

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 24 May 2022, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Stuart Wilson, Bill Thomas (Chair), Chris Allen, Adi Avnit (via MS Teams), Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, Genevieve de Spa, James Meager, Les Wanhalla (via MS Teams) and Sidinei Teixeira (via MS Teams).

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

2 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Karl Russell opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

Absence - Mayor Neil Brown and Councillor Ian Mackenzie

Lateness – Chris Allen (1.10pm)

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Nil.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 22 March 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.

Meager/de Spa

Carried

5.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Mid Canterbury Catchment Collection – support for application for funding from MPI's Essential Freshwater Fund

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Hekeao Community Wetland

A report was circulated providing an update on the Hekeao Community Wetland project.

9 Action Plan Budget Funding Allocation

Recommendation: That the remaining funding of \$10,000 from the Action Plan funding pool be allocated as per the following:

- Wakanui Working Group - \$4,000
For the clearance of 26 pines trees in preparation for future planting of natives.
- Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective Incorporated - \$6,000
To develop a project that will co-ordinate a significant resource of historical and current catchment information across the Ashburton zone.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

10 Te Rākau Kōhanga Project

Sefeti Erasito (Project Manager) gave an overview of the Te Rākau Kōhanga project.

Central Government's Jobs for Nature funding has provided \$2.7 million for the Te Te Rākau Kōhanga project. The project is creating a plant nursery at Arowhenua Marae near Temuka that will provide employment and training and qualifications in growing native plants. It is expected that the nursery will grow about 180,000 eco-sourced plants over three years.

11 Mt Harding Creek Study – Rhys Taylor (Community Engagement)

Environment Canterbury biodiversity and land management specialists have explored the stream catchment of Mt Harding Creek to establish the catchment's surface water sources and better understand biological and human values and influences throughout the length of the stream.

Recommendations for going forward to be further discussed with the Water Zone Committee, Ashburton District Council, irrigation companies, farming industry bodies, Ecan river engineers and the farmers who have been visited:

- Explore potential for maintaining continuous annual flow
- Remove yellow flag iris
- Identify with farmers the 'hot spots' of likely stream pollution within farms
- Identify, with several farmers, suitable locations for fence-protected riparian planting
- Woody-weed control assistance into an extension of that planting undertaken by the farmer
- Encourage erection of small durable signs
- Encourage removal of unused farm bridges and wire structures
- Improve fish passage

Mt Harding Creek is not currently noted as one of the Zone Committee priorities, this will be revisited when setting budgets for the next financial year.

Members agreed that a site visit to Mt Harding Creek in the near future would be beneficial.

12 Committee Update

Zone Committee Refresh Process

- Expressions of interests close on 30 May not 23 May as reported
- Promotion will be undertaken from 4 May to 31 May
- Selection workshop is scheduled for 23 June

Meeting Dates

- 28 June – Meeting will be replaced with a field trip to the MAR site. A request was made for an Arowhenua representative to be at the site visit to explain the cultural aspect to members.

13 Other Business

Wakanui History

The Chair tabled a paper outlining the history of the Wakanui Beach site, including the naming of the area and spelling, showing that there was no (h) required in the spelling of the name.

Sidinei Teixeira

Sidinei briefed members on the research project of what is causing changes to nitrate concentrations that she is currently undertaking:

- Financial support has been received from HHWET and MHV
- Requesting support from the Zone Committee to assist with connecting with the farmers
- Sidnei to email details of the area that she is researching and Zone Committee members will help her with introductions to contacts
- Feature to be included in the Zone Committee newsletter

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ashburton Water Zone Committee will be held in the Ashburton District Council Chamber at 1:00pm on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.53pm with a Karakia by Karl Russell.

Dated this 26th day of July 2022 _____ (Chair)