



Mackenzie

DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management
Committee Meeting**

19 August 2022

**MINUTES OF MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL
UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MACKENZIE COUNTRY HOTEL, TWIZEL
ON FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST 2022 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Chairperson Simon Cameron, Joy Paterson, Kieran Whyte, Cr Stuart Barwood, Rynee de Garnham, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Michael McMillan

IN ATTENDANCE: Janine Roux (Facilitator), Chris Eccleston, Dave Moore (minute-taker), Murray Griffin (Teams), Adrienne Lomax (Teams) (all environment Canterbury), Lisa Heinz (Waitaki Whitestone Geopark), Bridget Pringle (Irricon), John Benn (DOC), Rick Ramsay and Douglas Lee (Aquaculture Group), Marcelo Carena, Adriana Theobald

1 OPENING

The meeting opening with a karakia from Keiran Whyte followed by introductions around the room.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/98

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That the apology received from Cr be accepted and leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 VISITORS

There were no visitors.

5 REPORTS

5.1 MINUTES OF UPPER WAITAKI ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 20 MAY 2022

Correction – page 8. No official meetings in August. To be corrected to October due to Council elections. No further corrections.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/99

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That the Minutes of the Upper Waitaki Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held on Friday 20 May 2022 be received and confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting, with the correction mentioned above.

CARRIED

5.2 INTERESTS REGISTER

No changes.

5.3 WAITAHA IMPACT TO ACTION FUND UPDATE

Adrienne Lomax gave an overview of the Waitaha Impact to Action fund. Discussion included where and how to apply (Janine Roux to circulate this information to the committee via email); eligibility criteria including how projects need to engage the community; and the ability to use funds to pay for contracts.

Simon asked whether the fund can be used for science projects. Yes, but important for groups to show how it would fit within the community engagement criteria.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/100

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Cr Stuart Barwood

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee receives these updates for its information and with consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities.

CARRIED

5.4 WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK UPDATE

Lisa Heinz, Manager Whitestone Geopark, presented a PowerPoint presentation.

She explained that their team are working with the Alps to ocean (A2O) on how they can better integrate their work; for example through their touring app. This could also be used to link in with the Zone Committee's Love Our Lakes Campaign.

Joy Paterson asked about any high-country activity that the group may be planning as most activities seem to be closer to coastal areas at this stage. Lisa explained there is scope around Omarama especially and they have been involved in a few planting events around Ohau community. More to come in the future.

Marcelo questioned the impact of visitors to the region if the group is successful in achieving UNESCO accreditation. Lisa explained that there is not much research done to date that she is aware of and it is hard to compare with overseas examples. Likelihood is that Tourism NZ and Air NZ would promote.

Marcelo also asked about impact on the environment. The group aims to balance visitor numbers and infrastructure and wants to encourage visitors to stay longer. There are conversations

underway with relevant parties to develop some of the access roads to different sites. However, while 42 geo sites have been identified as significant, several of these are on private land so cannot be accessed by tourists without permission. Some sites have been picked up in the Waitaki District Plan review.

Noted that visitors need to be more educated on what to do and not to do and need to take ownership as well.

John Benn asked how many geoparks are there in the world and on what scale? 177 geoparks, none in NZ, Australia or Pacific. The proposed Waitaki park has a very large geographic area but small population size. A lot are in Europe and Asia and have been going a long time. Networking is very beneficial for learning and Lisa is catching up with them, particularly ones in China.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/101

Moved: Mr Kieran Whyte

Seconded: Member Michael McMillan

That the report be received.

CARRIED

5.5 UPPER WAITAKI WATER ZONE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2021-2024 PROGRESS REPORT

Janine summarised what was achieved in last financial year and challenges such as COVID restrictions.

Cr Elizabeth MacKenzie asked about increasing occurrences of Cyanobacteria and what is being done about it? Is the zone committee looking at options such as decreasing sediment, nutrients, increasing flows? It was explained that Shirley Haywood (Environment Canterbury) presented on this in the past in relation to the Twizel River and that Environment Canterbury would be focusing on further education in the coming year. Noted that the Zone Committee are also looking into a catchment wide approach and including both urban and rural community for the area.

Marcelo asked about an update on Overseer. This was discussed later in the meeting. Also asked if the Zone Committee would consider how fuel boats vs electric boats are impacting the lakes. Unsure how this can be measured.

Discussed how to better engage with Takapo community. Simon noted good work is being done around Alexandrina. Stuart explained that Mackenzie District Council are reviewing the district plan and will likely include lakes McGregor and Alexandrina. Zone Committee members might want to submit on this when the opportunity arises.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/102

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Mr Kieran Whyte

That the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee receives this update for its information and with consideration to the committee's 2021-2024 Action Plan priorities.

CARRIED

5.6 OMARAMA STREAM WATER USERS GROUP PROJECT UPDATE

Bridget Pringle, project manager of group presented a PowerPoint presentation.

She thanked the zone committee for funding and confirmed that a full report will be presented to the group at the end of the project.

Cr Elizabeth McKenzie asked whether soil type assessments and microbiology were being considered in the study? Bridget would refer this to Jana (their science expert) - it will be noted in the summary report.

Cr Elizabeth McKenzie noted that in Ōtūwharekai (Ashburton Lakes) all farms had received A grades for their Farm Environment Plan (FEP) audits however the area was still having problems. Is this also being taken into consideration in this project? Bridget explained that consent conditions in Omarama are unequal and the group was working together to meet the tightest conditions. Everyone acknowledges that an A grade FEP did not necessarily mean the farm was having no impact.

Marcelo, explained that cultivars need to also be considered. Often that are not adapted to these types of high-country conditions and believes there should be work on adapting forage to this area.

Bridget said that one farm in their catchment is moving to regenerative farming. People are interesting to see the outcomes of this type of farming in the area.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/103

Moved: Ms Joy Paterson

Seconded: Chairperson Simon Cameron

That the report be received.

CARRIED

5.7 ZONE FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Janine acknowledged Simon and Joy for their years of work and presented a card/gift.

Simon expressed his satisfaction and enjoyment for the role.

Matt Bayliss emailed through information around the Twizel River recreational area. Very positive discussions with Mackenzie District Council on special plan. Janine/Matt asked if the committee would supported through the CWMS Action Plan budget? The group agreed in principle to support this however felt they needed to see the amount required.

Overseer update – Farm Environment Plan audits are now continuing following initial hold. Environment Canterbury are still working on the consenting process for this lower Canterbury area. Janine also explained that Intensive Winter Grazing flyovers are being trialled in Northern Canterbury area.

New monitoring equipment being installed by Environment Canterbury at Lake Benmore. More details will be available to the zone committee in due course. The main unit is installed just waiting on sensors before the unit is operational. Rick Ramsay asked if an update could include what the unit is actually monitoring e.g. PH, turbidity, Dissolved Organic Carbon etc.

General Business

Elizabeth – updated the zone committee on the water bottle consent decision in Christchurch. Explained that transferring an existing consent to a completely different use can no longer be done automatically.

Chris Eccleston addressed the committee. He is changing roles within Environment Canterbury and has been seconded into a customer engagement/experience for 18 months. He has really enjoyed his time with the group.

John Benn gave a DOC update. Explained that Karina Morrow Operations Manager in Twizel is leaving. DOC is still keen to hold discussion with MDC regarding the Twizel River reserve project proposed by the zone committee.

Twizel river recreation project. DOC really keen for it to go ahead.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION UPP/2022/104

Moved: Cr Stuart Barwood

Seconded: Mr Kieran Whyte

That the report be received.

CARRIED

The Meeting closed at 11.17pm.

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

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CHAIRPERSON