

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 AUGUST 2022 AT 1.00 PM, AT THE KDC COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT: Ted Howard (Chair), John Murray, Ari Boyd, Councillor Grant Edge, Councillor Tony Blunt, Clint McConchie, and Gina Solomon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jaimee Grant (Environment Canterbury CWMS Facilitator), Ben Wilkins (Environment Canterbury Groundwater Scientist), Emily O'Connell (Environment Canterbury Communications Advisor), Murray Griffin (Environment Canterbury CWMS Facilitator Team Lead), Maia Kahu (Kaikōura Youth Council), and David Hill (Reporter) via Microsoft Teams.

1. KARAKIA

2. APOLOGIES: Nicky McArthur, Gina Solomon, Desiree Bolton, and Rob Roche.

RESOLUTION

THAT the Committee:

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

Moved: A Boyd

Seconded: Cr T Blunt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. REGISTER OF INTEREST T Howard noted he was running for Mayor and Councillor for Kaikōura District Council.

4. AGENDA ITEM 3.3 – DOC COMMUNITY TRAP LIBRARY UPDATE

This update date was received early to allow the project's lead, J Rodden from Department of Conservation, an early departure.

Key points of update and discussion:

- Traps are purchased and looking at storage options.
- Can start planning public workshops and advertising.
- DOC communications staff working with ECan communications staff.
- Could look to start a Kaikōura trap group on trap.nz to record results.
- Dunedin Hunting and Fishing had a predator trapping competition which was successful. Looking to roll it out nationwide. A good opportunity to link the trap library with that initiative.
- Traps not aimed at cats. There are conversations around cat trapping and a review of the Wildlife Act is going forward which will be open to public consultation. There is research into the spread of leptospirosis by cats in the environment underway.

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 July 2022 in person and via Microsoft Teams, subject to the following change:*
- i. *It be noted the critical point J O'Connell made was that the wintering rules and Essential Freshwater Package were a complete disaster.*

Moved: Cr T Blunt

Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A discussion was had around the role of including a young independent viewpoint in policy and regulations setting, noting a balanced vision and their role in the room needed to be considered.

6. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS

Kowhai River and plans for management – It was noted at the last meeting, T Howard would like to know Environment Canterbury's plans for the Kowhai and for other rivers given the frequency and strength of significant flood events is increasing. Key points from the discussion:

- T Howard noted Alistair Wright had developed some good plans for the Kowhai.
- A request has been made to Central Government for co-funding and there is a shift away from traditional management for flood protection.
- Environment Canterbury Council approved an additional \$150K to pay for out of scheme works. A team is looking at the management of the Kowhai and required measures.
- Kowhai River proposal being looked at as part of the Betterment fund. Clarity being added to agreements that signing up for funding is not signing up for Three Waters.

7. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY GROUNDWATER SCIENCE UPDATE

B Wilkins provided an update on the Groundwater monitoring and trends alongside several recent reports on arsenic and manganese, annual groundwater survey and nitrate risk maps. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Key points:

- Areas where the 10-year trend for groundwater level is very likely decreasing could be for several reasons e.g., probably less snowmelt on average and groundwater not moving to these areas as much.
- Pre- and post-quake data is considered.
- Commented there are some dramatic drops on the north east side of the Kowhai and rises on the opposite side and it was speculated this was resultant from earthquakes.
- Nitrate monitoring from 2000 to 2022 - one site shows an increase and it has not been determined what this is caused by. Could be due to there being less groundwater so less diluted.
- 11.3 mg/L is the Maximum Allowable Value (MAV) set by the World Health Organisation for Nitrate-Nitrogen.

- Commented that a Danish study recommends nitrate-nitrogen values of below 3.0 mg/L and apart from one site, all nitrate levels are well below 3.0.
- Arsenic and manganese can be naturally present in Canterbury groundwater and tends to occur in swampy coastal areas like Kaikōura so stressing that landowners test their wells to be safe.
- Manganese is usually attached and not a danger in water however, in low oxygen environments near the ocean it can be mobile in the water which can be a problem. It can cause discoloured water and staining on washing.
- Arsenic is found often by the coast in swampy areas. There is one area in Kaikōura with levels above the arsenic MAV but less shallow wells drilled here as people know of the poor quality.
- Iron is related to where we see arsenic and manganese so likely to see iron in the water as it is related to the oxygen level in the water.
- Annual groundwater survey is available on the Environment Canterbury website. Survey showed 47% of test wells show an increasing trend in nitrate-nitrogen concentration. Notes of the 34 tested, those in Kaikōura are below the MAV.
- Commented that chicory and plantain is one method to reduce nitrogen leaching due to a reduced nitrate concentration in urine. Regenerative farming practices can also support a reduction in nitrogen levels.
- Commented that Ngāi Tahu are converting half of their farm to regenerative farming as part of a whole-farm study and will be interesting to see the results once available.
- Nutrients and surface water – groundwater interactions –half of groundwater samples in areas with high connectivity to surface water had nitrate-nitrogen levels above 2.4 mg/L which is the bottom line for surface water quality. When it is above this, start to get nitrification and algal growth.
- Nitrate risk maps are intended for people drinking water from private wells for individual properties and give an idea of whether you should test your well. Low and moderate areas in Kaikōura. Moderate includes areas where there is no data, so it is important to take a conservative approach and test, even if there is a level of confidence it will be low.

Action: B Wilkins will overlay earthquake fault data to help answer question of change in groundwater levels

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee receives the Groundwater Science Update for their information and in consideration with its alignment to the Kaikōura Zone Committee's 2021-24 Action Plan.

Moved: Cr G Edge

Seconded: Cr T Blunt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

8. COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

Rūnanga project involvement - C McConchie provided an update on projects rūnanga have been involved with. Rūnanga have been supporting several projects including those on Waikōau/Lyell Creek, Lake Ruakanakana/Elterwater, and several community days and planting projects. He praised ECan

Land Management and Biodiversity Advisor, Heath Melville for continually seeking rūnanga involvement and keeping rūnanga updated.

David Bedford memorial seat – G Solomon explained D Bedford’s involvement with the CWMS noting him as being instrumental in this space and an influential leader who supported rūnanga representatives at that time, championed change and supported the Kaikōura community. A memorial seat was originally planned to be placed up the Waiau Toa then a decision was made to locate it somewhere close to town. The seat and the acknowledgement is very meaningful to the Committee.

Action: C McConchie will follow up with rūnanga and provide explanation as to the significance of the seat and plaque.

Tourism plan – the Minister for Tourism has asked Regional Tourism Organisations to come up with a plan for their area. The Kaikōura plan is looking fantastic with a particular emphasis on the environment. T Blunt highlighted the achievements of Kaikōura dairy farmers being the first nationwide to fence off freshwater, complete farm environment plans, good management practices done for Fonterra, along with creating a stream care group some thirty years ago around the Waikōau/Lyell Creek with a previous Kaikōura-based ECan worker noting the improvement to the waterway.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee receives the updates and in consideration with its alignment to the Kaikōura Zone Committee’s 2021-24 Action Plan.

Moved: G Solomon

Seconded: Cr G Edge

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES

J Grant gave a brief summary of the committee updates as noted in the paper due to time constraints.

Comments received:

- Item 3.2:
 - J Murray had discussed donations with H Melville.
 - Confirmed Committee should be looking at donations, not levies.
 - Contacted Clarence River Rafting operator regarding donation opportunities. There are 3-4 operators that could be approached to investigate donations/koha to promote wellbeing of the awa.
 - Similar approach is undertaken in Abel Tasman with kayaking and water taxis and have raised funding.
 - Waiau Toa is becoming a tourist operation mecca which raises some concerns around demand. Need to ensure the awa is protected in the long term for future generations.
 - Pamphlet soon to be developed to provide story of Waiau Toa and encourage users to donate. Suggested the long-term vision for the water way be included.
 - Noted that submissions are open for Rangatahi/Molesworth management. Consider whether the committee collectively forms a submission or not.

- G Solomon would like to understand the origins of the name Rangatahi given to Molesworth.

Action: C McConchie to report back on whakapapa/origins of the name, Rangatahi given to the Molesworth Station.

Action: J Grant to confirm if Zone Committee can provide a submission.

- Item 3.4.1 – Noted the great job that staff involved did regarding the vessel running aground.

Action: J Grant to feed acknowledgement back to staff.

An update was requested around the coastal tree pruning issue raised at one of the Zone Committee's previous meetings. C McConchie confirmed Waka Kotahi have an easement for the road corridor and management, acknowledging it is done for public safety. The issue not around its purpose but how the trees are pruned or hedged. C McConchie will revisit with Waka Kotahi.

Action: C McConchie to follow up on tree pruning query with Waka Kotahi.

Noted that Committee workshop next month will be on reviewing the action plan which wasn't completed after this meeting followed by a presentation of several projects which could be supported using the Zone Committee's Action Plan Budget for the 2022/23 Financial Year. It was noted that Cr Edge and likely Cr Blunt will be unable to attend due to local elections. No decisions will be made on projects until newly elected Council members have been delegated to zone committees.

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: C G Edge

Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Blunt noted that Eugenie Sage (Green MP) supported Federated Farmers plans for Essential Freshwater which was positive and encouraging to hear.

11. CLOSE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3:35 pm.

CONFIRMED _____ Chairperson

_____ Date