



Mackenzie

DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

14 April 2023

**MINUTES OF
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY HOTEL, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 14 APRIL 2023 AT 10.45AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Matthew Bayliss, Deputy Adriana Theobald, Richard Subtil, Michael McMillan, Cr Scott Aronsen

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Oliver (Ecan facilitator), John Benn (DOC), Kate Doran (Ecan), Tim Davie (Ecan), Sharyn Cain (Waimate District Council – online), Rhys Taylor (Canterbury Catchment Collective – online), Arlene Goss (Governance Advisor), Rick Ramsay and Nick Douglas (Aquaculture Group), Felicity McMillan and Lex Evans (Arowhenua), Tim Davie (Director of Science at Ecan), Sharyn Cain (Waimate District Council – online)

1 OPENING

Michael McMillan opened the meeting with a karakia. The chairman asked if there was any general business to add to the agenda. Adriana Theobald asked for a discussion on the upcoming canal clean-up.

Everyone at the meeting was asked to introduce themselves.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Nick Ward and member Marcelo Carena.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in addition to those listed in the agenda.

4 VISITORS

Visitors who spoke to the committee included Rhys Taylor (Canterbury Catchment Collective – online), Felicity McMillan and Lex Evans (Arowhenua).

5 REPORTS

5.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 2 DECEMBER 2022

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2023/101

Moved: Deputy Adriana Theobald
Seconded: Member Michael McMillan

1. That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 2 December 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 BIODIVERSITY - NATIVE NURSERY PLOTS

The purpose of this report was to talk about a plan to establish trial native nursery demonstration plots in key locations as a community education and seed resource for the purpose of (but not exclusive to) repopulating riparian zones with native plant species.

Felicity McMillan and Lex Evans spoke on behalf of Te Kete Tipuranga O Hurapa. Felicity McMillan said the team currently had about 2000 plants on the ground. Lex Evans said it was a cool story for Arowhenua to be involved in this space. There was such a diverse range of habitat in the district.

They started the nursery with people who had no knowledge, and the project was growing people as well as plants, with people being upskilled. The project would like to be involved with the wider communities whenever there was a conservation project. They were funded under Jobs for Nature but would like to become a viable commercial entity.

They were looking for seeds of rare native plants in the basin that could be used to grow plants and re-introduce them. Currently working on a project on the Batchelor property at Burkes Pass, and another at Mesopotamia Station.

Mr Evans said everyone had good intentions, but it was difficult to make something like this financially sustainable in the long term.

He was interested in setting up pockets of native plantings within the Mackenzie District and providing education in the wider community.

Richard Subtil said as a landowner he wanted to start planting but didn't know where to start and didn't want to do it if the plants were going to die in a year or two. He would like a road map. Mr Evans said this concern came up often. He suggested planting in public view so people would see it and there was an incentive to take care of the plants. He also spoke about the need for plant maintenance over the first four years.

Adriana Theobald asked whether the project could cultivate dryland plants. Mr Evans said he was experimenting with different soil mixes, but the key was the hardening off the plant. He explained the process for conditioning the plants before planting.

Cr Scott Aronsen said he was encouraged to hear about the work currently underway.

The committee asked Mr Evans to prepare a road map including costs and bring it back to the committee. Mr Evans also suggested that he reach out to interested parties regarding funding.

Richard Subtil asked how much land is optimal to work on. He would like to identify three possible sites and have Mr Evans look at them. Mr Evans suggested starting small because it could be easily managed, and you could create quality plants. He suggested up to five acres, and public sites.

Adriana Theobald noted the need to sign off a budget before the end of June and asked if this could happen quickly. Mr Evans offered to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Richard Subtil suggested a planting site at Omarama, and Cr Scott Aronsen also had a site at the Twizel River. The chairman also mentioned a site at Otematata. The committee asked Mr Evans to look at two or three sites.

5.3 LOVE OUR LAKES

The purpose of this report was to ask if the committee would like to purchase new Love Our Lakes signage from this year's budget and decide on key locations.

Kate Doran gave a presentation on the Love Our Lakes campaign. This is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Discussion took place on how to measure the effectiveness of the campaign last summer.

Cr Aronsen suggested that the water zone committee approach the three councils and ask the freedom camping ambassadors for information about what needs to be targeted.

Kate Doran said the committee had \$5,000 left in its communications budget and could spend \$2,500 on three solid signs? If yes, where would they go?

Sites suggested were Lake Ruataniwha, Lake Pohaka, Lake Pukaki. The chairman raised difficulties dealing with the Department of Conservation when asking for signs on DOC land.

Boat ramps were suggested, but there were a lot of signs there already, including the Ecan boating signs.

The committee decided to spend the entire \$5,000 on solid signs and passed the resolution below.

The chairman suggested the committee holds a focus session to discuss future initiatives for the Love Our Lakes campaign. A sub-committee of the chairman, Adriana Theobald, Richard Subtil and the three council representatives would meet and report back to the main committee. It was suggested this group hold a workshop before the next formal meeting.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2023/102

Moved: Mr Richard Subtil

Seconded: Deputy Adriana Theobald

That the Upper Waitaki Water Zone committee agrees that the remaining communications budget of approximately \$5,000 be spent on solid signs to communicate the Love Our Lakes messages.

CARRIED

5.4 CATCHMENTS COLLECTIVE SOUTH CANTERBURY (CCSC)

Rhys Taylor presented to the committee on the Catchment Collective South Canterbury, their aims, objectives, and how he may add to the value and reach of Catchment Groups in the upper basins. A MOU exists between ECAN and the CCSC to facilitate support.

Mr Taylor spoke about his experience in the OTOP water zone with establishing catchment groups in that area. There were currently 10 catchment groups in South Canterbury. He outlined the activities and issues in each area.

The catchment collective was set up in 2021 as a non-profit legal entity to bring together the catchment groups and apply for funding.

Discussion took place on whether the committee should fund a facilitator to work with catchment groups in the Upper Waitaki Zone. Mr Taylor offered suggestions on the type of person to look for, and what they might do.

The chairman was concerned that catchment group representatives were not present at the meeting to express their views on whether a facilitator would be helpful.

It would be helpful to have a facilitator who could work with several groups at once. Mr Taylor said catchment groups needed to work with mana whenua, but there was a suspicion that catchment groups were just another Federated Farmers and not interested in the collective good. This perception needed to be addressed.

The chairman said the next step was to find out if the Ahuriri catchment group needed funding support from the committee. It was already an incorporated society, so did not need support to hold or raise funds.

It was disappointing that the South Canterbury Catchment Collective had been established for a few years and nobody at Ecan had mentioned this to the Upper Waitaki Zone at a time when this would have been helpful.

Richard Subtil agreed to approach the Ahuriri Catchment Group to ascertain their views. It was suggested that a representative be invited to attend water zone committee meetings in the future.

The chairman was concerned about setting up lots of small catchment groups, when the water zone committee was having trouble finding members due to the small population of the district.

After further discussion the decision was made that Richard Subtil would take this information to the Ahuriri Catchment Group and come back to the next meeting with their views.

Mr Taylor was thanked for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

5.5 PUBLIC INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

The committee wanted to sponsor an annual series of information workshops and evenings that supported the health and mauri of our water.

Facilitator Andrew Oliver said it was possible to run any information events the committee wanted. The cost of hiring a hall would come from the Ecan communications budget. He would discuss this further with Richard Subtil.

5.6 ZONE FACILITATOR'S UPDATE

The chairman reported back from a recent hui. He learned there was another round of planning taking place at Ecan, and discussion took place on how the zone committee would be involved in the consultation process. At the hui there was also a discussion on Overseer and its deficit as a statutory tool to measure nutrient loss.

Tim Davie from Ecan said by 2024 they would be reviewing the regional policy statement and believed this would fulfill the requirements of the required review. There was less room to work with the community in developing the plan, due to the government setting national freshwater

targets. The zone committees would not be involved as much as it was last time when the targets were set.

Discussion took place on current issues including Overseer, and the constant changes happening in the farming sector.

The committee agreed to go ahead with the Hangi at Omarama Station at the next meeting. Richard Subtil and Michael McMillan would meet with Andrew Oliver next week to discuss this. This day would include a formal meeting of the zone committee to make decisions.

The committee then discussed potential locations for native plantings (see previous item). The chairman suggested the two locations be at Omarama and Twizel for native planting.

Twizel River Reserve – Andrew Oliver has booked a meeting space to bring the stakeholders together. This meeting would take place on June 30th.

The Canal Clean up would be discussed at the communications focus group.

Sharyn Cain from Waimate District Council thanked the committee for a good meeting and said she enjoyed observing online.

The Meeting closed at 1.41pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON