>Meeting close</i>

PRESENT

Annie McLaren (Community Member); Les Wanhalla (Te Rūnanga o Taumutu / Co-Chair); Fiona McDonald (Community Member / Co-Chair); Councillors Nicole Reid (Selwyn District Council), Anne Galloway (Christchurch City Council) and Vicky Southworth (Environment Canterbury Regional Council); Simon Hay (Community Member); Karaitiana Taiuru (Te Rūnanga o Kōkourarata); Annie McLaren (Community Member); James Booker (Community Member); Helen Troy (Community Member); and Khan McKay (Community Member)

IN ATTENDANCE

Murray Griffin (Interim Facilitator), and Dr T Davie (Environment Canterbury Regional Council); Murray Washington and Therese Davel (Selwyn District Council); Robin Smith and John Benn (Department of Conservation); Mike Patchett and Hamish Jones (Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust); Peter Savage (Fonterra); Charlotte Wright and Matt Highway (Element Environmental) and Mike Glover

Co-Chairs Fiona McDonald and Les Wanhalla welcomed everyone. Murray Griffin opened with karakia.

APOLOGIES

Mishele Radford (Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke); Simon Bryant (Community Member)

Moved – Co Chair Fiona McDonald / **Seconded** – James Booker

‘That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee receives the apologies for information.’

CARRIED

IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No changes to the register were noted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 109th Meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on Monday 8 November 2021

Les Wanhalla asked that minutes reflect Khan McKay as full committee member and not representing the Youth Council.

Moved (*as amended*) – Co-Chair Fiona McDonald / **Seconded** – Co-Chair Les Wanhalla

‘That the minutes of the 109th meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on Monday 8 November 2021, be confirmed as circulated.’

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dr Tim Davie noted that the letter from Mike Glover will be responded to as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION

None

REPORTS

1. CWMS Action Plan Budget – Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project

Hamish Jones and Michael Patchett presented to the Subcommittee. Hamish referred back to November 2020 at which time they had just received notification of being granted \$90k from the Rakaia Catchment Fund. That money was received in March 2021 and the project started in full swing, although Covid got in the way.

They referred to the comprehensive paper prepared by Murray Griffin in advance of the meeting. The bulk of their presentation was a photo essay of what they needed to look at and showing the Zone Committee where their funding could help.

The current focus was on planting around the Stage 1 area, an area of 2ha and locally known as the old camping ground. They spoke about the two main areas where they would want to get rid of infestation and how the funding can assist, for example in the line following the creek and to the left of it. In area 2 on the map it's clear that an area in behind the houses had become reasonably infected with noxious trees and it would be good to block it.

To date some of the work completed include planting 6000 native plants, a formal partnership and signed service agreements with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), engaging a contractor with restoration experience; utilising 1800 hours of voluntary labour from over 50 people; purchasing public liability insurance and developing a predator control programme.

Currently the team was completing ground preparation of the final block with around 2000 plants left to go in; and were busy doing maintenance spraying on the areas already planted up. They said their volunteer resources have been pushed to the limit.

They were also in the process of getting a predator control programme in place. They were also working with DOC and ECan on plans for a culvert in place for vehicle access and will then seek funding for this.

Cr Southworth joined the meeting 4.24pm

They said there were still lots of willows and other exotic trees around, including blackberry. It's been clear that once the weeds are gone the natives bounce back and they were hoping to plant out in Autumn, finishing in early Spring.

The current year's funding will be used for stage one and stage two. In stage one they plan a 10 metre strip on the Southern Side of Boat Creek for planting and further work on the predator control programme. Stage two in the current year will look at clearing unwanted weeds from the waterway. Neighbouring property owners are also really keen for the group to help.

Stage three in the following year will look at clearing invasive woody weeds in the heaviest areas of infestation in the larger block.

Michael also noted that there had been a 15% increase in the original quotes provided from the Waihora Trust 12 months ago. The quote was for a 4 person team with vehicles and spray gear at \$1900 per day, where originally it was quoted at \$1500.

The Zone Committee noted they would provide \$15k in the first year to end of June. The next financial year starts in July and although they did not formally commit to funding the following year, the co-chairs did note that it was important to see an ongoing successful project.

Moved (as amended) – Fiona McDonald / **Seconded** – Simon Hay

‘That the Zone Committee:

a) Supports the Boat Creek Reserve Native Resotration project as one of the Selwyn Waihora Action Plan projects for 2021 / 22; and

b) Support an Action Plan budget contribution to this project in 2021 / 22 of \$15,200.’

CARRIED

Michael and Hamish thanked the committee and left the meeting at 4.44pm.

2. Living Water – Re-imagining the Ararira / LII drainage catchment

Robin Smith and Peter Savage presented to the Zone Committee noting they were hoping to consult with the zone committee on this matter and get some feedback from them.

Peter told the Zone Committee they were reimagining what water networks might be as there was a huge amount of potential in specifically lowland water networks. They were looking at this outside of a regulatory process which was good as it meant they were not caught up by timeframes and processes.

Ararira produced the second highest amount of water into Lake Te Waihora, functioning from very productive springs in Lincoln and Springston.

Robin told the Committee that for many decades New Zealanders put a lot of work into creating dry land suitable for farming. With the focus on drains, Living Water began in 2013 / 2014 and had a couple of years of quick wins and a range of projects within the Ararira catchment. In 2016 they refocused themselves realising the drainage network was in need of a make-over. Although critically important to live and farm with, it caused discharge and contaminants. At the same time it provide an incredible habitat.

There are some constraints with drains, e.g. it clogged with weeds during summer and some of the maintenance practices cause damage. Drains were really designed before freshwater environments were valued and therefore had insufficient and minimal ecological value. The drainage scheme is mainly designed with one purpose and one user, with the rest of the community neither contributing nor benefitting.

Peter said they acknowledged they did not want to turn it all into wetland and pull drains up but there was a significant opportunity to reimagine how drains could be managed to include for land drainage, biodiversity, cultural values, aesthetic values and recreation.

The plan was to co-design innovative catchment scale solutions, by bringing together ECan, SDC, Taumutu, DOC and Living Water. They said they had a technical team of consultants with phenomenal experience to work on alternative ways for the network to be designed and managed. They also said that if it took 25 – 50 years to reimagine it, then so be it – it was already 150 years in the making anyway.

The first step was a Memorandum of Understanding between Living Water, SDC, Taumutu and DOC. They were hoping it could be presented to Council in May 2022, or slightly later.

The project as started last year with a team looking at a values system under the Te Waihora co-governance framework. The shared vision statement (thriving communities) and mission statement (reimagine the catchment and how to support thriving and resilient communities) were shared with the committee.

27 tools and solutions have been identified, refined down to 14 potential tools through a process of feedback, discussion and cost benefit analysis. Tools and solutions will be matched to waterway types as it's not suitable for every single issue.

An implementation guide is being developed and will be shared with SDC which hopefully, will be able to co-deliver on the plan.

The Zone Committee thanked the presenters and expressed an interest in visiting the project after it's been to Council.

Moved – Fiona McDonald / **Seconded** – Councillor Vicky Southworth

'That the Zone Committee:

- a) Receive this project update on the Living Water plan to re-imagine the Ararira / LII Drainage District for its information; and*
- b) Provide any initial feedback on this plan as requested.'*

CARRIED

3. Waikirikiri / Selwyn River catchment group establishment project report and preferred project plan

Charlotte Wright and Matthew Highway (Element Environmental) presented.

They took their report as read but noted the different options, with brief comments:

Mountains to Sea Biodiversity Corridor

Waikirikiri corridor – there was already work underway including with TAK, Dairy farmers, Fish and Game, and Forest and Bird

The role for the zone committee would be to focus its efforts in enabling the health of the Waikirikiri to be improved.

Zone Wide prioritisation and leadership

Good amount of effort already underway - does it make a difference

Where do I go for information and who provides leadership?

What are the best things I can do and what is our collective goal?

Zone Leadership Forum

Not focused on policy but more on action on the ground.

What can we do now to understand the gap between where we are now and where we need to get to?

Solve problems collectively through positive action

Build relationships and perspectives

Sets community up for future water management challenges

Build connections between urban and rural

Leverages of Zone Committee network to bring other leaders together

Upper Waikirikiri catchment group

Water quality issues e.g. Glentunnel – often no swim notices, community is keen to take action.

Comments during discussion:

Distinction and / or overlap in the mountains project and zone prioritisation idea – it seems there's a lot of linkage and overlap.

Seems there is room to hybridise some of the options. For example great focus to have biodiversity corridor for a leadership focus – putting it to the leadership forum.

Matthew and Charlotte will look at a pilot option and present at the next meeting.

Next steps:

Receive views from Taumutu Runanga

Develop preferred options and will including looking at a hybrid of options

Work with sub-group on scope

Project plan presented at 9 May meeting

Moved – Annie McLaren / **Seconded** – Fiona McDonald

'That the Zone Committee:

- a) Receive this project report on the Waikirikiri / Selwyn River Catchment Group Establishment project report for its information;*
- b) Consider options to support this projects as an Action Plan budget priority project for 2021 / 22 and 2022 / 23; and*
- c) Confirm the committee's preference from the options presented to advance a preferred plan for this project.'*

CARRIED

4.

5. Waikirikiri / Selwyn Near River Recharge – project update and next steps

Brett Painter provided some background, noting the site was finalised in November 2019. He said a key question they were seeking to answer is where did the water go, and in particular when Bealey Stream spring flows were very low? Could they help the flows in a measurable way during a period of low flow?

Karaitiana Taiuru left at 6.02pm

Particle responses were also tracked to the head of the Bealey Stream system, and this happened after 12 days after the recharge was started which gives an idea of speed.

Natural bacterium is present in Rakaia River water at high flows. Some ecoli was measured coming down in the bores with the highest levels of ecoli assessed showing it died off within 300 metres of the recharge basin. It was therefore not measured in down-gradient bores.

Brett said he would have to find out exactly what type of ecoli was found. Dr Tim David said it was a type that would likely survive in the gut of warm blooded animals, generally thought to be from warmer environments. He said he was surprised it was found in the soil but it could be possible. When water flows over the surface near paddocks into a river, a lot of what is picked up would be as a result from the first flush. James Booker confirmed this from experience on his dairy farms.

Brett went on to say that during the September 2021 wind storm 20% of the pine trees were lost but the electric fish barrier was still fully functioning and not damaged by the flooding or wind storm. Native plant growth was also still very good.

Greendale school adopted the site as a living laboratory through EnviroSchools with learning workstreams on recharge, lizards, predators, native plants and Kowaro. He said they were looking forward to coming back on site.

Finally Brett said the next phase was for 4.4ha of natives to be planted. A budget over 3 years totalled around \$150k. Harvesting pine trees did not bring in the money they had hoped for and he would be asking the Zone Committee for a contribution. A report and proposal will come back to the Zone Committee in May.

Moved – Les Wanhalla / **Seconded** – Helen Troy

‘That the Zone Committee;

- a) Receive this project update on the Waikirikiri Selwyn Near River Recharge for its information; and*
- b) Consider options to support this project as an Action Plan budget priority project for 2021 / 22.’*

CARRIED

6. Committee & Working Group Updates

Murray Griffin took his report as read. He provided an update on the Regional Committee noting 6 community representatives were confirmed. They were also in the process of confirming Ngai Tahu representatives. Hopefully the first meeting will be held in June.

'That the Zone Committee;

- a) Receive this project update on the Waikirikiri Selwyn Near River Recharge for its information; and*
- b) Consider options to support this project as an Action Plan budget priority project for 2021 / 22.'*

CARRIED

5. Committee & Working Group Updates

Murray Griffin took this report as read. He provided an update on the Regional Committee noting 6 community representatives were confirmed. They were also in the process of confirming Ngai Tahu representatives. Hopefully the first meeting of the full committee will be held in June.

Murray also said that Stephan Bragg was following up with Runanga chairs for recommendations for filling the vacancies on this committee.

Regarding the refresh for the year expressions of interest will be opened around April to mid-May with a selection workshop in June. Recommendations will go to Councils in July / August.

6. General Business

Murray Griffin ended the meeting with karakia. The meeting ended at 6.30pm.

DATED this 8 day of August 2022


CO-CHAIR LES WANHALLA
CO-CHAIR FIONA MCDONALD