

# Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

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**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 23 August 2022, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

## **Present**

Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, James Meager, and Les Wanhalla.

MS Teams – Sidinei Teixeira

## **In attendance**

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

Dr Christian Chukwuka (ADC Ecologist/Biodiversity Advisor) (via MS Teams)

2 members of the public in attendance

## **1 Welcome**

James Meager opened the meeting with a Karakia.

## **2 Apologies**

**That** apologies for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Ian Mackenzie and Genevieve de Spa

Thomas/Allen

Carried

## **3 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

## **4 Register of Interests**

Chris Allen – Remove National Board member of Federated Farmers

James Meager – Remove Senior Solicitor at Simpson Grierson

## **5 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Amendment** - The following resolution be included:

**That** the issue of improved communication with the public regarding the Zone Committee activities was raised with the suggestion of a dedicated Facebook page being established. Investigations as to the practicalities of this to be undertaken.

Avnit/Meager

Carried

**That** the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 26 July 2022, incorporating the above amendment, be taken as read and confirmed.

Thomas/Meager

Carried

## **5.1 Matters Arising**

A member of ECan’s digital communications team to attend a meeting to discuss media options.

## **6 Correspondence**

### **Inward:**

Nil.

### **Outward:**

Nil.

## 7 Public Contributions

Nil.

## 8 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

Facilitator Dave Moore took the chair for the elections process.

### Nominations for the Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

**That** Bill Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Allen/Avnit

Confirmed

### Nominations for the Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee

**That** James Meager be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Wanhalla/Avnit

Withdrawn

**That** Chris Allen be nominated as Deputy Chair of the Ashburton Zone Committee for the term of one year.

Meager/Wilson

Confirmed

## 9 Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes Water Quality Monitoring

Tom Drinan and Tina Bayer

### Lake Clearwater

- Very high algal biomass and nutrients in 2020/21, cyanobacteria health warning
- Increase started 2019/20 summer after flood in December 2019
- Loss of clarity, concerns for aquatic plants who are shaded out by high algae biomass

### Lake Heron

- Nuisance algae (Ceratium)
- Pronounced increase in algal biomass (chlorophyll a)
- Effects on ecosystem function with loss of dissolved oxygen at lake bed and lower water clarity
- Lake visibly more turbid, concerns for aquatic plants

### Key messages

- Lakes failing to meet most Land and Water Regional Plan objectives in 2021/22
- Particular concerns for Clearwater and Heron (loss of clarity is visible, shift in algae communities, risk to aquatic plants)
- Increasing algae in majority of lakes
- Large nutrient reductions needed to meet lake objectives
- Expect a delay in response between load reduction and reduction in algae
- Increased knowledge on lakes and catchments will form action plans and on-farm mitigation

## 10 Hinds Drains Working Party Recommendations Review

Maria Captein, Craig Fleming and Phil Everest

Presented a summary of progress in actions for some of the key projects developed from the HDWP Recommendations being:

- Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and Near River Recharge (NRR)
- Boundary Drain Adaptive Minimum Flow trial

- Instream Habitat Diversity trials
- Community water quality monitoring partnership
- Changes made via Plan Change 7

### **What's Next**

- HDWP to discuss this project review with wider members, set/prioritise actions and involve Catchment Collective to help move forward.
- Next formal progress review planned for 2-3 years' time (2024-2025), which will include a review of the validity of the recommendations.
- Next HDWP meeting will be after annual Hinds water quality monitoring and ECan State of the Environment reports are completed, due end September. Also the Boundary Drain Trial final report which is currently being completed. All of this information will be considered in setting HDWP work priorities.

Congratulations was extended to the HDWP for what they have achieved to date.

### **11 Wakanui Pine Tree Removal**

The removal of pine trees from the Wakanui hāpua to enable the planting of species that will grow on the drier parts of the reserve has been undertaken.

A request was made that when purchasing the native plants consideration be given to the Arowhenua and Motukarara Nurseries for the supply of the plants.

Val Clemens joined the meeting and presented photographs of five species of native birds that had been spotted at the Wakanui hāpua since it filled with fresh water a month ago (Black fronted dotterel, Pied stilt, South Island pied oystercatcher, Grey teal and Banded dotterel)

### **12 Other Business**

Request for:

- Groundwater team to provide an update to the Committee
- Update on how the consent process is tracking as it has been noted that the process is very slow at the moment.

### **13 Rakaia Enhancement Trust (Les Wanhalla)**

An application for funding totalling \$35k has been received from the Boat Creek Rakaia Restoration project. Ashburton Zone Committee pledged their support to this application.

Simon Hay is currently a Committee member of the Rakaia Enhancement Trust in his capacity as the Selwyn Zone Committee representative. Simon is not continuing on the Selwyn Zone Committee but it has been requested that he remain as a committee member of Rakaia Enhancement Trust.

### **14 DOC Update**

It was advised that Duncan Toogood has resigned from his position as Operations Manager in the Geraldine office. Tony Preston has been appointed Acting Operations Manager

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 22 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm with a Karakia by James Meager.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)