

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE KAIKANUI MEETING ROOM, RUATANIWHA
KAIAPOI CIVIC CENTRE, 176 WILLIAMS STREET, KAIAPOI, ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023 AT
3.40PM.**

PRESENT

C Latham (Chairperson), C Aldhamland, E Harvie (remotely from 4.15pm), M Blackwell (remotely from 4.15pm), A Rueben (Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga), Councillor T Fulton (WDC Councillor) and Councillor C McKay (Ecan Councillor), R Gill-Clifford (Youth Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE

M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), J Roper-Lindesay (Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust), M Griffin (ECan CWMS Facilitation Team Leader), A Burton (WDC Water Environment Advisor), S Kidner (ECan Northern Engineer River Team), J Ensor (Mandeville Residents Association), A Arps (ECan Zone Team Leader), N Theinhardt (Zone Delivery Lead Waimakariri), J Irvine (ECan), S Stewart, B Walton (Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd), J Benn (Department of Conservation), Councillor P Redmond (WDC), G Davey (Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group) and A Smith (WDC Governance Coordinator).

KARAKIA

R Gill-Clifford opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. BUSINESS

Apologies

Moved C Latham

Seconded C McKay

THAT an apology for absence be received and sustained from committee member M Jolly, and apologies for lateness from committee members A Reuben and J Cooke.

CARRIED

Welcome and Introductions

C Latham welcomed everyone present to the meeting and requested members and those in the public gallery to introduce themselves.

Register of Interests

There were no updates to the Register of Interest.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

Michael Bate

M Bate expressed his concerns regarding information in a recent newspaper article advising that birds and fish life were flourishing. M Bate believed this was incorrect information and not true.

M Bate referred to the report on this agenda on Council spraying and chemical usage – Waterways and Roading spraying information, which provided a summary of chemical spraying practices in the Waimakariri District. It looks at the types of chemicals used, and approximate quantities of chemicals used. M Bate questioned the information in the report on the type of

glyphosate that was used by the Council and whether chemicals were sprayed directly into the water or not. There were approximately 250 drains, creeks and streams that were allowed to be sprayed in Waimakariri and 900kms of water races. M Bate suggested the report should state that it was the Council's intention that the chemicals wouldn't be sprayed into the water, to help the environment. According to M Bate, there was no aquatic plant life at all in the bottom half of Taranaki Stream.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Waimakariri Irrigation Limited – update – Murray Griffin (ECan, CWMS Facilitator) and Brent Walton (CEO, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited)

B Walton was present for this report, providing an update on recent activities of Waimakariri Irrigation Limited (WIL). The report on the agenda provided a background about WIL noting the storage of water was crucial to the future of the cooperative and farming on the plains. The WIL scheme operates and manages a water take from the Waimakariri River and delivers water to 200 shareholders and irrigates 23,000 ha within a 44,000ha area between the Waimakariri and Ashley Rivers. The report also provided background on the Wrights Road property purchased in 2007 by WIL, and subsequent building consent and resource consent granted to construct an 8.2million m3 water storage facility. This stored water supply will augment the river water supply and lift from reliability of the water from a relatively low 75% to a relatively high 92% level.

The water storage scheme was one of the big projects of WIL and B Walton advised that this scheme requires a 75% approval of shareholders. There will be shareholder engagement over the next five to six weeks and a vote to be undertaken by the end of April. This had been an ongoing project since first purchasing the property in 2007, noted that the cost of building a facility would never get any cheaper. Shareholders are being asked to make this decision, but the true benefits will be for the next generation of farmers. Having this water source provides options for different choices of land use in future.

It would be a challenge to get consent approved for another storage facility and there was no Plan B for storage and this was key for the Plan Change 7 solutions package. The on farm reductions are a challenge particularly in some of the red zones. One of the initiatives of WIL had been a big push on biodiversity, with momentum growing and it was pleasing that farmers were approaching WIL with farm plans. There were four portable nurseries installed in local schools in the district, with the intention of the seedlings being grown and then the farmers growing these seedlings on their properties.

The discharge consent expires in 2025 and WIL are working on that now. There was a poor understanding of what was in the waterways, with work being done to improve this information and any opportunities to enhance and protect what may be living in them was encouraged. Existing fish screens won't be compliant under the new regulations. B Walton talked of a new technic which can achieve a lot more sampling over a much greater area to establish what fish life was currently in the waterways.

Regarding the on-farm actions, the on farm plans are being put on GIS platform and going into the new consenting regime have a much better understanding then previously. WIL shareholders are aware of what would be required for the new consent and working towards meeting the requirements of that. Currently the shareholders are up to 93% A and B audits, two D audits and one D audit on a small dairy farm. WIL was working actively with that shareholder to get that property from a D to a B audit. This was required to be reported on annually.

Councillor Fulton mentioned a recent article about the number of expiring farm consents and the life of the dairy sheds coming to an end and was this something that WIL were considering. B Walton responded that on most of the WIL shareholder dairy farms the infrastructure was quite new, as these properties had not been dairy farms prior to the irrigation scheme existence. It was pointed out that the current D audit property was an older dairy shed and this was a

challenge. With the audit process this gives some forewarning of any improvements that may be required in future.

Regarding the data recorded on groundwater, C Latham asked was this information being shared. B Walton advised that PDP would be continuing with this data collection. There would be extra monitoring in some areas, which was a requirement of Ecan, and there was debate whether they should be paying for this. Different interest groups may use this data, but it was still to be determined how it could be shared with these different groups. These different groups would use the data differently, and it was noted that the information was very much for WIL.

Councillor C McKay queried about the updated plans and updating the GSI mapping and asked if the Freshwater Farm Plan was being incorporated into the process. B Walton confirmed this was the case, and endeavouring to capture everything which was important going forward when applying for the consent renewal. The success stories on farms were included on the WIL website and there had been a number of positive interactions following this.

Through the Chairperson, J Ensor commended the work of Brent Walton and WIL, noting the importance of irrigation of the area. Having been a long-time user of irrigation on his own property, J Ensor believed that this was a great step forward.

Moved Councillor Fulton Seconded Councillor McKay

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information taking into consideration the Committee's 2021-2024 Acton Plan priorities.

CARRIED

3.2 Waimakariri District Council Spraying and Chemical Usage – Waterways and Roadway Spraying Information – Angela Burton (WDC, Water Environment Advisor)

A Burton presented this report, which provided a summary of chemical spraying practices in the Waimakariri District. The report summarised the types of chemicals used and approximate quantities of chemicals used last season and the spraying management practices of the Council. Other non-chemical forms of weed control were used before any spraying was undertaken, which was the last resort for control work. This may be the case, for example, when mechanical forms of control cannot access an area.

For roadside maintenance, anyone who is undertaking spraying work must hold an Introductory Gro-Safe Certificate.

The Council had a No Spray Register which members of the public can opt-in to having their frontages added to. Having this added on to the Council website was currently being looked into

CORD was the Council roadside spraying contractor for rural drainage and DELTA is the WDC contractor for urban drainage. The information in the report on the quantities of herbicides used was provided by these two contractors. Having spraying undertaken allows opportunity for native plants to flourish, whereas they may otherwise fail. Glyphosate is used in riparian areas and as plants increase in size, the need for spraying decreases. There was also hand weeding method and trimming used for weed control.

A Burton provided information on what types of sprays were used on different plants or trees and how these were applied, either sprayed, or injected as a paste in willow trees.

Council contractors can spray dry drains to control rank grass however that can only be undertaken once a year to ensure that flood management is effective. The resource consent held by the Waimakariri District Council was used for spraying wet drains, but this was used at discretion, if the work can be undertaken manually.

The Discharge of Herbicide in Drains and Waterways Notices are issued annually prior to the commencement of the spray season, and it was proposed that these would now also be circulated to the Zone Committee.

The Council are Investigating potential development of a chemical register and looking into the spraying undertaken by contractors.

R Gill-Clifford asked if there had been any research or survey information on the impact of AMPA in water. A Burton was not aware of any research or surveys undertaken by the Council previously on this matter but agreed to undertake some research into any information that might be available on this and would provide information back to committee members.

C Latham commented and it was agreed that it would be important to have testing done on sediment as well as the waterways. This had been done previously on the Kaiapoi River.

Councillor P Redmond asked when it was necessary to spray into water and was there criteria to be met. A Burton responded that it would be when there was no opportunity for machinery to access waterways. It was planned to have criteria to be ticked off, provided to contractors before spraying was commenced.

Cr P Redmond referred to comments of a study which said that the use of glyphosate did not have effects on fish or vertebrate. A Burton advised she was not in a position to comment on the results of the study (Carex University of Canterbury study), noting that this was a one-off small study providing a snapshot. The findings are quite limited from this study, and A Burton was not aware of any other studies. It was confirmed that this report would be circulated to the Council's Utilities and Roding Committee.

A Reuben asked if there would be Any further studies done on Carex, suggesting that just five sites would not give a thorough picture and be inconclusive. It was suggested that there be some follow up to get some firm data and conclusive answers. A Reuben suggested that John Hardy be invited to speak to the committee on this matter.

A Rueben asked if contractors keep logbooks of spraying that was undertaken around waterways. A Burton said this was part of the resource consent requirements with Environment Canterbury and would be provided when requested.

C Latham asked if there was ever any feedback received from the organisations that the Council was required to send the spraying programme information to. A Burton

J Ensor comment on the manner used for spraying on crop farms, which was a combination of spraying first, and then mechanically clearing the drains. There was no one solution that fits all situations. He also noted that there was a long term effect of Tordon on trees, and this stayed in the ground for a long time – up to 25 years.

The Chairperson noted the valuable information contained in the report and that the questions that had been raised could be followed up on and improvements continued to be made.

Moved C Aldhamland

Seconded Councillor C McKay

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 230110001807.
- (b) **Notes** that herbicides used for Council operations are only used where deemed necessary by Council staff and contractors, and other (non-chemical) weed control options are used where they are deemed more appropriate.
- (c) **Notes** that the budgets in the Long Term Plan have been based on continuing to use herbicides, including glyphosate, for weed control, where deemed necessary by

Council staff and contractors.

- (d) **Notes** that the Waimakariri Zone Committee will be included in future notifications of annual spraying programmes.
- (e) **Notes** that Diquat is not used in any Council spraying programme.
- (f) **Notes** that the Waimakariri District Council will continue to work toward keeping better records on chemical spraying within the district and will investigate the potential development of a chemical register and spraying decision parameters for contractors and staff.
- (g) **Circulates** this report to the Utilities and Roadings Committee and all Community Boards.

CARRIED

3.3 Environment Canterbury Weed Control Programme – Update – Murray Griffin (ECan, CWMS Facilitator) and Sam Kidner (ECan, (Northern Engineer, River Team)

S Kidner was present to speak to this report on the Ecan spraying programme proposed for North Canterbury in 2023/24, assisted by a PowerPoint presentation.

Rivers are managed throughout Canterbury from the Lower Waitaki through to Kaikoura. Spraying of braided rivers was important to enhance natural vegetation and keep the riverbeds free to allow flowing water and protection from flooding. Build up on vegetation in the gravel part of riverbeds can create “islands” of vegetation and threatens biodiversity. A clearer fairway was a much better habitat for birds as well as native plants.

Area that are sprayed are the berms, which is the vegetation area between the gravel part of the river out to the stop banks, drainage networks and the fairway in the gravel part of the river. There was flood protection zones on the side of rivers including willows. Ivy and Old Man’s Beard was sprayed in the berms. Stop banks are also sprayed to prevent trees from growing trees on them, as this can compromise the strength of the stop banks.

There was weed control in the drainage schemes, and there was only one drain in Waimakariri which was spot sprayed.

The use of herbicides use was strictly controlled through the conditions of the resource consent. Operators also follow best practice guidelines and there was a handbook used by operators. Spraying vegetation would allow a river to flow in a more direct route, and that the water doesn’t get pushed out to the side and onto neighbouring properties. The removal of vegetation in the fairways allows a river to flow more naturally and avoid erosion.

Following a question from C McKay – it was advised that as well as spraying in the fairways, there was also mechanical removal of larger trees on the fairways. Some of these had been allowed to grow and were up to five metres tall, which is currently the situation at the Okuku/Ashley River confluence. Staff were now endeavouring to keep closer control of these and removal before they got this big.

S Stewart asked if this presentation could be made available to the Waimakariri District Council and all the Community Boards. It was agreed that this would be made available to these groups.

C Latham asked how it was decided where or when spraying was undertaken. S Kidner advised that if there was an issue with some flooding then the spraying and mechanical work was undertaken for the weed clearing. Need to find an efficient way for the work to be done. Removal of bigger trees, willows are bigger and by a matter of scale, these are removed. With lupins and broom and gorse, this can cause issues with water.

R Gill-Clifford asked what the end goal of the spraying was. S Kidney responded that it was hoped that the native plants may re-establish in the riverbeds but the main driver for keeping

the river fairways clean was public safety. The programme was ongoing because of the continued spread of seeds. Despite the Check Clean Dry Programme, often these seeds were spread via four wheel drive vehicles.

Regarding the recording of chemical volumes and usage, S Kidner advised that all ECan vehicles are currently being fitted with GPS. Staff keep a spray diary which tracks when, where and how much chemical was used and which species was targeted. This information was reviewed by the ECan Environmental team. This information has been recorded for the past ten years and the information is collated annually. It was hoped to have this data available digitally in the near future.

Moved Councillor C McKay

Seconded Councillor T Fulton

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information taking into consideration to the Committee's 2021-2024 Acton Plan priorities.

CARRIED

3.4 **Rakahuri Estuary Shorebird Monitoring – Update – Murray Griffin (ECan, CWMS Facilitator) and Grant Davey (Volunteer, Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group)**

G Davey from the Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group noted the special place the Ashley estuary was with a significant number of rare birds nesting in the area. A PowerPoint presentation was shown of the bird life at the Ashley Estuary.

G Davey spoke on the GPS system for finding nests, mapping them and then returning to these nests and checking on progress of them. The problem was the number of nests of black back gulls, and the issue is these gulls have sterilised the banded dottrells from the sand dunes at Waikuku between the two outlets of the river. This year there was none of these banded dottrells nests. They had also taken out a large colony of white fronted Terns. In researching the black back gulls, this was what they do. G Davey believes there needs to be something done to control the black back gulls and this was a matter of priority. On the southern sand dunes there was an issue with disturbance to bird nesting. Where the river meets the estuary there was vehicles, people walking dogs, and there was no notice taken of the signs or respect for the environment. The Ecan Rangers do a good job but they can't be there all the time. This situation was beyond the scope of the Rivercare Group who were now looking for some assistance.

Councillor Fulton commented on the possibility of the nesting area being a "no-go" zone for people and G Davey referred to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw which was operative and covered a significant area where no vehicles or dogs were allowed. If there were any wildlife killed, the Wildlife Act can be invoked, but this was a difficult situation. This area was an environmental jewel in the crown in this district and G Davey suggested it was not being looked after. There was a partnership of agencies involved in any work to fund the removal of some of the black back gull. This matter needed to be brought to the public's attention and it was pointed out that this matter had already been reported in the local newspapers. The Group has considered running a public meeting at Waikuku Beach to advise the community of the issues. It was noted that there were members of the local community who enjoy the freedom of using the beach and estuary. J Roper-Lindsay suggested that this matter could be one of the topics for the winter series discussion and would follow up on this.

Moved Councillor Fulton

Seconded C. Aldhamland

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information taking into consideration to the Committee's 2021-2024 Acton Plan priorities.

CARRIED

3.5 **Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust – Update – Murray Griffin (ECan, CWMS Facilitator) and Judith Roper-Lindsay (Chair, Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust)**

J Roper-Lindsay was present to provide an update on the work of the Trust and the actions that were developed from a recent workshop.

Matters being prioritised are setting up a website and biodiversity mapping – a teacher at Rangiora High School Peter Courtney had some cultural mapping and intends to include a biodiversity layer to this. WDC was also undertaking some biodiversity mapping and it was hoped to coordinate these two systems.

Referred to the Zone Committee Action Plan Fund, J Roper-Lindsay suggested there could be a closing date on the application forms. C Latham advised that the Committee would be considering applications at the April workshop and these would come to the May committee meeting for a decision on funding.

It was planned to have another Winter Series of talks around the district. These could be more in the form of discussions, rather than lectures.

Moved Cr C McKay

Seconded C Aldhamland

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** this update for its information taking into consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 Acton Plan priorities.

CARRIED

4. **COMMITTEE UPDATES – M GRIFFIN (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)**

4.1 **Zone Committee Working Groups.**

These Working Group updates were taken as read.

J Ensor suggested that there should be further information provided to the lifestyle block owners in Mandeville area, as had been done in the Oxford area. C Latham referred to the Ten Top Tips information brochure that was currently being produced. Once this was available, this would provide useful information to landowners.

There were no questions.

4.2 **Environment Canterbury Water and Land Committee Meeting – 22 February 2023**

Cr McKay provided update on the decision of the committee on information to private well owners. This decided that Ecan would invite other agencies to work with them to have an education campaign for private well owners as well as well water testing. It was up to the other agencies whether they be involved.

Cr Fulton suggested that these initiatives could be taken back to the Council Community Boards on the awareness of work of these bodies. Cr Fulton would follow up with this.

4.3 **Further Information Links.**

Updated links on the Ecan Freshwater Package.

Plan Change 7, down to one appeal which is going to a Court case at the end of March.

4.4 **Action points from the previous Zone Committee meetings.**

Moved Councillor T Fulton

Seconded R Gill-Clifford

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- (a) **Receives** these updates for its information.

CARRIED

5. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

5.1 **Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee Meeting – 30 January 2023**

Moved R Gill-Clifford

Seconded A Reuben

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

- a) **Confirms** the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 30 January 2023, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

6. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was a Workshop on mahinga kai to be held 15th March from 11am to 1pm that members of the Zone Committee were invited to. M Griffin would provide details to members on the location of this workshop.

M Blackwell spoke on the shareholders not having good understanding of land use discharge by the shareholders of Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd. Erin believed the organisation was working on this matter.

M Bates shared his video of Kaiapoi Lakes, that were discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee. These showed the improvements in the water quality, which M Bate said was the result of the stopping of use of chemical spraying in the water for the past three years.

KARAKIA

R Gill-Clifford provided a karakia to close the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 1 May 2023 at 3:30pm, in the Waimakariri District Council Chambers, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.03pm.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson
Carolyn Latham

1 May 2023
Date