

# **MINUTES**

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

**Monday, 7 August 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 Monday, 7 August 2023 at 1 pm**

**Present:** Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), John Henry, Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Suzanne Eddington Sharyn Cain (zoom), Bailey Lissington (zoom),

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

**1 Opening Karakia**

*The whole committee conducted the opening Karakia*

**2 Apologies**

**2.1 Apologies Received**

**Resolution 2023/35**

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Pye

That the apologies of Glen Smith and 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**

No chairperson's report was presented.

## **8 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2023**

#### **Resolution 2023/36**

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Sharyn Cain

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 10 July 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried**

## **9 Reports**

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

Jane and Graham Batchelor (Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration), and Lex Evans (Arowhenua Native Nursery) spoke to the report and provided a presentation 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.

The presentation covered the following topics; Improved Biodiversity, regular water quality testing, community awareness, predator control to protect native wildlife, a public track to join the existing Heritage Walk, a collaboration between Arowhenua Native Nursery, agencies, community, and schools in environmental conservation efforts, removal of weed species from the Upper Opihi River, new plantings, fencing upgrades, photo survey monitoring. It is also covered the progress to date and the plan for the future.

There was no definitive figure that the Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration has advised they require for the project but the plants and fencing are a priority. The fencing includes rabbit fencing and retrofitting existing fencing. Clarified is the project area and who owns the land.

At 1.08 pm, Member Suzanne Eddington arrived at the meeting.

It is requested a field trip at the beginning of October to the site.

#### **Resolution 2023/37**

Moved: Cllr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Cllr Michelle Pye

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

## **9.2 Pekapeka / Bat Habitat**

Robert Carson-Iles (Department of Conservation) spoke to the report and provided a presentation to inform the committee of the significance of native bat habitat in the OTOP Zone and how the committee could support ongoing conservation and enhancement of their habitat.

The presentation gave an overview of Long-tailed Bats including the population locations, the decline in numbers, roosting trees, birth rates, lifespan, use of acoustic monitoring, information collected by a radio transmitter glued to the bat, and current threats. The importance of advocacy and education is highlighted.

Discussion included that transplanting populations have not been successful in the past, the size of colonies in South Canterbury. The current unsuccessful use of the power pole roost.

There was discussion on how the OTOP committee can help this project, it is identified that the funding from LINZ will end at the end of 2024 and that any funding towards the diversity of this project. The ability to have the geolocations mapped out. The one-off funding from Environment Canterbury for the poles. The ability to use the committee's connections to combine resources for the project.

### **Resolution 2023/38**

Moved: Cllr Michelle Pye

Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

## **9.3 EOS**

Jessica Halsey (EOS Ecology) spoke to the report and provided a presentation to present their project aims, objectives and how they may be able to assist catchment groups in the OTOP Zone.

The presentation covered the following topics; the Essential Freshwater Fund focus areas, the function of the Wai Connection team, regions and providers, national support, Canterbury support, ecology science and engagement, catchment selection, catchment group support and what is not included.

Discussion included how this works from the bottom up to collaborate and support catchment groups. Clarification that the EOS Ecology provides support depending on the needs of the catchment group acting as a facilitator. The funding from the Ministry for the Environment and the impacts on Zone Committees.

### **Resolution 2023/39**

Moved: Cllr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

#### **9.4 Zone Priorities**

This report was not discussed due to the absenteeism of Environment Canterbury Staff.

#### **Resolution 2023/40**

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Clr Michelle Pye

That the OTOP Zone Committee lay this report on the table to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Carried**

#### **9.5 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 advised there is an action plan funding media pulse ads being produced and distributed in the community which is tabled at this meeting.

Confirmed is the \$75,000 budget remains unspent for this year. The updated photo of the committee still needs to be taken for the website. That the Te Ana Maori Rock Art Centre visits will happen in October/November 2023 and March/April 2024.

An update was provided on the Waitarakao working group it is requested that an update be provided by Environment Canterbury for the next meeting. It is also requested that the committee learn a new Te Reo word at each meeting.

#### **Resolution 2023/41**

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Clr Deon Swiggs

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report.

**Carried**

#### **Attachments**

1 Pulse Communications

Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora Water Zone Committee

# Get your environmental project IN the ground

Apply for support from the Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora (OTOP) CWMS Action Plan Budget.

If you've got an idea for a project that will help improve water management, enhance biodiversity, or engage the community on environmental issues – we might be able to help.

The OTOP Water Zone Committee makes recommendations to Environment Canterbury about how to allocate \$75,000 each year to help implement the committee's Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) Action Plan.

Previous projects the zone committee has supported include native planting events at Taniwha Gully rock art site, the Men's Shed Trust Geraldine's predator trapping work, and habitat improvement for the long-tailed bat.

Email Dave Moore to apply – [dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:dave.moore@ecan.govt.nz)

Find out more at [ecan.govt.nz/otopcommittee](https://ecan.govt.nz/otopcommittee)

The Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora Water Zone Committee is made up of community members, rūnanga and councils.



## HERE'S A PROJECT WE'RE ALREADY SUPPORTING

Restoration work at Te Kōpi-O-Te Ōpihi/Burkes Pass has received more than \$19,000 from Action Plan funding.

2856

**10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

No items of urgent business were received

**11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

No matters of a minor nature were raised.

**12 Closure Karakia**

*The whole committee conducted the closing Karakia*

**The Meeting closed at 3.22pm.**

**Minutes Confirmed 06 November 2023.**



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**Chris Konings**  
**Deputy Chairperson**