

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 2022 AT 1.00 PM, AT THE KDC COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT: Ted Howard (Chair), John Murray, Rob Roche, Teri Sonal, Ari Boyd, Councillor Tony Blunt, and Clint McConchie (briefly via Microsoft Teams until the call dropped)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jaimee Grant (Environment Canterbury CWMS Facilitator), Emily O’Connell (Environment Canterbury Communications Advisor), Kim Whitwell (Environment Canterbury Communications Principal), Kevin Heays (Environment Canterbury Zone Lead), Heath Melville (Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Advisor), Peter Bradshaw (Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisor), Will Doughty (Kaikōura District Council CEO) and Susi Haberstock (Kaikōura District Council), and Adrienne Lomax (Environment Canterbury Senior Strategy Advisor), Murray Griffin (Environment Canterbury CWMS Facilitator Team Lead), and David Hill (Reporter) via Microsoft Teams

1. KARAKIA

2. APOLOGIES: Councillor Grant Edge (Environment Canterbury), Nicky McArthur Gina Solomon, Desiree Bolton.

RESOLUTION

THAT the Committee:

(a) Accepts the apologies given for this Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting.

Moved: T Blunt
Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. REGISTER OF INTEREST T Howard is now the Chair of Te Korowai o Te Tai ō Marokura. A Boyd has joined New Zealand Red Cross. R Roche is now on Te Whare Pūtea committee.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK

Will Doughty and Susi Haberstock from Kaikōura District Council (KDC)

Under the Three Waters reform proposal, options for funding under the “Better Off” initiative are currently being made available through to the end of September if Councils wish to submit a proposal. KDC are putting together a short list of projects that could be funded if KDC decide to submit.

13 projects being considered – one with a particular focus on flood protection measures for the town centre and includes works associated with the Kōwhai River. KDC is working with Environment

Canterbury on this proposal, and this may be something that the Committee could be associated with via a representative that could assist the group being established by KDC.

It was confirmed \$50K would be spent on feasibility in this first tranche of available funds, the second stage would be infrastructure funding.

W Doughty noted a \$7.5M initiative going towards council infrastructure upgrade of community services which will support Gary Robertson's (Ocean Ridge developer) new development. This includes an additional \$0.5M for infrastructure which incorporates Environment Canterbury guidance on required infrastructure. The funding is to support infrastructure not the expansion of the development.

It was noted the focus does need to be on the Kōwhai River given the previous experience with flooding and risks to the community. This has been reported to the committee previously highlighting the issues and associated risks. The gravel removal that can be achieved will not address the issue alone.

Clarity around the acceptance of the funding and whether it compels KDC to support Three Waters reform was requested. It was noted the funding agreement does include not bringing partners into disrepute. An approach is being followed up on with other councils to confirm some points in the funding agreement to the satisfaction of all parties, councils, and government.

W Doughty also noted the central government elections in 18 months' time may impact the availability of the second tranche of funding.

S Haberstock added that the aim is to make the most of this opportunity for the community without compromising its options.

T Howard fully supported this proposal and noted he has sourced three Management Plans prepared by Environment Canterbury, which are all of merit, and another report by Grant McGregor on gravel extraction which focuses on how this could be approached on the Kōwhai River.

W Doughty confirmed it would be great to have a Committee representative as part of this initiative.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

THAT the Committee:

- (a) *Confirms as a true and correct record, the circulated minutes of the meeting of Kaikōura Water Zone Committee held on 29 April 2022 via Microsoft Teams.*

Moved: R Roche

Seconded: T Howard

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS:

The Matters Arising and Actions were reviewed by the Committee. There were no comments from the Members.

Youth Membership – J Grant confirmed she has followed up with Environment Canterbury Youth Engagement who have confirmed there is an interested youth member in Kaikōura, they are looking to liaise with Kaikōura Youth Council.

T Howards queries around memorial seat and plaque for David Bedford, and lights near wetlands, will be put to H Melville when he is present.

Feral cats – it was noted the changing view of domestic cats in places such as Poland and some towns in Australia with further constraints on cat prowling and predating.

7. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY ZONE DELIVERY QUARTERLY UPDATE

K Heays led this report being the last for the 2021/22 financial year, a copy of the presentation is attached. An overview of the team was given along with personnel changes within the team. Garry Husband taking over gradually from Rob and Steve as the local Resource Management Officer (RMO).

Some key points:

- Aiming towards having the team out of the office for 60% of staff time.
- Increasing focus on catchment specific community engagement and initiatives for the Zone Delivery team.
- Environment Canterbury Communications team have been instrumental in raising the profile of the Environment Canterbury and CWMS work in the zone.
- There are now four warranted Incident Response Officers based locally, which is a real advantage in terms of response and follow up.
- There is a need for a Land Use consent if you are an irrigator.
- There have been six farm audits this year with four A grades and two B grades. Remaining audits are on hold, but farmers are ready for when they recommence. P Bradshaw noted the Waiau Toa/Clarence has a high percentage of the A grades completed so far.
- Suggested follow up photos in a years' time on improved sites to demonstrate success of site
- G Husband, RMO, working across the Ngāti Kuri takiwā which extends his scope into the Hurunui.
- Pou Mātai Kō is looking to have more time up in Kaikōura in 2022/23.
- Several projects happening to support biodiversity across the zone including Waiau Toa mahi, and several restoration projects in areas such as the Oaro awa and Greenburn.
- Waikōau Connection involved a planting session and BBQ with rūnanga and local school children and included T Howard. The Rūnanga has been involved since the project began. H Melville is in discussion with iSite who are not supportive of the proposed plan.
- There will be a new Zone Delivery Lead to replace K Heays when he requires at the end of August.
- 2021-22 projects will extend this year and will involve consolidating a catchment approach to the Zone Team work programme and a rohe approach to Zone Delivery.
- Limited funding options internally within Environment Canterbury means an emphasis on the need to work with partners such as KDC and Department of Conservation.

T Howard took the opportunity to acknowledge K Heays for his dedication, service, and commitment over the years and for sharing the journey with us right from when the Committee began.

T Blunt also acknowledged his lead role in working with the community through some very challenging times and how he has significantly improved the relationship with farmers and the community, and how he has helped shift the focus from an adversarial approach. He has been instrumental in lifting the spirits and wellbeing of those he has assisted. T Blunt passed on the sincere appreciation of the Rural Support Trust for his contribution which has been significant e.g., Kaikōura Plains Recovery Project amongst others.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee receives the Zone Delivery Team and Kaikōura Communications quarterly update for their information and in consideration with its alignment to the Kaikōura Zone Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan.

Moved: R Roche

Seconded: T Blunt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

J Grant noted that the Microsoft Teams Channel Calendar could not be used by the Committee to add projects. There are limitations to its use as committee members have Guest status only.

T Howard suggested sticking with general email and if the number of invites reaches a level that means it will be too difficult to manage, we can investigate other options.

A general discussion on followed with T Howard noting we need to maintain a freshwater focus for projects. M Griffin reaffirmed this noting the Action Plan is framed by the CWMS.

There were no community project updates put forward by the Committee to be received.

9. WAITAHA ACTION TO IMPACT (WAI) FUND UPDATE

A Lomax provided an overview on the WAI fund and how this has evolved as a pathway for support for environmental projects, based on feedback from the community and community groups. Multi-year funding is considered. The fund is currently open and is welcoming local groups applying. It was confirmed the WAI fund does cover wages.

A discussion was held with the following key points noted:

- T Howard noted the support Hutton's Shearwater Trust received through the WAI fund in 2021/22.
- A shift from \$200K to \$600K is a positive step given the demand.
- It was queried whether H Melville would know of groups that could apply for this WAI fund. J Grant to follow up with H Melville on this.

Action: J Grant to follow up with H Melville on groups that could apply for the WAI funding.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee receives the update provided on the Waitaha Action to Impact Fund for its information and with consideration to the Kaikōura Zone Committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan.

Moved: R Roche

Seconded: T Blunt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Afternoon tea break at 2.40pm for 10 minutes. Meeting re-started.

10. COMMITTEE UPDATES

J Grant clarified the updates is effectively two sets of updates. Those updates given at the 29 April workshop were included as they were yet to be formally received by the Committee. The following points were noted:

- Update 3.3. – Annual Plan confirmed – T Howard noted his concern with the 10-year flood protection cost recovery appears to overlook to likelihood of increasing frequency of flood events. T Howard to follow up on this with Cr Edge.

Action – T Howard to follow up with Cr Edge regarding the consideration of 10-year flood protection cost recovery.

- Update 3.4 - Presentation from Baylee Connor-McLean from Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL): Waiau Toa – T Sonal suggested including the total population numbers alongside statistics to aid the viewer.

Action: J Grant will send this feedback to B Connor-McLean.

- 3.7 KDC Works and Services Reporting – R Roche led a discussion on the Three Waters Services Entities Bill and the approach and information that KDC has provided to clarify the KDC position.
 - It was noted it would be useful to get another briefing on this topic.

Action: Agreed for J Grant to get a copy of the KDC submission on the Three Waters Service Entities Bill to inform the Committee further on this topic and KDC approach.

- It was clarified that Zone Committees can only provide recommendations back to KDC and Environment Canterbury and committees cannot make a submission themselves.

Action – J Grant to also provide a copy of the Environment Canterbury submission on the Three Waters Service Entities Bill.

- It was noted there is little reference to climate change in the Three Waters Bill, given that many community drinking water supplies are in low lying areas.
- The increasing impacts of climate change are being seen across biodiversity and biosecurity areas of work. Members are seeing this through their involvement on respective Advisory Groups e.g., Biodiversity Champions.
- J Grant noted there was no E. Coli recorded as stated in the KDC Works and Services report.

J Murray noted Heath will be working closely with him between quarterly meetings. This will ensure J Murray is informed in his role as a primary contact for the Waiau Toa and a lead for the Committee on the progress being made with the weed programme.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee receive the committee updates for its information and in consideration of the Kaikōura Zone Committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan.

Moved: T Blunt

Seconded: A Boyd

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

T Sonal asked about the walnut tree removal and R Roche added that a local contractor is now providing this contract.

T Blunt tabled an article by Neal Wallace in the 18 July issue of Farmers Weekly noting Mr John O'Connell, Ministry for the Environment's Principal Risk and Assurance Advisor, highlighted the wintering rules and essential freshwater package were a complete disaster. T Blunt noted it highlights the frustrations of many farmers in response to the way these new regulations are being imposed and the lack of apparent robustness to these new policies.

R Roche acknowledged the points T Blunt was raising and how this is impacting farmers locally and across the country. T Howard added a core argument from his personal submission on Three Waters which emphasises hard rules don't work in complex adaptive systems.

A general discussion followed on the fallibility of the current approaches being applied to Three Waters, the Resource Management reform, and polytechnics.

T Howard provided a summary of the recent BRaid Seminar. He was impressed with Councillor Edge's keynote speech. Also of merit were the presentations from B Connor-McLean from WMIL, and also from Grant Davey on the Ashley Rakahuri predator control. He noted the critique on the approach to Managed Aquifer Recharge which is another expression of oversimplification of complex systems.

To view all of the 2022 BRaid 2022 July Seminar presentations go to:

<https://braideddrivers.org/seminar2022/#1>

12. CLOSE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:37 pm.

CONFIRMED _____ Chairperson

_____ Date