

MINUTES

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone
Committee Meeting**

Monday, 5 August 2019

**Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 5 August 2019 at 1pm**

Present: Hamish McFarlane (Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, Clr Richard Lyon, Lucy Millar, Clr Anne Munro, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith

In Attendance: Lesley Woudberg (CWMS Team Leader Facilitator), Clr Peter Scott, Brian Reeves Zone Delivery Lead, Brad Waldon-Gibbons (ECan Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Josh Earnshaw (Timaru Boys High School), Hannah Dunlop (Team Leader Youth Engagement), Debbie Eddington (ECan Youth Engagement Advisor), Irai Weepu (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Karl Russell (Arowhenua Runanga), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Coordinator), Aaron Wilson-Jones, John Benn (Department of Conservation), Lloyd McMillan (Temuka Community Board), Jan Finlayson (Geraldine Community Board), Kate Doran (ECan Communications), Matthew Littlewood (Timaru Herald)

The meeting opened with a Karakia from Irai Weepu.

1 Apologies

Committee Resolution 2019/7

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Lucy Millar

That apologies from Clr Lan Pham, John Henry, Mark Webb, Phil Driver, Clr David Anderson and Herstatt Ullrich be accepted.

Carried

2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

A request was made for updated information on the Pareora Flow Allocation Position being made available for the next meeting.

3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

There were no minor nature items.

4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Community Forum

As there were a number of people in the public gallery, attendees briefly introduced themselves.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019

John Benn advised that DOC has now appointed a new ranger at Geraldine, who will soon take up the Rangitata Restoration Ranger role.

Strategy – Committee members were asked to think about whether meetings are to be held in other locations throughout the zone and also think about what issues the committee may want to focus on.

Temuka stopbank – Clr Scott will check that a response has been provided to Arowhenua Rūnanga on the Temuka stopbank issue.

Terms of Reference – Discussion is taking place on the Terms of Reference across the region as to as to whether they are still fit for purpose and amendments to ensure the correct runanga representation will be part of any subsequent changes. It was agreed to leave the item on the agenda until it is resolved.

Clr Scott advised that the regional committee is looking at the 100-150 CWMS targets and how these are implemented, possibly with the assistance of catchment groups as a possible avenue to progress.

Committee Resolution 2019/8

Moved: Ms Lucy Millar

Seconded: Ms Suzanne Eddington

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, subject to an amendment in clause 7.1 Immediate Steps Biodiversity Funding Project Proposals noting that the additional \$400 (rounding funding up to \$105,000) was to be allocated to the Rockburn Bat Habitat Fencing project.

Carried

7 Reports

7.1 Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Update

Community Engagement Officer Rhys Taylor presented his report on the Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group, including a power point on the investigative work associated with the Saltwater Creek weir and the liaison with the rowing club on flow issues with the creek.

Investigations have confirmed that the creek is a rainwater dependent catchment, not a springfed catchment and at times experiences very low flows. The catchment group is working with the Timaru Rowing Club to investigate possible solutions to the low flow issues such as altering the summer flow, extracting silt from the key area of the creek (although this would be expensive and would involve gaining resource consent), possible redesign of the weir and ensuring the weir does not leak significant amounts of water. Investigations to date indicate that leakage from the weir is not substantial.

The Committee also noted the non statutory recommendations from the OTO ZIPA as they relate to the catchment. Committee members were encouraged to attend the Wild Day at the Wetland on 14 September.

7.2 Catchment Groups Update and Plan Change 7

Discussion on the Otipua/Saltwater Creek Catchment Group led on to discussion on catchment groups in general.

It has become apparent that there is a need to reconnect with the 7 catchment groups. Following the focus on contributing to the development of the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum, some catchment groups need encouragement to continue their role and activities. It may be beneficial for some groups to meet as a combined unit, especially for tasks such as submitting on Plan Change 7.

The work of the catchment groups, supported by the Community Engagement Officers, is helping towards the achievement of targets but there needs to be more integration between zone committees and non statutory groups.

The Committee discussed the possibility of forming incorporated societies, such as in the Pareora catchment. However it was noted that this brings additional obligations for financial reporting and the like. Having a community based group allows flexibility to follow the issues and champion the cause at a grass roots level tapping into local knowledge and care for the local area. For Otipua/Saltwater Creek, there is no formal membership structure, people interested in an event/activity turn up on the day. This means that the Facilitator plays a key role as there is no committee structure. However if a group is dealing with significant amounts of money, then an incorporated society has a place.

Glen Smith reported on the Combined Waihi/Te Moana catchment group which met recently to discuss Plan Change 7 and the major changes that will affect that catchment. There was a good attendance, proving that these groups need a purpose to get together. The meeting provided an opportunity to voice concerns and be heard and was attended by people with various levels of knowledge and included representatives of companies such as Balance, Barkers and Fonterra as well as land owners, and individuals interested in the issues. The discussion was supported by a Land Management Advisor and Facilitator. Having a Planner in attendance would have been valuable.

Plan Change 7 takes concentrated reading and interpretation as to how it translates to what land users can and cannot do. The Waihi/Te Moana meeting demonstrated that there are some misunderstandings as to what is meant by some of the clauses in the Plan Change. It would be useful at an early stage if ECan did some work on the meaning of some of the clauses to provide clarification. Frequently Asked Questions would be useful.

Some people are only realising now that the Plan Change is happening and its potential impact on their activities. People need to be encouraged to submit to ensure they can be part of any changes to the proposed plan change.

Clr Munro reported on the Te Ngawai catchment group, which is proposing to hold a meeting to update and familiarise members with Plan Change 7, the meeting will be held in time for people to submit on the document. It was suggested that a combined Te Ngawai/Upper Opihi catchment group meeting be held and that a planner be asked to attend.

7.3 Education and Awareness

The Committee received a presentation from Youth Engagement Officers and local high school student Josh Earnshaw on what is happening in the youth engagement space.

The Youth Engagement and Education officers talked about how best to engage with youth, how to get zone topics discussed by young people, and activities designed to keep the topics relevant to the youth sector, nurturing the next generation. Such activities as pizza and discussion nights, which were instigated by the young people themselves and are led by the young attendees, have proved to be successful. ECan operates as the resource and provides the opportunity for the young people to have a voice and feed upwards to decisions makers.

The Committee noted the need to provide continuing opportunities for young people to retain their interest at high school level, and keep it 'cool' to be involved in these environmental issues. Students like Josh are paving the way but resources are needed to make this happen, and the programme needs local champions.

Sue Eddington advised that she could suggest possible contacts that may provide sponsorship for local youth engagement activities.

The Committee supported the programme for involvement with schools and suggested that the Zone Committee could be used as a resource for that programme. Catchment groups could be involved in the information stream and the Zone Committee could be the entity to bring all the information streams together.

It was agreed that contact for the local programme be through Debbie Eddington – debbie.eddington@ecan.govt.nz 027 687 5344.

Clr Peter Scott and Luke Reihana (with the help of Debbie Eddington and Hannah Dunlop) volunteered to help Josh Earnshaw organise and support a Friday night pizza and discussion group for South Canterbury youth. Other members offered their time and support for future events.

7.4 Chairpersons/Deputy Chairperson Report on July Meeting

The Chairperson reported on the Zone Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons meeting held on 10 July. The meeting was an open forum for the sharing of ideas. The last meeting was 2 years ago with last year being the Watershed conference. The challenges raised by the chairs had common themes – such as finding their place in the world, where to next for zone committees after the subregional process?

Issues and concerns raised at the forum included

- concern that the work will be Christchurch-centric,
- not enough work will be achieved on the ground, especially after the level of community engagement that took place,
- concern at lack of funds and perceived lack of control to achieve outcomes.
- Ngai Tahu has very legitimate grievances that need to be addressed.
- Concern in some areas about the balance of zone committees – sometimes reflective of the issues.
- Concern at the pressure from central government – freshwater drinking standards, national policy on freshwater nitrates, new regional policy statement for all councils, change in the

national planning standards, national policy statement for biodiversity - the pace and rate of change over the next year will be a challenge and may cause stress in the community.

- How do Zone Committees stay relevant, workplans going forward.

Terms of Reference for zone committees are being reviewed, with a view to enabling zone committees to drive on the ground actions. There was discussion on whether to have another Watershed forum early next year, which was supported. Any ideas on themes or outcomes from the OTOP zone members would be welcome.

7.5 Facilitator's Report

The Facilitator's report was considered. Further discussion took place on youth engagement and it was agreed that it would be good to create a forum for young people in South Canterbury to engage their interest and keep them interested.

7.6 Zone Strategy

Clr Lan Pham and the Senior Planner and Community Lead Lyn Carmichael were to provide a follow up on the Committee's Strategy for the work plan going forward. However due to them not being able to attend today's meeting it was agreed to defer the strategy discussion until the next meeting.

The Committee had a general discussion on the strategy going forward agreeing that catchment groups need to be supported, youth engagement could have a greater focus, biodiversity and rock art could also be a focus.

The appointment of the cultural land management advisor will be valuable. Also there is a need for continuity in community engagement advisors, as there is concern that currently facilitators and community engagement advisors having a finite life, yet their role is an effective way of reaching a lot of people.

The Zone Committee could facilitate groups helping to connect with potential sponsors eg Trustpower – assisting in where to go for financial resources, or helping to write applications, and facilitating in a variety of ways.

7.7 Possible Media Stories

The meeting noted that a media story on the Saltwater Creek issue had already been produced by the Timaru Herald, during the course of the meeting.

Plan change 7 is currently being advertised, and a suitable media story from the Chairman is being prepared, encouraging people to submit on the Plan Change.

The Meeting closed at 4.20pm with a karakia from Clr Scott.

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Chairperson