

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 22 February 2022, commencing at 1:00 pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

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

In attendance

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

5 members of the public in attendance (Councillor Lynette Lovett)

1 Welcome

Dave Moore opened the meeting with a Karakia.

A welcome was extended to James Meager who has been appointed as the Te Runanga o Arowhenua representative.

The passing of Peter Ramsden was acknowledged with a minute silence. Mr Ramsden was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2020 for his services to conservation and he represented the Iwi on the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and the Environment Canterbury Water Zone Committee.

2 Apologies

Nil.

3 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

4 Register of Interests

Angela Cushnie

- remove Freelance writer for Latitude Magazine

Sidinei Teixeira

- Chemistry Teacher at Christ's College
- Current master student at Lincoln University studying Masters in Water Resource Management
- Intern at MHV Water (Groundwater Scientist)
- Past Head of Science at Mt Hutt College
- Passionate about use of natural resources sustainability

5 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee meeting held on 26 October 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cushnie/Thomas

Carried

Amendment - 1 member of the public was in attendance

5.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Committee Updates – Dave Moore

Hekeoa Hinds Water Enhancement Trust

The Hekeoa Hinds Water Enhancement Trust are currently designing and consenting two further NRR sites. As part of these developments there is significant opportunity for a new native plantings at the site. HHWET have indicated they would appreciate an opportunity at an upcoming Zone Committee meeting to discuss funding opportunities.

9 Update on work to restoring the mauri of Ōtūwharekai (Ashburton Lakes) - (Judith Earl Goulet – Ecan, via MS Teams)

Water Quality Monitoring

- Recreational season lake water quality (Dec – April)
- Monthly intensive on-lake monitoring Lake Heron & Lake Clearwater
- Continuous monitoring equipment in Lake Heron and Lake Clearwater to monitoring oxygen dynamics near lakebed
- Level loggers in Lakes Emma & Camp
- Nitrate logger installed on Gentleman Smith Stream
- Clearwater inflow monitoring (Dec – April)
- Groundwater monitoring at Clearwater settlement - piezometers installed week of 21 February
- Lake aquatic plants survey due to start

On Farm High Nutrient loss risk assessment

- Working with four stations to understand the relationship between sensitive areas prone to nutrient loss and land management activities.
- Work with landholders to identify change in land management to reduce nutrient loss

Support and take a leadership role in partnership with Rūnanga to see action taken to improve water quality of the waterbodies in Ōtūwharekai.

- Support the collective engagement and collaboration across agencies and groups who have a statutory or land management role in the catchment
- Project management support for the Ōtūwharekai working group and the Ōtūwharekai Officials group

Ōtūwharekai Working Group meets monthly and currently composed of: Rūnanga (Arowhenua, Te Taumutu and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri), Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, CSI F&G, DoC, LINZ, ADC, ECan, Farmers, MfE and MPI.

Discussions were held on the possible appointment of a Clearwater Hut Holders Association representative onto the working group. It was also discussed as to whether this representative could be seconded onto the Zone Committee.

Zone Committee Terms of Reference state:

Point 9 – Any Committee may co-opt such other expert or advisory members as it deems necessary to ensure it's able to achieve its purpose. Any such co-option will be on a non-voting basis.

Mayor Brown suggested this be considered by Ashburton District Council before any decision is made.

10 River Rating and Environment Canterbury Annual Plan

- Consultation document for ECAN annual plan to be signed off on Thursday.
- Specific proposal for Ashburton river rating district. Plan proposes a review of classification system for river rating to ensure that those who benefit from stopbank protection are fairly contributing to the costs.
- This was as a result of a request by the River Rating Liaison Committee for Ecan staff to review the Ashburton River Rating scheme and report back with recommendations.
- Ecan collects \$15m per year to fund river protection, which pays to maintain \$650m of river protection infrastructure which in turn protects \$110b of private and public assets across the Canterbury region. This reflects a very effective investment return in river protection infrastructure.

11 Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective Funding (Duncan Barr/Everett/David Acland, via MS Teams)

Angela Cushnie, as the Coordinator of the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective, declared a conflict of interest and removed herself from the table/discussion.

Mayor Neil Brown departed the meeting at 1.50pm.

An update was given on the establishment of the Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective and a request was made for the Zone Committee to consider an application for seed funding of \$45,000, across four months, broken into three specific categories:

- Catchment Coordination, Strategy, Marketing and Administration - \$30,000
- MCCC Science – What do we know and where are the gaps? - \$5,000
- Community Water Testing Case Study - \$10,000

It was agreed to listen to other funding requests and discuss all requests later in the meeting.

12 Wakanui/Whakanui Working Group Update (including funding request)

Group are undertaking weeding, planting, walkway/carved centrepiece pole to mark the significance of the historical site. Plans also include limiting vehicle access by erecting signage and blocking access for vehicles to sensitive areas.

Requesting Zone Committee to consider underwriting a total of up to \$2,000 to enable the purchase of 500 plants to plant at Matariki.

13 Hekeao Constructed Wetland – Mel Brooks

Sidinei Teixeira declared a conflict of interest and removed herself from the table/discussion.

Objectives:

- To increase biodiversity with appropriation plantings
- To create habitat for native fish species
- Test the DairyNZ CW guidance for use in Mid Canterbury so it can be reproduced at other sites in the catchment
- Provide access for the community to visit the Construct Wetland
- Test substrate and construction options to optimise cost and maximise denitrification
- Provide real time nitrate data available on line
- Looking to see if there was an appetite for the Zone Committee to assist going forward.

Requesting funding of \$20,000 to purchase sensors, which would enable data to be available live online.

14 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget

The Zone Committee has a budget of \$50,000 for implementing its Action Plan. These funds need to be allocated by the end of June 2022

Agreed: That the Zone Committee recommend the allocation of funding:

- Mid Canterbury Catchment Group - \$30,000 to assist with the costs associated to funding a Co-ordinator role
- Wakanui/Whakanui Working Group - \$2,000 to underwrite the purchase of 500 plants
- Hekeao Constructed Wetland - \$10,000 to purchase sensors

McKenzie/Allan

Carried

15 Other Business**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 22 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 3.21pm with a Karakia by Genevieve de Spa.

Dated this 22nd day of March 2022 _____ (Chair)