



MINUTES

Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting

19 June 2020

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TWIZEL EVENTS CENTRE LOUNGE, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 19 JUNE 2020 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Simon Cameron, Lisa Anderson, Matthew Bayliss, John Wilkie, Joy Paterson, Kieran Whyte, Cr Stuart Barwood, Michael McMillan

IN ATTENDANCE: Tami Woods (Ecan Facilitator), Chris Eccleston (Ecan), Graeme Clarke (Principal Science Advisor Ecan), Marty Mortiaux (Ecan), Dan Turner (Ecan), Haidee McCabe (Environmental Consultant), John Benn (DOC), Rick Ramsay (Alpine Salmon), Ruth Grundy (reporter from Omarama Gazette), Arlene Goss (Mackenzie District Council – Governance Advisor), and several more people who are not named.

1 OPENING

Michael McMillan opened the meeting and introduced himself as a new member of the committee.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Richard Subtil, Cr Ross McRobie, Cr Miriam Morton, and Cr John Sunckell.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This matter was addressed under Item 5.2.

4 VISITORS

Nadeine Dommissie (Ecan), Hamish Barrell (Waitaki DC) and Dave Wilkins (DOC) were welcomed to the meeting to update the committee on the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Programme.

5 REPORTS

5.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2020

The Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 21 February 2020 were noted. Cr Barwood was asked for an update on the Lake Alexandrina Management Plan. He said it had been delayed by Covid-19 and was starting up again. Facilitator Tami Woods offered to include this in the Facilitator's Update in future.

5.2 INTERESTS REGISTER

Tami Woods asked members to check their list of interests was up to date and notify her of any new interests.

Member Lisa Anderson declared an interest in item 5.5: Ahuriri Catchment Update, due later in meeting. She said she would leave the table during the discussion on this item.

5.3 ACTION LIST

Tami Woods apologised for not writing the letter to the district council supporting the connection of the Ruataniwha campground to the main Twizel sewer. She is doing this now.

Destination Mackenzie is meeting today. Terms of reference and consultants would be appointed by the end of June. Discussion took place on the need to address the environmental impact of tourism on the district when tourism activity resumes.

Joy Paterson asked for an update on a hydrology study Kellands Ponds and Wairepo Arm. Staff said this was progressing and the results would be reported back to the committee. A resolution was passed.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/65

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson
Seconded: Cr Stuart Barwood

That the report be received.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/66

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson
Seconded: Mr John Wilkie

That staff follow up with the work on the hydrology of Kellands Pond and Wairepo Arm, as noted in the action list on page 21 of the agenda, including the relationship between ground and surface water.

CARRIED

5.4 ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE TOILET USE AT RUATANIWHA

Kate Doran was unable to be at the meeting so Tami Woods spoke to this report. She offered to circulate an article that was published on the Stuff website.

The committee noted it was not just Lake Ruataniwha, but the whole area that required responsible toilet use. Users of the Alps2Ocean trail would pick up soon.

A group that includes committee members would further this work.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/67

Moved: Ms Lisa Anderson
Seconded: Ms Joy Paterson

That the committee recommend the development of a communications campaign to raise awareness of responsible toilet use at Lake Ruataniwha to be developed and created in collaboration with key stakeholders ahead of summer 2020/21.

CARRIED

5.5 AHURIRI CATCHMENT UPDATE

Member Lisa Anderson declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting table during this discussion.

This report provided information on the Lake Trophic Level Limit (TLI) result for 2019/20 and implications for consent holders. It also included an update on actions that occurred in 2019 and early 2020 and the on-going risks that remain about the TLI in the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore being exceeded in future years.

Facilitator Tami Woods introduced this paper and said she would not be going through the section on ongoing issues today. The discussion on ongoing issues would be led by Richard Subtil at a future meeting.

She then went through the rest of the report, noting the TLI had been 2.9 and was now at 2.75.

Questions were asked of Graeme Clarke (Principal Science Advisor) about the process of water sampling and trends in the TLI since 2009, when sampling began. The lag time between changes in land use and changes in water quality was about five years.

Tami Woods outlined the actions taken in response to the zone committee's recommendations, on page 27 of the agenda.

Haidee McCabe, environmental consultant, explained the current situation with farm consents, farm environment plans, and the view of farmers that stricter enforcement was required to bring some farms to a higher standard.

The chairman said the committee could keep encouraging Environment Canterbury to continue to monitor, carry out more science, develop more understanding of the data and do more enforcement. He suggested a break and then the committee could come back fresh and work on a resolution.

The committee stopped for morning tea at 10.44am and reconvened at 11.09am.

Following discussion the committee drafted the resolutions below and they were carried.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/68

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Ms Joy Paterson

That the Committee:

1. Recommends to staff an increased focus on compliance monitoring in the Ahuriri catchment, with a focus on delivering good management practice and a consistent approach to enforcement.
2. Recommends that Environment Canterbury commits to work with farmers to understand and make better use of the local data.

3. Recommends that work be undertaken to establish the impact of the work carried out on the Omarama stream, with the results shared with the catchment group and the zone committee.

CARRIED

Member Lisa Anderson returned to the meeting table.

The chairman noted that he had not asked for introductions at the start of the meeting and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

5.6 MACKENZIE BASIN AGENCY ALIGNMENT PROGRAMME

Nadeine Dommissie (Environment Canterbury), Hamish Barrell (Waitaki District Council) and Dave Wilkins (Department of Conservation) were welcomed to the meeting to give a presentation on the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Programme. They gave an apology on behalf of Ann Rodgers (Mackenzie District Council) who was unable to attend. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation, the water zone committee was asked what focus areas it was interested in and how it would like to be engaged.

- Discussions between the Mayor's/Chairs and tangata whenua representatives were being organised and would take place.
- On ground work was considered to be most important.
- Regarding strategic work around tourism, Nadeine Dommissie recognised the work currently underway in this area and said tourism was one of the priorities for the alignment. There is an opportunity for the councils to work together on this issue.
- Joy Patterson said the Department of Conservation is re-thinking the impact of tourism on the national park.

Discussion took place on funding sources and projects. It was noted that there were a lot of opportunities to get money into the district and the more they could coordinate and work together the better.

Tami Woods noted a shared interest in mahinga kai, and also an action in relation to the dryland heritage area. The committee wanted to understand the timing of this. The chair also mentioned wilding pines having an impact on the water shed.

Further discussion took place on the need for alignment between agencies. Is there a need for someone in the region in the role of "trusted advisor" to work with people and agencies to make the process easier, as a stop gap while they work on getting plans aligned?

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/69

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Ms Lisa Anderson

That the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee notes:

- a. the background information about the Alignment Programme;
- b. the progress made through the Alignment Programme to date; and
- c. the six focus areas for 2020 and current activities.

CARRIED

5.7 ZONE FACILITATOR UPDATE

Facilitator Tami Woods asked members to have a look at the update. She talked about the review of the zone committees. She also suggested that Dan Turner could talk at a future meeting about the role of camping ambassadors in the Mackenzie district.

Chris Eccleston added information about government funding that is starting to become available, particularly for riparian planting. He said staff could help people with their applications, and asked for feedback on projects that could feed into this process. Any work in the Ahuriri catchment to help mitigate nutrient loss would be good.

Member Joy Paterson raised the issue of weeds in the Twizel River bed. Where does she go to address this? Tami Woods offered to find out who has the statutory responsibilities for this area. Discussion followed on the need for a solution for all the river beds in the area because this was a district-wide problem.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2020/70

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Mr Michael McMillan

That the report be received.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed with a karakia from Michael McMillan at 12.38pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on 17 July 2020.

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CHAIRPERSON