



Mackenzie

DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

12 May 2023

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE OMARAMA STATION
ON FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2023 AT 10.05AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Matthew Bayliss, Richard Subtil, Marcelo Carena, Member Michael McMillan, Rynee de Garnham, Cr Scott Aronsen, Cr Nick Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Oliver (Ecan facilitator), Murray Griffin (Ecan), Shirley Hayward, John Benn (DOC), Heather McCone(Ecan), Tim Davie (Ecan), Arlene Goss (Governance Advisor), Rick Ramsay and Nick Douglas (Aquaculture Group), Tim Davie (Director of Science at Ecan), Vivienne Smith-Campbell (Ohau Conservation Trust).

1 OPENING

The meeting opened with a karakia from Michael McMillan. The chairman thanked Richard and Annabelle Subtil for hosting the meeting and hangi today. Everyone was introduced.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from members Adriana Theobald and Cr Brent Coles. Arlene Goss read out an apology email from Cr Coles. The chairman will contact Cr Cowles to discuss the possibility of another councillor standing in when he is unavailable.

3 REPORTS

3.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 14 APRIL 2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2023/103

Moved: Richard Subtil

Seconded: Marcelo Carena

1. That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 14 April 2023 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED

3.2 CWMS ACTION PLAN BUDGET 2022/23

The purpose of this agenda item was for the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee to confirm its support of projects using the Zone Committee's Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan Budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

Murray Griffin said all the water zone committees were looking to confirm budget commitments at this time, aiming for payments on June 20 before the end of the financial year. The Environment Canterbury annual plan deliberations would then decide the budgets for next year.

The chairman said there were four applications for funding on the agenda. Two were presented at the last meeting and two were new ones.

One of the new applications was from the Ohau Conservation Trust. The chairman asked Vivienne Smith-Campbell from the Ohau Conservation Trust to provide a summary of her application, which was received after the agenda went out. A copy of this application was circulated to members and is available as an attachment to these minutes.

Vivienne Smith-Campbell spoke about the proposal for the Lake Middleton Cultural Values Report. The work outlined in the application needed to happen before further projects were decided. She has not yet spoken to runanga about the funding application, as the application was written quickly to be available for the meeting. She also has some unspent funds from the willow control work to put towards this, and was speaking to other funders in an effort to top this up to about \$25,000, which would make the project feasible.

Richard Subtil asked what success would look like. This would be a published report available to everyone. They could produce this within a year.

The chairman asked if this study was just about the lake or the land as well. It included the land that was the catchment area of the lake.

Marcelo asked about the effect this study would have on property owners. The chairman said this was about filling a gap in knowledge, it was not a pathway to future decisions.

Richard Subtil said it was a good idea to get a baseline on Lake Middleton. Is there a precedent for a zone committee to fund a study like this? He questioned whether this was within the committee's parameters. The committee heard that one of the action plan goals was enhancing mahinga kai so this study was within the parameters.

The chairman asked; if the trust got less than \$15,000 could it still do the project? Vivienne Smith-Campbell has initiated discussions with another funder because more than \$15,000 was needed. She said the trust was really committed to making this happen.

Michael McMillan asked questions regarding the form of the document and agreed this study would have to go back to the three runanga for approval.

The chairman thanked Vivienne Smith-Campbell and acknowledged the hard work she had put into her application.

The committee then discussed the application from the Ahuriri Catchment Group for Willow and Wilding Pine Control.

Richard Subtil spoke in support of this project. His wife was organising it. He said the group had become an incorporated society to channel projects and handle funding. He said the catchment does not have as big a problem with wilding pines as the other end of the basin and would like to address it now to prevent a big problem from forming.

Regarding willow control he would like to do this work to prevent flooding. The money could be matched by efforts from the community.

There was passion in the community about reducing the number of geese at the head of the lake. Doing this project would bring the rural and urban communities together.

Cr Aronsen asked if removing the willows on the Omarama Stream would be a normal business function of Environment Canterbury. Richard Subtil said the Timaru office was also working on the area and have been good, but funding is limited.

Tim Davie explained the work that is currently underway. This was limited in its availability and was in and around the village for the protection of the village.

Andrew Oliver said he had discussed this application with Ecan staff and they felt the goose cull would not be funded by Ecan due to geese being a continuing problem. There was also the view that funding one catchment group might be politically favouring that group. Tim Davie said he was surprised to hear that and his advice would be to not put too much weight on it.

The committee heard that Canadian geese were a massive issue for waterways. They created four and a half kilos of waste a day each.

Cr Nick Coles said they had recently flown some MPs around here trying to get more money to control wilding pines, as funding had been cut.

The committee heard there was 2.5 million tonnes of geese waste in the waterways in the zone each year.

Regarding the allocation of the budget, Murray Griffin suggested funding some of the projects in this financial year and carrying over one project to the next financial year in July/August.

Richard Subtil suggested funding the wilding pines and geese, and delaying the willow work.

The timing of each project was discussed. Geese culls happen around December, wilding pines is probably spring, willows at any time, but usually about now. Digger work had to be done at the right time to avoid trout spawning. In reality the willow work would not happen until this time next year.

The chairman said the committee agreed that these were all good projects and it was a matter of making the maths work. He suggested committing \$6,000 to the pines and willow control projects, and sit on the geese project until the next financial year.

Richard Subtil said a good facilitator was needed to get these projects going.

The chairman suggested spending \$19,500 on the native plants, \$10,000 on a catchment group facilitator, \$6,000 on willow and wildings and \$15,000 on the Ohau Conservation Trust project.

Tim Davie raised the issue of a conflict of interest, as Richard Subtil's wife was involved in the catchment group as a committee member. This was the group receiving the money. He suggested that Richard Subtil step back from the discussion on the money and he agreed.

Renee de Garnham asked what would happen if runanga did not support the Ohau Conservation Trust project. There were other projects the money could go towards.

A visitor from the Arowhenua native plant nursery spoke about the native nursery plots. He would like the demonstration sites to show that it was possible to grow natives in the Mackenzie basin. The two demonstration sites would be at Twizel and Omarama. He has two seed collection teams in the Mackenzie this week collecting seeds for the project.

The committee then passed the resolutions below.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2023/104

Moved: Cr Nick Ward

Seconded: Michael McMillan

1. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee confirms its approval of the following project initiatives based on the \$50,000 CWMS Action Plan Budget allocated for each CWMS Water Zone for the 2022/23 financial year:
 - a) Te Kete Tipuranga O Hurapa Ltd – Native Demonstration Plots \$19,500
 - b) Ahuriri Catchment Community Group – Facilitator \$10,000
 - c) Ahuriri Catchment Community Group – Willow and wilding pine control \$5,500
 - d) Ohau Conservation Trust – Lake Middleton Cultural Values report \$15,000
2. That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee defers a decision on the funding for the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group geese cull to the next financial year.

CARRIED

Member Richard Subtil did not vote.

3.3 ZONE FACILITATOR'S UPDATE

Matters discussed during this update included:

- The committee would review the action plan and note any concerns with Andrew Oliver. The chairman said the committee was collectively ok with the action plan and it would not need to be workshopped in June.
- Cr Aronsen would go back to MDC and talk to them about increasing the input into the committee from the Mackenzie part of the basin.
- The chairman said the next big job would be to meet after next year's funding was confirmed. Next meeting would be in July.
- Twizel River - A meeting with stakeholders would happen in June.

The chairman thanked Michael McMillan for organising the hangi and gave him koha.

Michael McMillan then closed the meeting with a karakia at 11.48am.