

## **ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF AN ORARI-TEMUKA-OPIHI-PAREORA ZONE WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT SOPHEZE ON THE BAY, TIMARU, ON MONDAY 3 JULY 2017 AT 2.30PM**

**PRESENT** John Talbot (Chairperson), Clr David Anderson, Kylee Galbraith, John Henry, Ivon Hurst, Clr Richard Lyon (until 4.50pm), Hamish McFarlane, Clr Anne Munro, James Pearse, Clr Lan Pham, Ad Sintenie and Mark Webb

**APOLOGY** Mandy Home

**IN ATTENDANCE** Barbara Nicholas (Facilitator), Barb Gilchrist (Facilitator), Dan Clark (Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead), Craig Davison (Senior Planner), Michael Hide (Zone Implementation Team Manager), Peter Constantine (Principal Planning Officer) Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner and Community Lead), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist), Kate Doran (ECan), Peter Ramsden (Tangata Whenua facilitator), Sue Eddington (Waihao), Janet Gregory (NZ Landcare Trust), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Kate Doran (ECan), Prue Thirkettle (National Council of Women), Clr Peter Scott (ECan), Clr Tom Lambie (ECan), Grant Hall (Timaru District council Drainage and Water Manager), Tony McCormick, Julia Crossman, Milne Horne (Opuha Water Ltd), representatives of Geraldine Water Solutions, representatives of Forest and Bird Society, Mark Oldfield, Dermott O'Sullivan, Elena McPhee (Timaru Herald).

#### **1 REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

There were no additional interests advised.

#### **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – COMMITTEE MEETING 12 JUNE 2017**

Proposed Mark Webb

Seconded Lan Pham

“That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 June 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.”

MOTION CARRIED

#### **3 FACILITATOR UPDATE**

The new OTOP Facilitator Barb Gilchrist briefly reported that having been in the role for only 4 weeks, the work has been concentrated on preparation for the workshops toward the ZIP Addendum and the solutions package.

#### **4 PLAN CHANGE 5**

Craig Davison gave a presentation to the Committee on Plan Change 5 – explaining the outcomes, essential information, permitted and consented activities and the farm portal. Plan Change 5 gives certainty to farmers and

provides catchment accounting. How Plan Change 5 affects farmers, depends on individual circumstances and is site specific.

PC5 rules do not apply until it is made operative, however the policies apply now. PC5 requires farming activities to operate at GMP, but the GMP limits do not apply until 2020, what applies now, is the farm's baseline. He referred to the Good Management Practice booklet as an industry agreed guide to GMP.

The requirements around permitted activities were outlined, in particular the winter grazing limits, and the need to prepare a farm management plan which must include basic property information and on farm actions in regard to water, effluent, fertiliser application and storage, stock exclusion and riparian management. An explanation was provided as to when a resource consent is required and what you need to do if the farm requires a consent, working through the farm portal.

## **5 LANDCARE TRUST REPORT**

The Committee considered the final report from the Landcare Trust on the OTOP catchment group project. The Chairman thanked Janet Gregory for her work on the project and the energy and attention she gave to the task, which has made a real difference. He noted that there has been some disappointment as to what the Committee originally expected from the project versus what was realistically achieved.

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

The following groups made presentations to the Committee -

### **Opuha Water Ltd (OWL)**

Milne Horne (Chairman) and Tony McCormick (Chief Executive) gave a presentation in support of OWL's written report, on OWL's views on potential outcomes and solutions for the OTOP zone. The report included detailed recommendations on what OWL would like to see in the subregional plan. OWL would value further engagement with the Committee as part of the solutions process.

### **Geraldine Water Solutions (GWS)**

Further to the GWS written report, Geraldine Water Solutions Chairman Nick Ward gave a presentation on the Geraldine Water Solutions group, which is a farmer initiated group formed by consent holders in 2016. The group has strong support from the farming community. The group is working towards funding a feasibility study to investigate bringing new water into the zone. The group believes that the new water scenario did not consider the potential advantages of new water. Better information (eg ecological flow assessments, economic and social impact assessments) is needed to make good decisions in regard to the subregional plan. It was noted that any new water would be going on farm land only and not going into the rivers.

The report included GWS recommendations for OTOP's consideration for the subregional plan, particularly around the new water option and asking that sufficient time be built into the process to identify and fully investigate solutions to the environmental challenges the zone faces.

### **Adaptive Management Regime**

Julia Crossman and Mark Webb presented the proposed adaptive river management regime for the Opihi River, which has been developed by the Adaptive Management Working Group over the last six months, and is based on the experience of the 18 years of the Opuha Dam's operation. The presentation supported the detailed written report provided to the Committee.

The AMWG group believes that the flexibility and adaptability of the proposed regime will provide better environmental, economic, cultural and recreational outcomes for the Opihi catchment than the current regime in the Opihi River Regional Plan (ORRP).

The presenters further explained the two levels of water shortage proposed as part of the adaptive regime – Level 1 Conservative and Level 2 Extreme. A more varied method of determination of a water shortage event is being suggested, using a trigger based on Potential Available Volume (PAV), together with a number of other triggers. An explanation was given of the minimum flows proposed for both levels and proposed irrigation restriction system for Levels 1 and 2.

The group is seeking acceptance of the Adaptive Management Regime for inclusion in the sub regional plan and looks to engage further with the Zone Committee in the solutions phase.

### **Forest and Bird Society**

Forest and Bird Society Field Officer Fraser Ross talked to the Committee about the organisation's projects and concerns and requesting the Healthy Catchment Project widen its scope to broader catchment health rather than focussing on water. Forest and Bird believes there is a biodiversity crisis as a result of intensification in South Canterbury, especially on the plains and OTOP should be involved in preventing any further degradation. The society is concerned at the effect of storage facilities on the environment and the unintended impact these are having eg Levels Plain Irrigation Scheme and resultant problems at Seadown.

Reference was made to the research of Alan Mark of Otago University regarding maximising water yield with indigenous vegetation.

Forest and Bird is seeking the right solution that benefits the environment, biodiversity, recreation and farming. The Society does not want any more water brought into the zone, no more intensification and no further increases in cow numbers.

The meeting concluded at 5pm with a karakia from Peter Ramsden.

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Chairperson