



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

20 September 2019

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY INN, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Simon Cameron (Chair), Lisa Anderson, Matthew Bayliss, Richard Subtil, John Sunckell, John Wilkie, Cr Stuart Barwood, Joy Paterson, Kieran Whyte

IN ATTENDANCE: Tami Woods (ECan), Graeme Clark (ECan), Brad Waldon-Gibbons (ECan), Irai Weepu (ECan), Bianca Sullivan (Enviser) Panther-Storm Sullivan, Connie Giquel (Executive Advisor to the Mayor and CEO, MDC), Jeremy Severinsen (DOC), Sara Eddington (DOC), John Benn (Doc)

1 OPENING

The Chair opened the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As per register.

4 VISITORS

Viv Smith-Campbell, Ohau Conservation Trust, Cr James Leslie (Deputy Mayor MDC), 2 members of the public, Members of the media (Ruth Grundy, Omarama Gazette), Rose Austen-Falloon Mackenzie Country Trust.

5 REPORTS

5.1 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The information was noted with the following amendments:

1. There was an error in conflicts of interest reported for Simon Cameron and Tami Woods will update the register with the correct information.

5.2 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING TIMETABLE

Not discussed

5.3 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 16 AUGUST 2019

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/47

Moved: Richard Subtil

Seconded: Cr Stuart Barwood

The Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 16 August 2019 were received with the below comments and the recommendations therein were adopted and 2 new recommendations made.

Cr Barwood sought clarification of Point 5.6 (Page 13) where Karina Morrow stated that the Tourism Strategy has been delayed until June 2020. Cr Barwood queried which tourism strategy is being referred to and Jeremy Severinsen suggested it's the Mackenzie District Council-led (MDC) Destination Mackenzie Project. Cr Barwood stated that the Destination Mackenzie Project has not been delayed and requested the context of the statement be investigated.

As the topic at the time was the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment programme of work, Tami Woods will follow up with Jeremy Severinsen as the Agency representative on the Working Group and provide feedback to the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Committee within one week.

Richard Subtil confirmed the Tourism Strategy referred to is the Destination Mackenzie Project but suggested that there is a blockage which is in process of being unlocked at a Hui between the CEs and the Papatipu Rūnanga.

Cr Barwood advised there was an earlier meeting planned with Mayor Graham Smith and the Papatipu Rūnanga but which had been called off. In the meantime MDC is missing MBIE set milestones in the Destination Mackenzie Project Funding Agreement. When MBIE entered into the funding agreement with MDC, the funding was conditional upon MDC working with DOC and its Treaty Partner on a co-design. MDC has set up a governance group comprising other agencies including NZTA, LINZ, DOC and MBIE and a promise was made by the respective agencies that they will work together. This blockage is a good example of how that has translated into how we haven't worked well together at all. The different agencies are operating under different legislative principals, so it's difficult to align.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee strongly recommends that those agencies find a way to work together.
2. The Committee recommends that staff update the Committee on progress with Destination Mackenzie within one week.

CARRIED

5.4 UPPER WAITAKI ZONE COMMITTEE - 2019 ACTION LIST

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report was from Tami Woods, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

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

Tami will start chasing up long outstanding actions.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/48

Moved: Member Richard Subtil

Seconded: Member Lisa Anderson

The report was received.

CARRIED

5.5 REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Regional Committee was provided with a Water Management Strategy progress report. It's a big piece of work that will cost approximately \$10m once completed. There are a few recommendations coming out of the report.

Other zone committees are committed to making it happen too, which is encouraging. Environmental degradation is generally slowing across the region.

There was a good presentation on fish screens and consistent standards for the use of these across the board. It will be a useful topic to bring to the Committee in the future. If there is a better way of doing things, it will be good for farmers to know about it. Tami Woods will follow up on the ECAN programme around compliance for fish screens.

Other topics included GIS mapping and cataloguing of areas of recreational value. The group considered it a great idea if the activity was in a single catchment area only, but to apply it to a larger area is a futile exercise. As quick as you map the areas, they will change.

The Committee were invited to do a presentation on activities in the Mackenzie including the impacts of rapid growth and tourism in demonstration of how passionate we are about dealing with the same impacts of tourism.

Despite the extensive travel time to go to the meeting, it's a worthwhile experience. Future continuity of representation through whoever is available at the time, will be useful. The next Regional Committee meeting is in December and Tami will circulate the date into calendars.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/49

Moved: Joy Paterson

Seconded: John Wilkie

The information was noted.

CARRIED

5.6 AHURIRI ARM LAKE TROPHIC LIMITS - NEXT STEPS UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report was from Tami Woods, Environment Canterbury.

This report provided an update on the Ahuriri Arm Lake Trophic Limits Response and progress update on the recommendations.

A meeting between ECan and consent holders took place on 19 September 2019 with 4 farmers represented. Farmers are under immense pressure from the community, particularly the 10 permit holders. It must be made clear that all properties in the catchment area are contributing, not just the 10 permit holders.

There is also a lot of support for ECan to provide support rather than farmers doing it themselves. A good discussion took place around options for the consent. Farmers will need to look at what GMP means for their farm so there is some homework to be done.

ECan is doing work around the Haldon Arm looking at the difference between doing monthly annual sampling of the lake TLI rather than 5-monthly sampling to help inform farmer decisions about changing consent conditions.

What is ECan views on collective action and collective response? Yesterday's meeting included 10 properties of 2.75 limits, and Tami Woods will be trying to engage a wider catchment group to address the issues wider.

At present there are 3-4 workstreams covering implementing the reductions required by the 10 consent holders required to make reductions, inequity issues with consents, GMP and compliance issue. Next steps will focus on issues of collective action insofar as how it should work or what it should look like.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/50

Moved: John Wilkie

Seconded: Richard Subtil

1. The report was received.
2. The Committee noted progress and endorsed the proposed next steps.

CARRIED

5.7 CLAY CLIFFS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report was from Graeme Clarke, Team Leader - Water Quality and Ecology, Environment Canterbury.

The report responded to the request by the Committee at its May meeting to sample sediment being eroded from Clay Cliffs and report the results back to the Committee.

Graeme Clarke advised that the report dealt with both the erosion of the Clay Cliffs and the phosphorus enrichment of Lake Benmore. Clay Cliffs been eroding for a number of years. Graeme took samples of the area and had them analysed for phosphorus. The results reported that the phosphorus levels in the Cliffs were very low.

Further analysis concluded that the total concentrations were considerably lower than the wider area. Approximately 2.5 ha has eroded, but not all of the sediment would have made it into the lake. ECan is trying to understand the impact on the lake delta as the sediment imagery is not that great. The samples should indicate what the river is doing so that the data results are as best we can have.

ECan doesn't see it as a large issue for algae risk at the moment but will be keeping an eye on it.

Is anyone measuring Ahururi Arm regularly? Following major flood events in the catchments, all the catchments become turbid. It could be worthwhile to consider any connections between the flood events, light penetration and weed growth. Graeme Clarke advises that ECan is looking to install a real time monitoring device towards the end of this financial year. All lakes in Upper Waitaki have become clearer over the time and on average is expected to remain like that for some time.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/51

Moved: John Wilkie

Seconded: Richard Subtil

1. The report was received.
2. The Committee recommended ECan follow up the report with a communication around the impact of erosion on the Clay Cliffs.

CARRIED

5.8 LAKE MIDDLETON

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report was from Ian Whitehouse, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury. This report summarised the Committee's visit to Lake Middleton. Discussion took place on what the Committee wishes to progress with regards to management of the lake.

Willow control – Tami Woods will get back to Committee as Gus is overseas at the moment.

Campground toilet – John Benn noted DOC is not aware the toilet is an issue. It's DOC's understanding that Waitaki District Council upgraded the toilet. There are other options to look at in the future, including a potential plumbing system into the village sewerage system. The Committee discussed potential arising issues with the upcoming A2O event. It is not just the campers around the lake that pose a problem. John Benn stated that DOC has big projects going on in the region, therefore toilet and other facilities at the lake are low priority at this stage. Education around the use of the toilet is key and adequate signage at the current toilet should address some of the issues.

Track around the lake – John noted DOC position on the track hasn't changed. DOC remains reluctant to put a track around the lake as the lake levels fluctuates so much that a track will become high maintenance. There is still a boundary issue on the side of the lake to be resolved too.

Ohau conservation trust – Viv Smith noted that DOC sees this as small fry compared to the bigger projects they are involved in, but it will be useful for DOC and the Trust to work together collaboratively and align on all projects no matter how small/large. The Trust is a useful platform to help with the small projects. The Trust advocated for a long time that agencies get together and draw up a plan for activities on Lake Middleton. The Trust can apply for funding to ECAN, DOC, Meridian and other avenues to help and assist with protection and enhancement around Lake Middleton. The Trust is happy to work as a conduit for this work to be done but for a start everyone must get together to work on a plan and then see where funding is needed.

DOC needs to take more of an active role in its responsibilities on crown land in the basin. An ongoing problem is the determination of the boundary of DOC land. Jeremy Severenson suggested that DOC is able to assist with funding a survey if this was a barrier to determining the boundary, however that will be subject to agreeing on a collective plan and who will lead it.

If a walkway can be done further down the track, then explore it at that time.

Although the recommendations reflect what the community wants to achieve, DOC is accountable to the Minister and not to communities. DOC is not saying they are ignoring communities, however anyone working with DOC now is working with DOC's Treaty Partner shoulder to shoulder and that needs to be taken into consideration when planning DOC projects.

John Wilkie raised the issue of oil slicks on the lake and questioned whether a ban of 2 strokes motors on the lake is possible? Locals are concerned about the high number of boats using the lake and at late hours at night.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/52

Moved: Matthew Bayliss

Seconded: Richard Subtil

1. The report was received.
2. Recommendations 1,2 and 4 were noted.
3. Recommendation 3 is not agreed as the Waitaki District Council has already upgraded the toilets. The Committee instead recommends that the organisers of the A20 event sign up to the "Leave no Trace NZ" organisation, ensure adequate messaging around toilet use by event participants and ensure more toilets around the event route, placed in better locations.
4. Committee recommends that DOC commission a survey report and then return to the Committee for a discussion around next steps.

CARRIED

5.9 MACKENZIE DRYLAND HERITAGE AREA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Jeremy Severinsen, Department of Conservation provided a verbal update on the Mackenzie Dryland Heritage Area. The Committee requested that future updates be provided in writing via a report to ensure a record of what DOC is committing to including a timeline and actions list.

Tami Woods will circulate a link to the video at the EDS Conference to the Committee following the meeting.

DOC acknowledged the Committee's patience and that there is little knowledge around what the Drylands project actually is while DOC is work through things behind the scenes. The name "Drylands Area" is mentioned in the Mackenzie Basin Alignment report. DOC is trying to get away from the idea of Park/lock and leave it, instead is referring to the area as a whole when they are looking at the biodiversity context and how species can thrive in the area.

DOC is committed to doing its job well on the land it owns. Pest control is a big part of doing their role well and wilding tree control is big investment. Action on the ground is a big focus too, especially how DOC invests in their Treaty partnership while exploring what a good Treaty partnership looks like.

Section 4 of Conservation Act is critical to all what DOC do. It was recently tested in the Supreme Court and the legislative context in the way that DOC operates, means what they are doing is giving effect to the Treaty partnership. DOC is committed to finding out what it means for Papatipu Rūnanga. The Project is in an early stage, and not in a co-design space yet.

DOC is keen to have a discussion around table around the context of protecting the drylands and species and what the Committee thought would be a good approach moving forward. This is due to DOC acknowledging meeting fatigue and the business of people and how it can influence participation in projects.

Richard Subtil queried how long the Dryland park initiative has been going for. DOC advises that active work has been ongoing for 12 months.

Joy Paterson talked about DOCs engagement efforts with the community which has been found lacking.

Rose Austen-Falloon of Mackenzie Trust queried how many leaseholders in the area having been approached for consultation by DOC. The Trust is keen to work with DOC and the Papatipu Rūnanga, but have been told to be patient while DOC works through its issues with its Treaty partner. The Trust would like to start talking about landowners and how they as a Trust can assist. They want to see a ground up community engagement programme to factor in what the communities of the basin want. It's an opportunity to do conservation in a different way.

Sara Eddington suggested the conversation is going further ahead than where Papatipu Rūnanga currently is and she is not aware of conversations about what they wish to do.

Jeremy Severinsen suggested it is important to consider the changing legislative context with the change of government and their focus. The previous government focussed on agencies, while the current Government is focussed on how the Crown, the community and the Treaty partner can work together to give effect to the Agreement.

The Committee gave a shout out to the Project Recovery team and the Water Management Committee who has worked with Treaty partner through-out.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/53

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Lisa Anderson

1. The information was noted.
2. The Committee recommends that Jeremy Severinsen draft a formal report on DOC timing and plans to see how it aligns with the Mackenzie Trust and the MDC District Plan for November.
3. The Committee recommends that DOC leverages existing groups who work well together already collaboratively.

CARRIED**5.10 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report was from Tami Woods, Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury.

This report provided information that may be of interest to the Zone Committee that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Discussion took place around the Government's Action for Healthy Waterways discussion document . The Committee cannot submit as an entity but individuals can. An informed person should report back on the final outcome to the Committee once finalised and explain how it fits in with Plan Change 5 and other requirements for Upper Waitaki.

In November, a Love your Lakes update will be provided.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2019/54

Moved: John Sunckell

Seconded: Lisa Anderson

The report was received.

CARRIED**Other matters arising:**

The Committee discussed an article in the Press named "River won't improve by itself" containing interactive Statistics NZ map that has incorrect information.

The Meeting closed at 12.38pm

The minutes of this meeting is to be confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2019.

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CHAIRPERSON