

ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL, MAIN STREET, FAIRLIE, ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017 AT 1.30PM

PRESENT John Talbot (Chairperson), Clr David Anderson, Kylee Galbraith, Mandy Home, Ivon Hurst, Clr Anne Munro, James Pearse, Ad Sintenie and Mark Webb

APOLOGIES Hamish McFarlane, Clr Lan Pham and Clr Richard Lyon

IN ATTENDANCE Clr Tom Lambie, Clr Peter Scott (until 3.20pm), Suzanne Eddington (Waihao Marae), Nic Newman (Facilitator), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Raymond Ford (Principal Planner), Alexia Foster-Bohm (ECan), Craig Davison (ECan), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer) (Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner and Community Lead), Graeme Clarke (Ecology Scientist), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist), Kate Doran (ECan), Tania Harris (ECan), Julia Crossman (Opuha Water Ltd), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Jan Finlayson (until 2pm) Helen Tatham (media).

1 KARAKIA

The meeting began with a karakia from Suzanne Eddington.

2 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no additional interests advised.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – COMMITTEE MEETING 6 MARCH 2017

Proposed Kylee Galbraith
Seconded Clr Anne Munro

“That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 6 March 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

MOTION CARRIED

4 COMMUNITY FORUM

Jan Finlayson addressed the meeting on the ability of tussocks to increase the water yield and regulate flow in a catchment, and also regulate flow, noting a number of studies have been done on this issue.

Bruce Allan and John Benn indicated they also wished to speak on this topic and would defer their comments until the Tussock Cover and Water Yield report in the agenda is considered.

5 FACILITATOR UPDATE

The Facilitator gave a brief verbal update.

6 REGIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chairman advised that there has not been a full Regional Committee meeting since the last OTOP meeting. While there have been some subcommittee meetings he was unavailable to attend. A more detailed report will be provided at the next meeting.

7 NCHECK

Peter Constantine presented the report by Tami Woods on NCheck, an alternative method (to Overseer) of determining nitrogen loss below the root zone. It was emphasised that NCheck has been approved for the Selwyn Waihora catchment only although OTOP could consider requesting that NCheck be approved for use in the OTOP zone if the Committee felt it appropriate. However once Plan Change 5 becomes operative, and the portal becomes live, a nutrient loss calculator will be available within the portal. While NCheck is not a substitute for Overseer, it would give a land user an understanding of where they may sit. It was pointed out that NCheck predetermines that the property is operating under Good Management Practice.

8 MANAGEMENT OF PLANTATION FORESTS IN FLOW SENSITIVE CATCHMENTS IN THE OTOP ZONE

Raymond Ford and Dan Clark spoke to the report providing a brief overview of the management of plantation forests in flow sensitive catchments in the OTOP zone including the effects of plantation forests on water yield and the policies and rules in the LWRP that regulate new forestry in flow sensitive catchments.

The report recommended that the existing controls in the Land and Water Regional Plan are adequate but the Committee expressed some concern with the current provisions and requested more information in order that the Committee can gain a greater understanding of the issue before forming a view as to the controls needed. For example, the Committee would like to know what links the areas on the map? What is the rationale? What are the District Plan provisions? Further detail is sought on what the District Plan provisions are for Waimate, Mackenzie and Timaru District Councils, noting that there should be alignment through the zone. These issues will be investigated and reported back to the Committee.

The Committee supported work being undertaken to assess whether the Orari Catchment is a flow sensitive catchment.

Proposed Ivon Hurst
Seconded Mandy Home

- a "That further work be undertaken in the Orari Catchment to establish whether it is a flow sensitive catchment.
- b That if the Orari is determined to be a flow sensitive catchment, the Land and Water Regional Plan be amended to include the Orari Catchment.
- c That further information be sought on current regulations and District Plan provisions in the Mackenzie, Waimate and Timaru District Plans in regard to forestry plantations and how these rules are expected to produce the results.
- d That the list of issues raised in the workshop (including the basis for classifying a catchment as flow sensitive, current plan provisions, and other matters) be investigated and reported back to the Committee."

MOTION CARRIED

9 TUSSOCK COVER AND WATER YIELD IN THE UPPER OTOP CATCHMENTS

The Committee considered a report by Dan Clark on tussock cover and water yield in the Upper OTOC Catchments. Tussocks intercept more water and provide higher water yield, and lower evapotranspiration than pasture. ECan has investigated what risks there are in the OTOC catchments in relation to land use change associated with converting from tussocks to pasture.

Bruce Allan and John Benn expressed their concerns about the current rules around the protection of tussock.

While the report recommended that the current level of protection for tussock cover in the District Plans is adequate, the Committee was not sufficiently convinced that this is the case, and asked for further information to increase Committee members' understanding of the issue, based on the factors raised in the workshop. The Committee agreed that it is important to have alignment between the sub-regional plan and the local authority District Plans.

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded David Anderson

“That the Committee requests further information as follows –

- Links between change in tussock cover and catchment yield
- Factors driving loss of tussock cover
- District Plan/Regional Plan provisions
- Other tools available for District and Regional Plans
- Other related matters.”

MOTION CARRIED

10 COMAR PRESENTATION

Committee member Mandy Home gave a presentation on the programme for assessing cultural requirements of whanau in the area, highlighting sites of importance, the significance of our rivers to the community, and requesting minimum flows for each river.

The Committee asked how the study will fit with the Healthy Catchments Project. Dan Clark explained that ECan is working on what current minimum flows look like and how they compare with the cultural recommendations from the runanga, as well as flows for the Orari and Pareora, and ecological minimum flows. This will be worked into the Healthy Catchments Project and a report will be presented to the Committee.

11 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee considered the report on the community workshops held in March. Alexia FosterBohm further updated the Committee on feedback from the workshops. In response to a query as to the timeframe for the Healthy Catchments Project, the meeting was advised that potentially the September deadline may now be extended to the end of the year. The timeline will be reviewed and a revised timeline will be reported to the Committee.

12 SALTWATER CREEK

Rhys Taylor advised that as a result of the OTOP decision at the March meeting, a working group is being established to investigate the Saltwater Creek issues, with the first meeting being held this month. Feedback and recommendations will be reported to the Committee.

13 OTOP 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee was tabled. The report will be presented to the local authorities by the OTOP Chairman.

Proposed Mark Webb
Seconded Clr Anne Munro

“That the 2016 Annual Report for the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Management Committee be adopted.”

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting closed at 4.30pm with a karakia.

Chairperson