

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee

Minutes of an Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Water Management Committee Meeting held in Meeting Room 1, Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 1 April at 1pm

Present Hamish McFarlane (Chairperson), Phil Driver, Sue Eddington, John Henry, Lucy Millar, Clr Anne Munro, Clr Richard Lyon, Clr Lan Pham, Luke Reihana, Herstatt Ulrich, and Mark Webb

Karakia John Henry opened the meeting with a karakia

Apologies Proposed Herstatt Ulrich
Seconded Mark Webb

“That an apology from David Anderson be accepted.”

Motion carried

In Attendance Lesley Woudberg (Facilitator), Clr Peter Scott (Regional Committee), Lyn Carmichael (Senior Planner and Community Lead), Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement Officer), Dan Clarke (ECan Senior Hydrology Scientist and Technical Lead)(from 1.30pm), Lloyd McMillan, Michael McMillan, John Benn (Department of Conservation), Tom Henderson, Jan Finlayson, Jeremy Boys (Opuha Water Ltd)

1. Declaration of Interests

There were no conflicts of interests declared.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed Clr Lan Pham
Seconded Phil Driver

“That the minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee meeting held on 26 November 2018 be confirmed.”

Motion carried

3. Working of OTOP Zone Committee

The Committee considered a report by the Facilitator on the working of the Committee for 2019.

The Committee acknowledged the work of Hamish McFarlane in the chairmanship role over the last year - leading the Committee through the extensive process of completing the Zone Implementation Addendum.

Election of Chairperson

Nominations were called for the position of Chairperson of the Committee.

Proposed Clr Lyon
Seconded Phil Driver

“That Hamish McFarlane be appointed Chairperson of the OTOP Committee for the coming year.”

There being no further nominations Hamish McFarlane was declared elected Chairperson.

Election of Deputy Chairperson

Nominations were called for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the OTOP Committee for the coming year.

Proposed Phil Driver
Seconded Mark Webb

“That Herstatt Ulrich be appointed Deputy Chairperson of the OTOP Committee for the coming year.”

There being no further nominations Herstatt was declared Deputy Chairperson.

Regional Committee Representative

Nominations were called for the position of Regional Committee Representative.

Proposed Hamish McFarlane
Seconded Herstatt Ulrich

“That Phil Driver be appointed Regional Committee representative for the coming year.”

There being no further nominations Phil Driver was declared Regional Committee representative.

Meetings for 2019

The Facilitator noted that the OTOP meetings have been confirmed up to the October 2019 local authority elections, with tentative meeting dates after that.

Discussion took place on the timing of meetings and the other commitments of members and noting that the workload on the Committee should be less. It was agreed that on occasions when there is a particularly big agenda, meetings could start earlier.

Although monthly meetings may not always be necessary, it was agreed to leave the monthly schedule in place at this stage until priorities are confirmed in the strategic planning session. While monthly meetings are scheduled, they can be cancelled if a meeting is not necessary.

Key Pieces of Work Envisaged by the Committee

The Committee discussed the functions of OTOP now that the ZIP and ZIPA have been completed. The Chairperson advised that this will be considered in a workshop, and reference will be made to the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

The Facilitator advised that she has identified regulatory and non regulatory actions contained in the ZIPA.

The Committee noted the input from Phil Driver on his views around the future work of the Committee. Phil Driver stressed that the Committee needs to use its time effectively and look at its potential to have input into the zone and how the Committee can influence the outcomes of the ZIPA.

It was pointed out that the Committee needs to -

- be conscious of the background to the CWMS,
- be aware of the role of the Regional Committee in achieving the targets of the CWMS,
- reflect on the ZIPA,
- aim to achieve what can be done especially on non regulatory issues,
- continue to work closely with the community.

The Regional Committee's second meeting for 2019 will be held on 9 April when its advice to Environment Canterbury and the Mayoral Forum on the future evolution of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy will be finalised.

It was suggested that as a first step a cross check be made with the ZIPA and the ZIP, (there may be things in the ZIP that are not adequately reflected in the ZIPA).

The Committee agreed to workshop the issues over the next 2 meetings and the results be presented to a future formal OTOP meeting.

4. Community Forum

Tom Henderson suggested there should be an independent review of the efficiency of what is happening on the big rivers with electricity generation, given the system is many years old. Comment was made that the Waitaki River has been optimised for electricity generation for the benefit of New Zealand rather than the health of the Waitaki.

Clr Peter Scott suggested that Andrew Fairbairn of Meridian who has talked to the Lower Waitaki committee, could talk to OTOP. However it was pointed out that OTOP will have sufficient work to do in concentrating on the OTOP zone, and already there is work to do looking at how the Opihi River is being managed in terms of efficiency.

5. ZIPA and Post ZIPA

The meeting considered a report on the decisions made by councils on receipt of the OTOP ZIPA, a brief outline of the Resource Management Act planning process, and the regulatory and non-regulatory recommendations in the ZIPA. A table was circulated at the meeting, setting out the regulatory and non regulatory ZIPA recommendations.

Catchment Groups have been active while OTOP has been busy with its ZIPA. The Community Engagement Officer gave a verbal update on how the Catchment Groups are progressing. There are also a number of other catchment groups facilitated by volunteers. Over the next year while awaiting statutory actions, there is a great opportunity for the aims of the ZIPA to be acted on by the catchment groups where possible, particularly with the non regulatory actions for good management practice.

6. Facilitator's Update

The Committee considered the Facilitator's update, as well as background information on the Omnibus Plan Change, a table of areas on rivers and lakes used for freshwater bathing and the 2018 OTOP Annual Report.

- The Committee discussed the issue with braided rivers. It is a complex issue including land ownership, definition of a braided river, future management, and policies and rules that will apply. The court decision may be a year or two away, and in the meantime the braided rivers issue cannot be included in the plan change.
- Farmer led workshops on winter grazing are taking place – it would be a good opportunity for the specific recommendations from the ZIPA on winter grazing to be promoted.
- It was suggested that the NIWA tool kit which is now available could be presented to OTOP, possibly facilitated by Senior Water Quality Scientist Shirley Hayward.

7. Meeting closed

John Henry drew the meeting to a close at 2pm with a Karakia.

Chairperson