

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY AT 13.00 PM, AT THE KDC COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT: Ted Howard (Chair), Nicky McArthur, Clint Mc Conchie, Councillor Tony Blunt (Kaikōura District Council), Desiree Bolton, John Murray, Cr Grant Edge; and Gina Solomon & Teri Sonal via Microsoft Teams

IN ATTENDANCE: Jodie Hoggard (Environment Canterbury Zone Facilitator), Murray Griffin (Environment Canterbury Zone Facilitator) Peter Bradshaw (Environment Canterbury Land Management Advisor), Heath Melville (Environment Canterbury Senior Biodiversity Officer), Gary Husband (Environment Canterbury Resource Management Officer), Marco Cataloni (Environment Canterbury Zone Delivery Lead – Kaikōura/Hurunui-Waiau),

Karakia Clint led the Karakia.

Te reo practice

Whakataukī – Ka mua, ka muri

M Griffin felt this was a very fitting whakataukī considering current events in the North Island – ‘walking backwards into the future’, we should look to the past to inform the future.

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

APOLOGIES: Robbie Roche, Ari Boyd

Moved: Cr T Blunt

Seconded: Cr Edge

REGISTER OF INTEREST

T Howard & others confirmed some alterations to be made as noted below.

T Howard – correct to Board member of Kaikōura Lions Club & add Kaikōura Dark Skies working group.

Cr Edge – remove Edge Products Ltd

Nicky M – add member of the Mayfair Board

Gina S – add member & secretary of Ocean Ridge Conservation Community Group

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK – no public attending.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS & CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

A discussion was held around the removal of the coprosmas along the Esplanade and what was the purpose, particularly considering current events in the North Island. It was noted it was part of the footpath connections to the Peninsula. T Blunt noted discussions were best to be had with Dave Clibbery of KDC. If he is not accessible directly, lodge a query with front desk and it will be responded to.

RESOLUTION

THAT the Committee:

Confirms as a true and correct record, the circulated minutes of the meeting of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee held on 9 December 2022

Moved: J Murray
Seconded: Cr T Blunt

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS:

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

4. ZONE DELIVERY ACTION PLAN INITIATIVES

It was noted this section was in relation to the presentation Heath Melville had given at the last meeting, requesting funds for maintenance of project sites. The committee now needs to formalise what was 'approved in principle' at the last meeting.

N McArthur asked if there was opportunity to have a sentence added to either Council's funding agreements requiring that wetlands not to be lit or illuminated in any form. She noted this was to align with the Dark Skies strategy being advanced for the district. G Edge noted this wasn't something that could be done now, but perhaps, could be a policy in the future. T Sonal suggested it could be something agreed in principle and added accordingly. T Howard acknowledged this request, however it needs to be discussed with the other partners before the committee can look to adopt this. G Edge noted a way forward in the short term could be to ensure the funding is noted specifically for 'riparian maintenance', rather than "restoration' and that could alleviate any immediate concerns. T Howard then clarified via the notes of the previous workshop and the objectives that this is covered on page 14 and consequently, not a concern in the short term.

Upon arriving at the meeting, H Melville also clarified for the committee what was missing in the proposal for the lower Waikōau project, was this should be considered as a final request to undertake the remaining maintenance work associated with this project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:

*1) **Receives information** on the Support for Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Projects to be considered for funding using the Kaikōura Zone Committee Action Plan Budget.*

*2) **Confirms its support** for the Support for Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Projects proposal and recommends funding of \$8,585 for the initiative using the Kaikōura Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for the 2022-23 financial year.*

Moved: J Murray
Seconded: Cr Edge

5. ZONE DELIVERY QUARTERLY UPDATE

Environment Canterbury Zone Delivery Lead for the Hurunui and Kaikōura Districts, Marco Cataloni, introduced himself and delivered his mihi. He then went on to introduce this presentation and quarterly update from the Kaikōura Zone Delivery Team. He asked for J Hoggard to share his contacts to the committee, in case committee members needed to get in touch with him outside of the dedicated times he is in Kaikōura.

Action point – J Hoggard to provide M Cataloni's contact details to the Zone Committee

M Cataloni presented the team structure, and the team's area of focus across Kaikōura and the Hurunui. He described how Zone Delivery prioritise projects. In general, and ideally, it's about looking for longer-term projects that deliver on priority outcomes for ECan and the community. This improves the ability to apply for funding and gain stronger support.

He talked about one of those priority work areas being the retirement of marginal land, to allow it to regenerate. He noted the 'risks and rewards' balance in that we don't always see the results as quickly as we would like.

He then went on to present a case study in the Waiau Uwha catchment. Councillor Edge enquired about catchment boundaries, as it seems like the rationale here is different (i.e. not a hydrological catchment) to what he would understand as a catchment boundary. M Cataloni noted they have taken a scientific approach into account, but also incorporated a more holistic approach around the issues and the people involved – e.g. not to discount landowners from across the river.

C McConchie recalled when this project came across the Rūnanga table. It seems the biggest push was from Fonterra, and he felt it was a sticking plaster approach. When it was brought to the Rūnanga a while ago, the Rūnanga were not very supportive of it, and he wanted to clarify that for the committee. M Cataloni acknowledged the Rūnanga position on this project but noted ECan weren't going to turn down the Fonterra money. He confirmed ECan were having some success in getting farmers on board. The project had enabled ECan to educate, talk to farmers, so the benefits are wider than just the Fonterra investment and focus.

C McConchie understood from the last meeting he attended, that ECan was going to discuss Mana Whenua concerns with the project partners, however the Rūnanga hasn't hear anything back after that. M Cataloni wasn't sure where the discussion had got too, noting it is sometimes difficult to influence a large funding input from an external partner who have their own investment priorities.

Councillor Edge enquired about the use of poplar poles, and if there was a two-pronged approach around encouraging native species in this landscape? M Cataloni confirmed this has been raised before and clarified poplars are mainly used where there is erosion already occurring, but it's not a blanket approach. H Melville added that natives are a part of the programme, in areas where suitable.

P Bradshaw noted within in the actual SCAR programme, there is funding for:

- planting of native species (criteria 'reversion retirement land') – \$1500/ha
- fencing, for reversion retirement areas – \$10/ha.
- Free mapping up to \$5000

Councillor Blunt discussed his experience and the benefits of poplars, which included:

- Growing soil carbon,
- can still be grazed under,
- farming day to day can continue,
- they grow fast for fast results (e.g. soil stability),
- cheap to produce or obtain,
- can coppice & feed to stock when needed (i.e. droughts),
- hold the hillsides really well,
- the species of poplar his father planted have a root network that extends 30m either side of the tree.

Councillor Blunt also noted that on his property, the slips occurred where the natives were planted. He was unsure what old variety of poplar his Father had planted but they had proven to be very effective.

P Bradshaw passed around and discussed a picture showing an area on farm, from inland Wairoa/Gisborne, recently hit by Cyclone Gabrielle. It highlighted the areas that have slipped are open hill country. The areas that have held up well are areas where poplar trees had been planted.

G Solomon asked what ECan is doing to use or introduce a native alternative to poplars? She would like to see this happening faster. M Cataloni responded ECan have to look at how we are assessing soil erosion. In terms of the use of poplars, he noted this isn't new, it's a historic approach to soil erosion that has stood the test of time. The concerns are heard, and he is aware of other species being tested. He concluded there is a science behind this approach and ECan are not trying to stymie biodiversity.

N McArthur noted that Ribbonwoods have been discussed as a possibility for soil erosion, and other native species that are less flammable. H Melville noted a number of species that have benefits, e.g. planting blocks with Mānuka in between.

Councillor Edge noted he would like to discuss this more as a Council, as he believes Councillors haven't been briefed very well on this.

Councillor Blunt noted his main drive for using Poplars is they grow fast, they are his 'go to' choice. They are the quickest, most effective way of keeping a hill slope stable. That's his appreciation of the SCAR project – keeping the hill on the hill. He noted every time there is a big rain, farmers locally are all looking to the hills and wonder if this is the time.

J Murray noted M Cataloni should replace the words 'productive land' with 'marginal' land, adding any farmer who sees the terminology around retiring 'productive' land, won't engage.

P Bradshaw provided his quarterly update/presentation. Please refer to the slides attached.

P Bradshaw noted 7,500 poles were planted last year. T Sonal noted she would really like to see natives planted under Poplar poles. P Bradshaw clarified the practicalities of this from a farming and landowner point of view, and where land isn't being retired.

He then went through the various projects and current progress, including his work with several local farmers who have established fencing setbacks. Councillor Edge queried the fencing setbacks – do you try and get greater setbacks to enable further planting. P Bradshaw noted yes, where possible.

G Husband provided his quarterly update/presentation. Please refer to the slides attached.

A discussion ensued around what to do with polystyrene due to Innovative Waste Kaikōura (IWK) not taking it anymore. H Melville noted the significant use of polystyrene in construction which raised the further discussion point of where are local builders and others construction businesses are meant to take it? It was agreed this is a question for the Council to clarify options avoiding polystyrene becoming a waste issue for the community. For instance, could it be taken and stored at IWK until a recovery/recycling option can be found?

G Husband noted he would follow up on this as it may be that KDC needs to get more information out on options for businesses and residents. T Howard noted polystyrene can be burnt but has to be at a high temperature, which we don't have a facility locally for it here.

Action point – G Husband to enquire of KDC as to polystyrene disposal methods, for builders in particular, and how to advise of available options.

H Melville provided his quarterly update/presentation. Please refer to the slides attached.

H Melville highlighted Rowan trees are an invasive issue and prolific out behind Hanmer etc and out towards the Acharon. He noted it was a shame to have such a good Weed Management Strategy and now to have a prevalence of weeds that weren't in the strategy to start with.

Councillor Edge noted he is trying to arrange more joined up conversations with ECan, DOC, LINZ etc, but this still hasn't happened. He will take this issue back to Biosecurity/Biodiversity management of ECan and get the conversation going towards making best use of the rate payer investment for weed management. H Melville noted it may well be worth talking to Hurunui DC as well.

H Melville added he is working with Marlborough DC, who are applying for a consent for spraying over water. They need to have the conversation with Kaikōura Rūnanga over this approach and acknowledge it will be a difficult conversation. Unfortunately, it looks to be the main method to get in front of willow encroachment.

Councillor Edge asked if this information/report get reported to other folk outside of ECan and the Water Zone? H Melville noted he needed to improve information distribution and understands how valuable that may be.

H Melville also highlighted Spanish Heath will end up being another invasive problem, well out of the scope of the strategy. Councillor Edge asked if H Melville is liaising with the ECan Biosecurity Team based in Amberley? H Melville confirmed he hasn't, but he is looking to do so. He added, if this issue isn't acted on quickly, these weeds will suddenly become a species that is too big to deal with and become the new norm.

M Griffin noted the committee can help raise the profile of this issue and use presentations like this to advance messaging and awareness in support of the work being done by H Melville and others.

Bio-controls were also briefly discussed and it was acknowledged these do take time to develop as an effective method of weed management.

H Melville then led a discussion on the Hapuku Catchment Collective and the work going on there. M Griffin applauded the collective achievement adjacent to the DOC reserve in this area, noting it is a great illustration of a collaborative approach.

G Solomon queried Tradescantia being available in nurseries and asked if ECan was working to address this. H Melville noted it is and is part of the Biosecurity role.

His understanding is there are discussions already underway. G Solomon also noted pampas grass and a similar effort needs to be made to either contain or eradicate it.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:

- receive this Zone Delivery Team’s update for their information and in consideration with its alignment to the Kaikōura Zone Committee’s 2021-24 Action Plan

Moved: C McConchie

Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:

- **Receive** the updates provided by Zone Committee members on community projects.

Given the limited time remaining in this meeting this item was taken as read, as a reference for now, which the committee can look to review at a future meeting towards confirming priorities for support in the next financial year. T Howard asked for C McConchie to consider any Rūnanga based projects that could come forward.

Moved: J Murray

Seconded: N McArthur

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee:

- **receive** these updates for its information and in consideration of the Kaikōura Zone Committee’s 2021-2024 Action Plan.

Moved: T Blunt

Seconded: N McArthur

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

This item was taken as read, with no further discussion points.

J Hoggard updated the committee on the Wetlands tour in Kaikōura – ‘Managing wetlands as farm assets’ project, the extension event she is coordinating for March 16th & 17th. She would provide more details as the tour details are confirmed. She also asked if the committee wanted to be involved, they could perhaps fund and provide kai for lunch on the 16th, and attend on the day, which was agreed as good ways in which the committee could be involved in the event.

Councillor Edge noted he is an apology for those days, and suggested J Hoggard send the flyer to Governance at ECan so it can be circulated to Councillors.

Action point – J Hoggard to forward the flyer to ECan Governance for Councillor information.

RECOMMEDATION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee fund \$150 towards kai/lunch at the ‘Wetlands Farm Tour’ on March 16th 2023.

Moved: J Murray
Seconded: C McConchie

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Multizone CWMS Zone Committee Hui – dates are now confirmed and the ‘northern’ zone committee’s hui will be held on Monday Mar 27th at Rāpaki Marae. M Griffin noted this is essentially about the regional integrated planning framework and will touch on the CWMS and what the next 2-3 years will likely involve. He noted it is an adaptive phase as we adjust to new requirements of an integrated planning framework which now includes direction from central government. He added these hui are open to all zone committee members, not just the Chairs and Deputies. Accommodation and travel will be available with more details to come.

N McArthur talked about Dark Skies and the need to formally link this initiative with the various agencies, groups, and Council’s approach to integrated planning. Councillor Edge noted there are many aspects to this, it’s a whole gamut of things that need considering, and where an initiative like Dark Skies will fit. T Howard clarified while this is an important issue it is not something this committee can add weight to.

G Solomon asked to note the outcome of the High Court case around the Mātaitai which some local landowners had issues with. She clarified at the end of the case, the judge had no concerns, so in effect the group lost the case. She added this case highlighted the importance of keeping documentation handy and accessible with good filing systems. There are learnings that can be taken from it for next time.

Councillor Blunt noted he would like to clarify that the issue the landowner’s association raised was specifically was around the lack of consultation with landowners, adding the issue was turned to one of landowners not approving of Mātaitai which was not the original case. He stated the landowners were never against the Mātaitai, they were against the lack of consultation. C McConchie noted he disagreed with this view of the case, noting the two sides were poles apart on this matter.

G Solomon suggested the outcome of the court case did highlight those differences and she was happy to circulate to the committee as there were a number of valuable learnings from the case.

Action point - G Solomon to circulate the Mātaitai court case outcome, to provide key learnings.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

None provided.

9. CLOSE MEETING

G Solomon led Karakia to close.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.35pm