

# **MINUTES**

**Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone  
Committee Meeting  
Monday, 6 May 2024**

**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, 6 May 2024 at 1.03pm**

**Present:** Glen Smith (Chairperson), Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain

**In Attendance:** Mayor Nigel Bowen, Dave Moore (Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), Rachel Scarlett (Governance Advisor, Timaru District Council)

**Presenters:** Richard Jacomb (Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy), Felicity McMillan (Lagoon Plant Maintenance)

**1 Opening Karakia**

*John Henry conducted the opening Karakia*

**2 Apologies**

**2.1 Apologies Received**

**Resolution 2024/1**

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Cllr Phillipa Guerin

That the apology of Bailey Lissington, Rynee de Garnham and Cllr Michelle Pye be received and accepted. **Carried**

**3 Public Forum**

There were no public forum items.

**4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**

No items of urgent business were received.

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

Trees on the Opuha walkway by the Tengawai bridge at Pleasant Point.

**6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## **7 Chairperson's Report**

### **7.1 Presentation of Chairperson's Report**

No report was provided by Chairperson Glen Smith. Deputy Chairperson Chris Konings provided an update on the Waitarakao Project.

Discussion included the Waitarakao Project draft, and the draft strategy consultation process.

### **Resolution 2024/2**

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Glen Smith

**Carried**

## **8 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024**

The Committee members expressed concern regarding item 9.2 (Barkers Creek Action Plan Funding Request). The Committee discussed whether it would have been better to have had more engagement with Te Runanga o Arowhenua prior to the funding request being taken to Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee.

The Committee also discussed the safe guards for property owners introducing new species.

Committee members agreed to follow a process in the future to open up a channel for discussion prior to the meeting date, and agreed it would be beneficial to defer items to a future meeting if necessary, so informed decisions can be made.

### **Resolution 2024/3**

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 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 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – applications for funding**

The purpose for the report is for the Zone Committee to consider three applications received for funding using their Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24.

**Richard Jacomb** spoke to the Committee to consider the application for the Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy funding request.

Discussion included how the restoration would provide habitats, diversity, improves water quality and adaptability of the ecosystem. Richard Jacomb explained his vision for the future restoration and development of a strategy, including, site visits, big picture events with the site, planting, signage, trapping and potentially installing a viewing platform in the future.

Discussion also included the removal of fencing from the wetlands, intentions of implementing a plan, personal fund contributions for this project by land owners and restoring the wetlands with native plants. Richard Jacomb spoke to the Committee regarding the mouth of the stop bank and the effects of receded salt water to the environment.

The Committee spoke about the beneficial work that has been implemented in the area to date, and the potential use of project funds being put towards administration and project management.

**Felicity McMillan** spoke to the Committee to consider the application for the Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance.

Discussion included the work that has been done to date, including maintenance of plants to increase survival rates, clearance in the area and the relocation of lagoon rocks to help stop vehicles from damaging the wetlands.

The Committee queried the maintenance costs and the time line of maintaining plants as to increase their survival rate, plants are maintained for three to four years and there will be a required four rounds of planting and two rounds of maintenance over a twelve month period.

Discussion also included, the creation of partnerships with agencies, Council and local land owners as an opportunity to create communication and DOC being in support of this project.

The Committee discussed both of these submissions, along with the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.

The Committee agreed to increase their funding towards these two submissions, Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance and the Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy, and discussed a field trip to visit these sites next spring 2025.

The lack of follow up with maintenance projects was discussed, there was a recommendation for project funding applications to include; how maintenance is planned to be carried out. There was also requests of a list of all projects that they have funded and review the outcome or where shortfalls may be.

#### **Resolution 2024/4**

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee:

1. Receives the three applications from Richard Jacomb, Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd (Arowhenua Native Nursery), and Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.
2. For each project,
  - a. To support the allocation of \$15,000 to Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance and;
  - b. To support the allocation of \$22,810 to Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy, to include \$3,000 or more for implementation of planning and;
  - c. To not support the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.

In Favour: Suzanne Eddington, Glen Smith, Chris Konings, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin and Sharyn Cain  
Against: Nil  
Abstained: John Henry

**Carried 6/0**

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

No items of urgent business were received.

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

Timaru District Council's infrastructure team has ordered the removal of trees on the Opuha walkway by the Tengawai bridge at Pleasant Point due to safety concerns. The trees were part of a former Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone native planting project. The landowner who submitted this concern is agnostic about the trees being taken down, but is concerned about the impact on the walkway, native plants and bat roosting habitat.

The Committee suggested a better outcome would be trimming the trees back off the walkway. The Committee agreed that the facilitator will discuss this matter with Timaru Council, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation and the landowner, and will bring report back to the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee. The Committee also discussed the metal sheets around the trees at the Opuha walkway that reduces possums climbing, as the trees are nesting location for bats.

## **12 Closure Karakia**

*John Henry conducted the closing Karakia*

**The Meeting closed at 2.50pm.**

Minutes confirmed 08 July 2024.



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**Glen Smith**  
**Chairperson**