

# **MINUTES**

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone  
Committee Meeting  
Monday, 2 December 2019**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting  
Held in the Meeting Room 1, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Monday, 2 December 2019 at 1pm**

**Present:** Hamish McFarlane (Chairman), Phil Driver (until 2.10pm and from 3.05pm), Sue Eddington, Clr Elizabeth McKenzie, Lucy Millar, Clr Anne Munro (until 3.55pm), Clr Tom O'Connor, Clr Lan Pham, Glen Smith, Herstatt Ulrich (until 4pm) and Mark Webb

**In Attendance:** Zone Facilitator (Lyn Carmichael), Community Engagement Coordinator (Rhys Taylor), Fonterra Sustainability Advisor SC (Kirsty Simmonds), Zone Facilitator Lower Waitaki and Ashburton (Dave Moore), ECan Tangata Facilitator (Brad Waldon-Gibbons), Zone Delivery Lead (Brian Reeves), Department of Conservation representatives (John Benn and Brad Edwards), John de Witt (member of the public)

The meeting opened with a karakia from Clr Lan Pham

**1 Apologies**

**Committee Resolution 2019/12**

Moved: Herstatt Ulrich

Seconded: Suzanne Eddington

That the apologies from Clr Barb Gilchrist, Luke Reihana and John Henry be accepted.

**Carried**

**2 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**3 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

There were no minor nature matters.

**4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**5 Confirmation of Minutes**

**5.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2019**

**Matters Raised from Minutes**

**Clause 5 - Funding of catchment groups/conflict of interest**– the Facilitator advised that in regard to any potential conflict of interest with industry groups being involved with catchment groups – this is not an issue of concern as catchment groups are not decision making bodies.

In regard to the work programme, working with catchment groups will be a key piece of work for the Committee next year.

**Pizza evening** – neither Cllr Peter Scott nor Luke Reihana, who are helping with this project, were present at the meeting to provide an update on progress.

**Meeting of Water Zone Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons** – Reference was made to the meeting of water zone chairpersons and deputy chairperson held on 29 November. Part of the discussion at the meeting was around whether zone committees are being responded to effectively. A strategy is being worked on to provide greater support for the committees through the chairpersons, as well as planning for more meetings of water zone chairpersons to provide support to each other and maintain interaction between the committees.

**Members interest register** – the Chairperson reminded the members of the need to submit their list of interests for the interests register (if they have not already done so) and advised new committee members of the need to fill out the register. A template is being developed to assist members to identify any actual or perceived conflicts.

**Clause 5.2 Collective leadership** – the Facilitator advised that in regard to clarification around transparency in working with CWMS partners, there is a proposal to have regular meetings between zone committee chairpersons and local authority representatives and staff. The Environment Canterbury strategy team has also recently approached local authorities to understand what action is already being undertaken in each zone, as much of the work towards meeting CWMS targets has already been started.

#### **Regional Committee/Meeting of Zone Committee Chairpersons**

Discussion took place on the role of the Regional Committee and the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons meetings and whether there is any cross over/duplication of purpose. The meeting was advised that there has only been one chairs meeting in recent times and it is not a formal group, more a support/sharing of ideas forum.

The Committee was reminded that the Regional Committee was formed when the CWMS was established, to oversee the regional wide targets. Phil Driver noted that the regional committee's purpose has since changed and the committee is currently evaluating its current purpose and structure.

As a follow on question, the purpose of the OTOP Committee in the meantime was raised. The Facilitator confirmed OTOP's focus continues to be delivering on targets and goals with local solutions.

#### **Committee Resolution 2019/13**

Moved: Mark Webb

Seconded: Glen Smith

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**Carried**

## **6 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman noted the recent Orari Gorge field trip and requested a thank you letter be sent to the Orari River Protection Society and also to Orari Gorge Station.

The draft OTOP Annual Report was tabled. This report, when finalised, will be presented to local authorities early in the new year.

## **7 Reports**

### **7.1 Community Forum**

Member of the public John de Witt referred to an ecological report prepared by ECan and NIWA regarding attributes in a catchment, and he is particularly interested in macro invertebrates on the Opuha River being very low. It is his view that there is insufficient monitoring being done, therefore there could be less data available for comparison purposes, especially in the future when the Opuha Dam applies for a renewal of its consent.

He believes macro invertebrates are a key performance indicator of the health of the river and there are problems below the weir, and not enough flushing flows.

A follow up question arose in regard to what monitoring there is on new and historic pesticides, not just in the local rivers but everywhere. The meeting was informed that pesticides are not as a rule, included in the monitoring regime but the ZIPA did seek more monitoring on emerging contaminants.

The suggestion was then made by Phil Driver that citizen monitoring could be implemented which would mean more data is collected. As long as a certain standard is met, citizen monitoring could be a valuable additional resource. There are portable lab sites and standard documentation, and training could be done in the field. Monitoring fits into the priority work streams and could be an important action space next year, however associated factors such as data management and costs need to be taken into account. It could possibly be built into the science monitoring programme in OTOP.

Comment was made that monitoring needs to be done in the right place, in order to help farmers manage their land better. It would be beneficial if farmers have a say in where monitoring should be done. The Facilitator advised that as Environment Canterbury water quality scientists are based in Timaru, such connections could be made.

It was noted that the appointment of a new cultural land management advisor who started today may also help.

Opuha Water Ltd (OWL) is doing monitoring and wanting to do more. It was suggested that ECan could talk to OWL 'on a friendly basis' to see if any collaborative arrangement could be worked out.

It was agreed to make following up with the science team an item for the priority work programme meeting in 2020.

Flows, including flushing flows, will be addressed through Plan Change 7 – the outcome will be reported to the committee after the hearings mid next year.

## **7.2 Welcome to new councillor representatives and farewell to previous councillor representatives**

The Chairman farewelled previous councillor representatives on the OTOP Committee – Clr Richard Lyon, Clr David Anderson and Clr Lan Pham. He thanked them for their input, hard graft and the time they gave to the Committee.

Clr Pham explained that she has been reallocated to the Banks Peninsula zone as there is a significant amount of activity and work to be undertaken in that zone. She will also be leading the biodiversity and biosecurity portfolio for ECan, and there will be a number of useful synergies between these activities.

The Chairman welcomed new councillors Elizabeth McKenzie from ECan, Tom O'Connor from Waimate District Council and Barb Gilchrist from Timaru District Council.

The Chairperson advised that there is no refreshment process required this year, for community members on the Committee.

## **7.3 Roundtable updates from Committee members**

Committee members had the opportunity to provide a brief verbal update on activities they had recently been involved in that may be of interest or would benefit the Committee.

Clr McKenzie reported on her attendance at the recent Waitaki River Rating Committee meeting. This led to discussion on river rating districts in general and their functions in such activities such as flood prevention, irrigation and weed control, noting there are different situations in different catchments.

A memo will be prepared for the OTOP Committee encompassing an update on river rating committees and their constraints and opportunities.

The meeting adjourned for a 10 minute refreshment break and resumed at 2.20pm.  
Phil Driver retired from the meeting.

## **7.4 Zone Delivery Work Programmes and Compliance Update**

Zone Delivery Lead Brian Reeves provided an update on the Zone Delivery work programmes and compliance from a regional perspective, including the Zone delivery approach to compliance monitoring and enforcement over the next 5 years.

The Chairman noted the importance of the zone delivery team in the work of the OTOP Zone Committee in the zone.

## **7.5 Presentations from Department of Conservation**

Department of Conservation representative John Benn presented a broad overview of DOC's role in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. DOC is not a signed party to the CWMS but the department helped to develop the strategy, is a significant land owner in Canterbury, and DOC activities are affected by the CWMS.

DOC recognises the valuable opportunity that the CWMS provides to work together eg through opportunities like the Immediate Steps Programme. John Benn is available to assist with the

delivery of some of OTOP's outcomes and be a liaison person between DOC and the Zone Committee.

Phil Driver returned to the meeting at 3.05pm.

River Ranger Brad Edwards provided an overview of the Department's involvement in Rangitata River restoration, which involves developing a river plan, and includes a number of stakeholders. He explained the process DOC is planning to follow and the conservation priorities it will focus on. He noted that ECan's braided river plan, flood protection plan and river encroachment, has cross overs with DOC's plan.

An update could be available in approx. 6 months.

## **7.6 Update on Swimming Sites**

The Committee considered an update on Freshwater Suitability for Recreation. In regard to the Pareora River at the huts, Environment Canterbury staff are engaging with the community and it was requested by Phil Driver that the Pareora Catchment Group also be consulted and informed. The Facilitator will provide updates to the Committee if new information becomes available.

## **7.7 Zone Facilitator's Report**

The Facilitator presented her report, noting OTOP meeting dates for 2020, encouraging committee members to take part in the Bat Days on 6 and 13 December, the Treaty of Waitangi workshops and the visit to the Arowhenua Marae.

Clr Anne Munro retired from the meeting at 3.55pm.

It was noted that OTOP has not had a representative on the Waitarakao working group since John Talbot retired from the OTOP Committee. It was agreed that Mark Webb be the OTOP representative on the group.

In relation to interested party registers, the Facilitator will follow up to ensure the Orari River Protection Group is identified as an interested party for consents that are handled by Environment Canterbury and she will also contact Timaru District Council to see if it has an interested party register.

Herstall Ulrich retired from the meeting at 4pm.

The Facilitator noted the CWMS updated targets and goals through to 2040, which the Committee needs to look at early in 2020, in terms of the ZIPA and the Zone Committee's activities.

## **7.8 Other Business**

- Orari Gorge Field trip – to be discussed at the next workshop.
- A paper prepared by Phil Driver was tabled for the committee to read in preparation for discussion at a later date.
- The Community Engagement Coordinator advised that thought is being given to sparking catchment group activity for 2020, commencing in late January/February. He has compiled a list of potential activities and will encourage people to become involved in their local catchment group. Input from the OTOP Committee is welcome.

**7 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

There were no urgent business items.

**8 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

There were no minor nature items.

**The Meeting closed at 4.11pm with a karakia.**

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Chairperson