

MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA WATER ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 JULY 2023 AT 1.05 PM, AT THE KDC COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 96 WEST END, KAIKŌURA, AND ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT: Ted Howard (Chair), Councillor Tony Blunt (Kaikōura District Council),
Councillor Grant Edge (ECan), Rob Roche, Ari Boyd,
Gina Solomon, Clint McConchie, John Murray, Teri Sonal (online).

IN ATTENDANCE: Jodie Hoggard (Environment Canterbury Zone Facilitator),
Murray Griffin (Environment Canterbury Zone Facilitator),
Andrew Arps (ECan Zone Manager - Northern),
Heath Melville (ECan Senior Biodiversity Advisor),
Becky Makin (Kaikōura District Council – Minute Secretary).

The meeting was opened with a Karakia.

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Nicky McArthur, Desiree Bolton and Maia Kahu.

Moved: Councillor T Blunt
Seconded: G Solomon

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.2 Urgent Business

Councillor T Blunt raised an issue with a consent for pine tree plantation at Kahutara Hills.

1.3 Confirmation of Committee's Register of Interest

It was confirmed that the public register does not need to state Committee members' property addresses, this information will be held by ECan staff on a separate register. B Makin would forward J Hoggard the guidance released by Taituara around the new legislation on members' interests for information.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK – Nil

The meeting moved to Item 4.

4. ZONE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN – FUNDING PROPOSALS

4.1 Presentation – opportunities/projects for AP funding consideration in 2023/2024

Hāpuku Catchment Collective – Year 3

The focus for the next year would continue to be on weed/vine control and trapping. The team have identified a couple of properties with significant areas of bush where they need to engage with landowners. There has been good engagement with landowners and a desire to have invasive weeds, vines and pests removed from their properties.

H Melville shared a presentation which included before/after photos of the weed/vine control on the tracks. There is scope to continue to try and connect with the local bike club, with parts of the track system being included in the Hapuku bush area.

There was a good turnout at the Weedy workshop and strong interest for future Weedy workshops to be held.

H Melville explained the long-term outlook should year 3 funding not be approved, highlighting that the good work of year 1 and 2 would be undone and effectively revert to pre-ECan involvement at the QEII covenant and private properties. The team would like to look at carrying out vine control on old man's beard in other high biodiversity areas, such as the Blue Duck and Puhi Puhi.

T Sonal joined the meeting at 1.36 pm.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee supports the Hāpuku Catchment Collective Year 3 for \$30,000 excluding GST.

Moved: Councillor T Blunt
Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Waiau Toa Hāpua Protection 2023/2024

H Melville advised that the requested funding is for the continuation of the black-billed gull protection that the Committee has been supportive of since 2016. The total budget for this initiative would be \$57,000, and not \$52,000 as stated in the report (this would be corrected) **(ACTION)**.

Councillor G Edge queried if the DOC 200 was the most successful trap at the Clarence Rivermouth (page 31 of the presentation). H Melville explained that the trapping success rate is mostly based on catch effort, such as the number of traps set/nights baited and was unable to clarify if due to the type of trap.

Good nesting success has been observed at Rakautara and Ohau, the following figures were provided by H Melville:

Ohau:

- 15 black billed
- 100 red bill
- 40 white terns

Rakautara:

- January count was 740 Red Billed Gulls total, including fledglings etc.
- 300 White Fronted Terns. Same again, juveniles included.

There has been low breeding success and fledgling numbers of black-billed gulls at the Waiau Toa. One of the three priority actions was to control the population of the Southern black-backed gulls, which prey on the eggs and chicks of the black-fronted tern/tarapirohe, the black-billed gull/tarāpuka, wrybill/ngutu pare, and banded dotterel/tūturiwhatu — all threatened birds that breed on braided rivers. It was noted that the protection of the black-fronted tern is well funded by ECan and LINZ.

The Southern black-backed gull was introduced to NZ and is classed as a native species; however, it has no level of protection under the Wildlife Act as it is often considered a pest. C McConchie raised concern of interfering with native species by culling one to protect another. The Chair clarified that the intervention was to restore balance to the population of the black-billed gulls as humans have over time, changed their environment.

A query was raised if more data was available and if there was a way to support co-living between the gull species. It was noted that ECan would need to look at E-bird to determine the reason for the decline at the Waiau Toa, and the biodiversity team could follow up with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura and confirm the degree of culling for predator management, and what is acceptable. Councillor G Edge put forward an amended recommendation to incorporate this action.

AMENDED RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee supports Waiau toa Hāpua Protection 23/24 for \$25,000, subject to the collaboration between ECan and Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura to establish the status of the black-backed gull in terms of its protection, management and relationship with other endangered gull species.

Moved: Councillor G Edge
Seconded: J Murray

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seaweek Funding

J Hoggard advised that Sports Tasman are in the process of recruiting a full-time co-ordinator following approval of discretionary grants funding from the Council and there is opportunity to utilise this resource for the national event of 'Seaweek'. The team are also looking to involve local schools with beach clean-ups and work with the coordinators of Seaweek.

RESOLUTION

That the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee supports the Waikōau/Lyell Creek / Beach Clean-up Seaweek community event for \$1,500.

Moved: G Solomon
Seconded: R Roche

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. ZONE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN INITIATIVES UPDATE

Hapuku Catchment Collective Initiative

It was noted that DOC have traps available for the community to use – this initiative was supported by the Committee last year. H Melville would get feedback from Jemima at DOC on how the project is going. G Solomon suggested that DOC share their communications/advertising with the Committee so they can help promote.

Wetland & Riparian Restoration Project Support

A query was raised if there had been any work around the increase in invertebrates. H Melville would follow up and commented that a contractor had been engaged in the past (**ACTION**).

C McConchie would follow up with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura around the approval of the memorial seat for David Bedford (**ACTION**).

It was noted that a lot of mahi was done to reinforce the habitat under the bridge at Lyell Creek to support īnanga spawning.

6. COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

R Roche – Highlighted the current vacancy at IWK is for enviro education. It was agreed for J Hoggard to investigate what the new role would entail, and if there potentially was scope for the ZC to support, in terms of fresh water. **(ACTION)**.

J Hoggard noted also that the Enviro Schools coordinator has recently been visiting the local schools to ascertain interest in joining the programme. It is understood both Suburban School and Kaikōura Primary schools have shown an interest.

T Sonal – Queried if Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura require a formal letter from the Committee for the memorial seat. C McConchie clarified that a formal letter is not necessary.

T Sonal – Would like to see the waterways that have Council ownership of and the food available e.g. watercress, active eel sites – and if the food being gathered is safe to consume. It was noted that there is a map at ECan with the land vested by the Council and ECan in the Kowhai and H Melville has a map from LINZ he can share. **(ACTION)**

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Regional Policy Statement update/consultation

The Council and Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura representatives are working together to support the regional policy framework. A drop-in session is being held on Monday at Donegal House as an initial opportunity for the community to ask planning staff questions.

R Roche left the meeting at 3.03pm

G Solomon noted making submissions is a time-consuming process and queried if workshopping around the RPS was a logical option so as the committee can provide their own submission to the process?

The Chair commented that it would not be practical for the Committee to hold a workshop as it is a complex topic that would take at least 8 hours to work through, however there are short-online sessions being offered throughout July & Aug. G Edge believed the committees terms of reference doesn't allow submissions from the committee. J Hoggard/M Griffin would review the terms of reference to see if they allow the zone committee to provide submissions, and check with the comms/planning team if they are seeking feedback or a formal submission.

It was noted to committee members that the Drop-in session on Monday 31st was an ideal informal opportunity to chat with the planners and offer any feedback that way.

New IBS – Indigenous Biodiversity Statement

This was on the agenda for the committee's information only.

Much discussion was had.

T Blunt noted that the cost for the KDC to implement the Indigenous Biodiversity Statement would be significant and the team are looking at options for working with other local and regional councils. It was noted the Council does not have a biodiversity officer since the Planner/Biodiversity Officer left in 2019. Councillor T Blunt commented that although there is not a designated resource in the planning team, the Council monitors Three Waters which has an environmental impact, supports environmental projects such as Dark Sky and other core business of Council - the monitoring of streams and riverways is considered as part of ECan's role.

Kaikōura Works & Services Committee

Noted as read.

Update of stakeholders meeting around weed/pest control in Waiau Toa

J Hoggard advised that the community hui will likely be held in September and is working with Boffa Miskell to pin down a date.

Kaikōura aiming for World Heritage Status – Hosted by Te Korowai

G Solomon updated – it was noted that although Te Korowai did not get funding through the KDC discretionary grants fund, the Council is able to allocate them \$5,000 of funding through their environmental fund. C McConchie would follow up with Chevvy and Ata for a response as there is criteria that needs to be met **(ACTION)**.

The meeting then moved back to Item 3.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Meeting minutes dated 26 May 2023

RESOLUTION

THAT the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee confirms as a true and correct record, the circulated minutes of the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee meeting held on 26 May 2023.

Moved: Councillor G Edge
Seconded: A Boyd

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS

To be followed up by J Hoggard.

9. WRAP UP/THINKING FORWARD

Workshop session on comms idea for WZ going forward?

Agreed to table to the workshop in August.

Workshop session around progressing Mahinga kai/ watercress garden ideas?

Suggestion to invite John Faulker to an upcoming workshop session, or online, to take the Committee through the story/process on the collaborative mahinga kai reserve project he was involved in.

Budget thinking for 2023/2024

Communications budget – looking at approx. \$10,000 to support communications such as newspaper articles, newsletters, visual work, Ted Talks, etc. Agree to table as a workshop session in Aug.

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Agreed for J Hoggard to email the rural groups the leaflet provided to the Committee

The meeting then moved back to Item 1.

1.2 Urgent Business

Concern was raised that there were inaccuracies in the consent and that the activity is within the Mataitai area. It was agreed for ECan's Forestry Resource Management Officer to investigate. A Arps would gather a response for Councillor G Edge.

10. CLOSE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.01 pm.

CONFIRMED _____ Chairperson
Date: