

Three Waters Committee

12 February 2025



Three Waters Committee – 12/02/2025

Minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 February 2025, commencing at 10.30am, in the Hine Paaka Council Chamber, Te Whare Whakatere, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

Present

Mayor Neil Brown, Councillors Russell Ellis (Chair), Phill Hooper, Lynette Lovett, Liz McMillan and Tony Todd.

Also present: Crs Carolyn Cameron, Rob Mackle and Richard Wilson.

In attendance

Hamish Riach (CE), Neil McCann (GM Infrastructure & Open Spaces), Helen Barnes (GM Business Support), Andrew Guthrie (Assets Manager), Hernando Marilla (Operations Manager), Ulrich Glasner (Water Services Manager), and Heather Stoddart (Governance Support).

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 5/12/24

That the minutes of the Three Waters Committee meeting held on 5 December 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

McMillan/Todd

Carried

5 Three Waters Operations

5.1 General operations and maintenance activities

• CRMs

Most priority CRMs were closed off within two hours and the stormwater ones closed off within one week.

Officers are working on mapping CRMs and will include a link in the Three Waters Committee agenda which explains the CRM locations.

5.2 Ocean Farm

The verbal update to Councillors regarding the fertiliser activity and use of drones for herbicides spraying will be reported at the next meeting.

Clarification was given regarding the amount per head for sheep grazing stock per week. Upon investigation it was confirmed sheep grazing is \$2.75/head/week.

6 Projects

- **UV and Filtration Upgrades – Hinds, Mayfield & Dromore* [Package 1]**

Hinds is almost complete; installation next week and the commission will follow.

Dromore still has a few more issues and Ulrich will be meeting next week with the landowner regarding access to a portion of his land.

- **UV and Filtration Upgrades – Tinwald, Rakaia & Chertsey [Package 2]**

Officers are still gauging the efficiency of the drying beds as it has only been a month in operation. Weather has affected the sludge beds, but there are 12 sludge beds in place.

Re the future of the old sludge irrigation field, officers are considering the option to absorb it into the effluent pasture and are investigating suitability of the area. Contaminated soil would need to go into landfill with additional costings.

- **Drinking water laboratory Accreditation**

Subject to no issues arising from IANZ, it will be 6-8 weeks before the drinking water lab will be fully accredited.

- **NE Ashburton Watermain Extension**

Engineering plans have been prepared for these watermain. Consultation is planned to get underway in March. Currently in a concept design stage to see if there is a need to be serviced with wastewater also and connect to existing network.

- **Drinking water acceptable solution for mixed use rural water supplies – TA engagement**

Update next meeting, following on from the outcome from the TA workshop.

- **NE Ashburton Wastewater Servicing Concepts**

ADC asked BECA to do some work regarding the limits to their service, before it comes to the Committee. The concept looks like three network pumpstations. The GIS Network report will help confirm the options. Progress is being made and a report back to the Committee at next meeting.

- **Ocean Farm Irrigation Investigation**

Needs to progress faster rather than slower as Ocean Farm needs to be compliant.

- **Leak Detection**

Ongoing measurements using the non-revenue metering. ADC engaged a specialist leakage company which do acoustic monitoring to identify areas of concern. Reports back from the contractor will be shared with the Committee.

7 Drinking Water Compliance

Still working on developing a reporting format. Engaged another party to do our compliance reporting and expecting to see the report from the third party by the end of the month. They want to review this reporting so that they can make a decision on the format of reporting back to the Committee.

8 RMA Consent Compliance

Provided a 'helicopter' view of all the consents related to the three waters. Used the latest data that Council has to assemble the data.

This will provide a visual for the Committee to see where some of the problems are. ADC has 6 weekly liaison meetings with ECan. Provides insight to the ECan staff about the limitations and constraints that ADC works to.

It was noted that the comment in the report *'this has been a long-standing issue for ADC to budget constraints'* will be removed as the officer agreed it was inaccurate.

- **Wetlands at Ocean Farm**

No active intent at the moment as there are other issues requiring officers' focus.

Deterioration of the water through the wetland is causing the non-compliance that they have. Confirmed that it is avian related. The main concern is around irrigation and it is an issue officers are aware of. Focusing efforts on the irrigation.

The meeting concluded at 11:19am.