

# **MINUTES**

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

**Monday, 7 December 2020**

**Minutes of Timaru District Council  
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting  
Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru  
on Monday, 7 December 2020 at 9.30am**

**Present:** Lucy Millar (Chairperson), Phil Driver (Deputy Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, Cr Anne Munro, Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Luke Reihana, Glen Smith, Cr Tom O'Connor

**In Attendance:** Bailey Lissington, Janine Roux (Facilitator), Lesley Woudberg (Team Leader Zone Facilitator), Brad Waldon-Gibbons (Tangata Whenua Facilitator), Shirley Hayward (Senior Water Quality Scientist), Chris Eccleston (ECan Southern Zone Manager), Kate Doran (ECan), Kerry Stevens (Territorial Local Authorities Regional Committee Representative), John Benn (Department of Conservation), John De Witt (public)

### **1 Opening Karakia**

The meeting opened with a karakia from Luke Reihana.

### **2 Apologies**

#### **Resolution 2020/22**

Moved: Cr Tom O'Connor

Seconded: Cr Anne Munro

That the apologies received from Cr Gilchrist and John Henry be accepted, and leave of absence granted.

**Carried**

### **3 Public Forum**

#### **Canterbury Regional Water Committee Structure Review**

Kerry Stevens, local district councils' representative on the CWMS Regional Committee, brought to OTOP's attention, the current review of the structure of the Regional Committee. The issue will be considered at the Regional Committee meeting on 8 December and by Environment Canterbury on 10 December. The proposal is to reduce the size of the Committee by removing local authority and zone committee representation, ie all regional representation. Kerry Stevens sought feedback from the OTOP Committee on that proposal. He has also sought feedback from the Mayors of Timaru, Waitaki, Mackenzie and Waimate District Councils. The Regional Committee would then comprise an independent chairperson, community representatives (with relevant knowledge and expertise), runanga representatives, District Health Board representative and an ECan councillor. Part of the reason for the proposed change is to place more emphasis on an independent regional committee which could hold ECan to account.

OTOP members felt that the current large membership of 30 is unwieldy but if there is no territorial local authority representation, there would need to be improved communication to the zone committees. Communication could be provided by zone committee chairpersons regularly meeting prior to the regional committee meetings and the chairperson of that group being on the Regional Committee.

It was agreed that the OTOP chairperson write a letter to the CWMS Regional Committee representing the committee's views, with a copy to OTOP members for information.

The role of monitoring the CWMS programme was also raised but it was pointed out that while monitoring is crucial, it is a separate issue to the size and representation on the Regional Committee.

### **Stokell's Smelt**

John De Witt expressed concern at the serious decline in Stokell's Smelt in Canterbury rivers and what that decline may indicate about the health of the ecosystem in the rivers and possible links to irrigation and reduction in flushing flows. He referred to Dr Trolove's research on this and suggested more monitoring should be carried out.

Shirley Hayward, ECan Senior Water Quality Scientist, informed the meeting that ECan is undertaking a study, based around the concerns from fishermen and people near the hapua, about the decline in this fish community. There is some historic data and there will be an attempt to replicate that. The study will look at what has changed and what the drivers to that change are. Staff are involved in a collaborative process with iwi, Fish and Game and other relevant agencies. The first sweep of the fish survey has been done, then a follow up study will be undertaken in late summer. It could be some time before the data is then analysed and the results known.

## **4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

The Committee agreed to discuss Phil Driver's paper on the possibility of revisiting those elements of the ZIPA that previously were not unanimously agreed, in particular flows and allocations.

## **5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**

There were no minor nature items.

## **6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no additional conflicts of interest declared.

## **7 Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson gave a brief report on the progress with the combined catchment groups incorporated society.

## **8 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 September 2020**

**Resolution 2020/23**

Moved: Anne Munro

Seconded: Tom O'Connor

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 7 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried****8.2 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 November 2020****Resolution 2020/24**

Moved: Suzanne Eddington

Seconded: Glen Smith

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 2 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

**Carried****9 Reports****9.1 Updates for Committee**

Committee members updated the meeting on activities they have been involved in over the last month that contribute to the implementation of the CWMS in the OTOP zone, including –

- Biodiversity champions – Cr Gilchrist is the biodiversity champion for Timaru District Council, Cr Munro is the Mackenzie District Council biodiversity champion and Cr Fabia Fox is the Waimate District Council biodiversity champion.
- Slow Water – Phil Driver is drafting a paper soon on this.
- Biosecurity – work is continuing on a strategy for wallaby control.
- Fresh Water – information is being collated and discussions are taking place with District Health Boards.

**9.2 Swimming Water Quality Update**

The Committee considered more detailed information from the summary report on Canterbury water quality monitoring for primary contact recreation, following consideration of an initial report from Senior Water Quality Scientist Shirley Hayward, at the OTOP meeting on 2 November 2020.

Shirley highlighted aspects of the report and answered questions including the drivers for cyanobacteria.

A request was made for the Pareora Catchment Group to be advised (via Cr Tom O'Connor) when monitoring on the Pareora is being carried out.

The Committee agreed to ask ECan to review Recommendation 4.8.4 in the OTOP ZIPA to continue to support resources being applied to ongoing research on cyanobacteria.

#### *4.8.4 Recommendation: Phormidium*

- i. Environmental flow regimes, including those that are managed, will consider the potential impact on Phormidium blooms.*
- ii. Regional council completes further locally relevant research on Phormidium controls for future decision.*

### **Recommendation**

That Recommendation 4.8.4 of the OTOP Zone Implementation Programme Addendum around water quality in terms of swimmable rivers be checked and OTOP continues to support resources being applied to cyanobacteria research and monitoring.

### **9.3 Water Management - The Changing Context**

The Committee considered a report by the Team Leader Zone Facilitator informing the Committee of the changes to water management that are underway across New Zealand, Canterbury and the OTOP zone so that members can help their community navigate what is going to be a complex and uncertain environment for the next couple of years.

The Committee agreed that it would be useful to promote the role of Land Management Advisors, the work they do and the assistance they can provide to farmers, catchment groups, and other groups.

### **9.4 Facilitator's Update**

The Facilitator presented an update on actions from previous OTOP meetings, covering Waitarakao/Washdyke stormwater, Immediate Steps projects, Pareora Catchment and the role and purpose of the committee going forward.

Revised Terms of Reference for Zone Committees have been confirmed by the Mayors and are going to the Regional Council later this week.

The Zone Committee refresh process commences in March 2021, later than usual due to the Terms of Reference still to be confirmed.

In regard to the Immediate Steps process, the Ohapi Creek and Spider Lagoon projects have been referred to the runanga for review, no response has been received as yet, but this will be followed up.

The Committee noted the information on the sprays to be used on the various IMS projects.

### **Resolution 2020/25**

Moved: Phil Driver

Seconded: Lucy Millar

That the Facilitator's report be received and noted, and the Committee accepts ECan's advice that the sprays indicated are the best options to apply in these Immediate Steps projects.

**Carried**

## **10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items**

### **Flow and Allocation**

There was discussion around potential conflicts of interest in respect of flows and allocations, with differing viewpoints expressed.

While not declaring an interest, the Chairperson opted to step back from the table. A discussion ensued on whether the OTOP Committee should revisit flows and allocations in the zone. Some Committee members are aware of concerns raised in the community around flow and allocation and in response to these concerns, there was some suggestion that the Committee should revisit the ZIPA.

Phil Driver presented his paper referring to aspects of the ZIPA that were not unanimously agreed on, and felt the ZIPA should be updated regularly, especially on flow and allocation.

It was suggested that the Committee awaits the outcome of Plan Change 7, although there was some suggestion that the PC 7 process does not prevent the Committee from working on the ZIPA as it has value in its own right.

As a way forward, it was proposed that the Committee discusses flow and allocation at the first meeting in 2021 where a full complement of the refreshed Committee is present. At this point the Terms of Reference will be available and the Committee will have some understanding of its direction.

### **Motion**

#### **Resolution 2020/26**

Moved: Elizabeth McKenzie

Seconded: Tom O'Connor

That the Committee discusses flows and allocations at the first meeting in 2021 where there is a full complement of the refreshed Committee.

**Carried**

Lucy Millar resumed the chair.

## **11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters**

There were no minor nature items to consider.

## **12 Closure Karakia**

**The Meeting closed at 11.15am with a karakia from Luke Reihana.**

**Minutes confirmed 12 April 2021.**

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**Lucy Millar  
Chairperson**