



MINUTES

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting

19 July 2019

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY INN, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 19 JULY 2019 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Simon Cameron (Chair), Lisa Anderson, Matthew Bayliss, Richard Subtil, Craig Dawson, , Joy Paterson, Kieran Whyte

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Whitehouse (Facilitator), Connie Giquel (Acting Executive Advisor), and 15 members for the public and media

1 OPENING

The chair opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from John Wilkie, John Sunckell, Sandra Hampstead-Tipene, Cr Stuart Barwood

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 VISITORS

There were no visitors.

5 REPORTS

5.1 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING TIMETABLE

5.2 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 17 MAY 2019

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/28

Moved: Craig Dawson

Seconded: Richard Subtil

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 17 May 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

CARRIED

5.3 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE - 2019 ACTION LIST

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is from Ian Whitehouse, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress on items identified at previous zone committee meetings in 2019.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The report was received.

5.4 REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The report was received.

5.5 LAKE BENMORE AHURIRI ARM TROPHIC LEVEL INDEX

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is from Graeme Clarke and Marty Mortiaux, Environment Canterbury (ECan).

The purpose of the Report is to provide information on the Trophic Level Index (TLI) for Upper Waitaki Lakes, including Lake Benmore at Ahuriri Arm and the impact on Ahuriri catchment consent holders.

ECAN provided a quick overview of the general health of the lakes. The trophic levels in many of the lakes have stayed the same with a few exceptions including the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore.

Discussion took place around ECan processes that measure TLI levels, including monitoring frequency. Monitoring is done by helicopter between the months of December and April only, with no testing in winter due to health & safety reasons. A higher TLI levels means poorer quality water and a greener lake. Concerns were raised about ECan's measurements to accurately reflect TLI levels if monitoring is only over 6 months of a year.

Discussion also took place around the variation in the conditions relating to TLI limits between consent holders. ECan said that the TLI levels were set in consultation with the community and the TLI trigger was part of the consent conditions which consent holders agreed to during the application process.

10 consents are affected by the TLI trigger level of 2.75. Concerns were raised that the 10 consent holders will bear the brunt of the costs to investigate the trigger including the cost of a 2-person expert panel. In addition, there was concern that some land owners who needed consents had not yet done so.

Concerns were raised about the negative media focus on farmers as a result of ECAN publicising the results before the reasons for the levels are known.

A consent holder commissioned scientific study option (in addition to the 2-man expert panel) was discussed, however the general sentiment was that it could potentially results in tens of thousands of dollars additional costs to farmers. It was noted that it may be worth waiting to see if the TLI remains elevated for a second year to determine if there is a trend.

The meeting agreed that all 10 consent holders should look to reducing their nutrient losses, rather than wait for the 2-person expert panel to consider whether their properties have contributed to the TLI increase.

ECAN pointed out that the next steps are only an investigation, that may result in enforcement action – not immediate enforcement action, should consent holders be found to be the reason for the TLI levels vs a natural event instead.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/29

Moved: Richard Subtil

Seconded: Joy Paterson

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee:

1. Recommends that ECAN reports to next Zone committee meeting (16 August 2019) on the consent review process to achieve equality of consent conditions in relation to TLI as soon as possible;

2. The Zone Committee asks Environment Canterbury to help resource the expert review panel required by the consents with a 2.75 TLI trigger level;
3. The Zone Committee asks Environment Canterbury to prioritise actions to ensure land owners in the Ahuriri Arms catchment who need farming land use consents have these by October 2019.

CARRIED

5.6 ELECTION OF REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee agreed that Sandra is to be acknowledged for her work on the Zone committee and commitment on the Regional committee.

Discussion took place around the value of having one person as a committee representative on the Regional Committee due to the time and cost involved. Various options were floated as an alternative. One was a proposal by the Chair to the Regional Committee, that the meeting location rotates between Timaru and Christchurch. Another option explored was the viability for Upper Waitaki Zone to work together with Lower Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee to have a combined member on the Regional Committee.

The Committee agreed that all members will in the interim rotate on the Regional Committee, depending who is in Christchurch when the meeting is taking place.

Action - Te Manahuna Manahuni Aoraki to be invite to this group.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/30

Moved: Joy Paterson

Seconded: Lisa Anderson

That the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee Chair will write to the Regional Committee Chair and request meeting be held in Timaru, and obtain future meetings dates and circulate to the group.

CARRIED

5.7 AHURIRI ARM CATCHMENT GROUP AND FARMER LAND USE CONSENT CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This Report is from Hughes-Games, Land Management Advisor, Environment Canterbury (ECan)

The purpose of the Report is to:

1. Inform the committee of the proposal to create and support an Ahuriri Arm catchment group to complement the Omarama Stream Group and to seek input from the Committee on how it wants to be involved.
2. Provide information on Farming Land Use Consent progress.

ECan aim to have the group up and running by mid-August.

Discussion ensued about the type of activities such a group would engage in. If agreed, the group's first meeting would brainstorm what they want to achieve and share ideas about what best management practice is. Other activities could include guest speakers from industry leaders, irrigation sessions and training or sessions on bio-diversity.

Concerns were raised over funding for such a group. There are existing successful catchment groups, facilitated by ECAN. ECAN would supply an initial facilitator and then evaluate at intervals however, ideally the catchment group will be community run as it becomes more mature. ECAN advises that other catchment groups are also supported by other industries, not solely by ECAN.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/0001/31

Moved: Richard Subtil

Seconded: Lisa Anderson

That the Zone Committee:

1. Formally endorse, at this meeting, the Committee's support for the Ahuriri Arm catchment group.
2. Consider involvement in:
 - (a) The launch of the catchment group; and/or
 - (b) Field trips and other events and meeting with the catchment group, from time to time, to hear about progress and challenges.
3. Note progress of farming land use consents in the zone and Ahuriri catchment.
4. That the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee approach Otago Community Trust, Ross McRobie for support.
5. The Zone Committee strongly supports a collaborative approach by everyone in the catchment of the Ahuriri Arm to manage the water quality in the lake and actions and investigations relating to this.

CARRIED

5.8 IMMEDIATE STEPS BIODIVERSITY FUNDING DECISIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been prepared by Robert Carson-Iles (Biodiversity Officer, Environment Canterbury).

The purpose of this agenda paper is to allocate Immediate Steps (IMS) funding for the 2019/2020 financial year. \$105,000 of funding is available to be allocated.

Questions were raised at the meeting about costs being estimates, and what would happen in the event of a blow out of costs. It was accepted that although estimates, the costs would never be more. If both projects are approved, the total budget used for the current financial year will be \$81,000 (out of the \$105,000 allocated).

The meeting agreed that as these are good news projects, there is a need to consider how the their outcomes are communicated wider. Imagery before and after will be useful.

Discussion also took place about potential conflict of interest if one of committee members applied for IMS funding. It was agreed that there would not be a conflict if a committee member wanted to apply, however the affected member would have to stand aside during decision making processes affecting that particular project.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/32

Moved: Craig Dawson

Seconded: Richard Subtil

1. That the zone committee formally approve the following Immediate Steps Projects:
 - a) Otematata Wetlands Walkway Stage 3 (estimated funding from Immediate Steps of \$4,500 in 2019/20).

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/33

Moved: Matthew Bayliss

Seconded: Richard Subtil

- b) Upper Ohau weed control (estimated funding from Immediate Steps of \$45,000 in 2019/20, \$11,000 in 2020/21 and \$17,000 in 2021/22).

CARRIED

5.9 ZONE DELIVERY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The information was noted.

5.10 ZONE FACILITATORS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is from Ian Whitehouse, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

This report provides information that may be of interest to the zone committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The report was received.

The Meeting closed at 1.15pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2019.

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CHAIRPERSON