

# **MINUTES**

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone  
Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 4 May 2023**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council**  
**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting**  
**Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru**  
**on Thursday, 4 May 2023 at 1pm**

**Present:** Glen Smith (Chairperson), Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, Bryan Bassett-Smith, Sharyn Cain, Rynee de Garnham, Bailey Lissington via zoom

**In Attendance:** Andrew Oliver (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Committee & Upper Waitaki Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Paul Cooper (Group Manager Environmental Services), Lucy Millar (Environmental Consultant, Opuha Water), Jane and Graham Batchelor (Te Kōpi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration), Lex Evans (Arowhenua Native Nursery), Jessica Kavanaugh (Governance Advisor, Timaru District Council)

**1 Opening Karakia**

*Andrew Oliver conducted the opening Karakia*

**2 Apologies**

**1.1 Apologies Received**

**Resolution 2023/23**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the apologies of Cllr Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin be received and accepted.

**Carried**

**3 Public Forum**

There were no public forum items.

**4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

**5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

**6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## **7 Chairperson's Report**

### **7.1 Presentation of Chairperson's Report**

#### **Resolution 2023/24**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Chris Konings

The Chairperson has written letters for the Orari Temuka Opihi Parerora Water Zone Committee.

**Carried**

## **8 Reports**

### **8.1 Opuha Water Ltd (OWL) Biodiversity Implementation.**

Lucy Millar (Environmental Consultant, Opuha Water) spoke to the report for the committee to consider a request from Opuha Water Limited for three years of funding, at \$20,000/year from the OTOP ZC's Action Plan budget to increase the available pool of funds available to support shareholders in the implementation of their Biodiversity Plans for the remainder of 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Lucy discussed two projects that Opuha Water Ltd proposes to the Zone committee to assist with funding. A property called Parahaki Ltd is a sheep and beef property that has been in a planting program for many years but has recently partially changed hands. Three sites within this property have proposed further plantings. The other project is WH Devendale and Te Awa Land Co are two dairy farms across the road from each other. The proposal is the planting of various sites that are already fenced off.

Opuha Water Ltd has approved \$192k with Opuhas contribution of \$120k. Projects there that require continued work include Levels area with flood and drainage bylaws. There was a good range of enterprise throughout the catchment.

It is confirmed the funding would be for planting and plant maintenance. The timeframes for project one are by the end of June for site one and July for site two. Project two timeline will be completed by the end of June. The ability to have site visits around the projects and report back to the Committee. It is possible to contribute funds to both of the projects which would not affect Opuha's Water contribution.

#### **Resolution 2023/25**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

### **8.2 Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration**

Jane Batchelor (Burkes Pass Heritage Trust) spoke to the report for the committee to consider a request from 'Burkes Pass Heritage Trust' (BPHT) to continue to support the Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration by contributing a sum of money for that purpose.

Jan discussed the background of the trust that has undertaken many projects and has now formed a partnership with Arrowhenua Native Nursery. In Burkes Pass, there are very few publically

assessable projects. This project will allow for a public walking track as an extension of the heritage walk, the Opuha River has access along most of the route. The health of the river water supply and water quality is not ideal and the ability to undertake water testing once this project is completed could then be replicated in other areas.

There have been delays to the project at each step a written management plan was submitted with the previous year's application, and most of the project aspects have stayed the same. Approximately 1km of weedy/willow-infested water with fallen willows of the Opihi River. One priority was to get rid of the willows which Environment Canterbury has done which was a huge boost to the project which was delayed from the expected timeframe and occurred in November 2022. The mulching of the willow was not possible due to the machinery available at the time and has been put into large piles there are options to deal with the piles including burning the slash, mulching the slash, or leaving the piles to decompose. This has caused another time delay in the project finding a company to deal with the piles with an unknown budget it would be approximately \$10,000 for two priority piles. This is the preferred option that has the best environmental impact.

The other priority was the assurance of the plantings to be put in and fence protection to be in place for stock management. There have been two quotes for fencing one of a brand new fence and another option of repurposing materials to stretch the budget and voluntary work. The importance of undertaking this project in a sensible forward-thinking progression of the project.

It is clarified that none of the work is required by regulation and the potential for easements in the walkway. The ecosource native bush that was planted at Janes's personal property has caused interest from holiday homeowners and local farmers expressing interest in native planting, there was an open day in the Batchelors bush giving a live example. Most of the project is on unformed legal roads one connects the river with state highway one which then connects to the heritage walk.

Lex Evans (Te Kete Tipuranga O Huirapa Ltd) provided a history of the conservation-restoration space and the importance of getting kids involved and examples of projects this has been achieved. The Burkes Pass project is at the headwaters of the Opihi River and the benefit for Arowhenua to be a part of this project. This project is integral to the cycle track that is going between Fairlie and Tekapo, the ability to establish endangered and declining plants.

It is clarified the process for the possibility of mulching the willows, which uses a method of removing the larger logs and mulching the smaller material to be spread along the plants. The operator will work to the \$10,000 budget to ensure there is no cost overrun.

### **Resolution 2023/26**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Sharyn Cain

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

### **Resolution 2023/27**

Moved: Sharyn Cain

Seconded: Chris Konings

The Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee approve the recommendation to allocate;

1. \$7500 to Parahaki Ltd though the Opuha Water Ltd Biodiversity project.
2. \$4500 to WH Devendale and Te Awa Land Co though the Opuha Water Ltd Biodiversity project.
3. \$5728.60 to Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration also that funds retained from the last financial year can be spent on any part of the project that was presented today.

The Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora Water Zone Committee also encourage both projects to submit an application for the next funding round

**Carried**

### **8.3 Facilitator Update**

Andrew Oliver (Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Committee & Upper Waitaki Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), spoke to the report to provide an update to the Committee.

It is discussed the requirement to have a workshop in June at a date to be confirmed to discuss the action plan. The conflict of interest register is needing to be complete. There has been discussion with Opuha Water Ltd to do a field trip to the lake and a site visit to Burkes Pass in August/September.

Rangitata field trip coming up on 16 May more information to come. The request for Temuka water allocation this information is still coming.

Chris Konings reported back that Chris Fauth and Kate Doran presented to the Waitarakao working group requesting a delay of 2 weeks for the launch of the public consultation.

The ability to host super water hero day. There is a trailer that can be used at public events. It is requested Paul Cooper Group Manager Environmental Services at the Timaru District Council comes back with any event information that are suitable would be suitable for the trailer.

### **Resolution 2023/28**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Sharyn Cain

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

Acknowledgment was made of Bryan Bassett-Smiths service and resignation and well wishes for the future.

### **9 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

No items of urgent business were received.

### **10 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

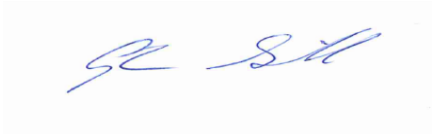
No matters of a minor nature were raised.

**11 Closure Karakia**

*Andrew Oliver conducted the closing Karakia.*

**The Meeting closed at 2.20pm.**

**Minutes Confirmed 10 July 2023.**



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**Glen Smith**  
**Chairperson**