

## Biodiversity Advisory Group

3 August 2021



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## *Biodiversity Advisory Group*

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 3 August, commencing at 1.00pm at the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

**Present:** Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair), and Diane Rawlinson; Bert Hofmans (ADC); Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.); Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra); Ian Soper (ADC); Edith Smith (Forest & Bird); Val Clemens (ACCT and Forest & Bird); Donna Field (ECan and Whitcombe Landcare Group) and Ian Fraser (DOC).

**In attendance:** Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Maria Captein (ECan); and Liv Olsen (Fonterra).

### **Apologies**

Mike Salvesen and Mary Ralston.

Austin/Rawlinson

Carried

### **Extraordinary Business**

Nil

### **Declarations of Interest**

Nil

### **Confirmation of Minutes – 8/06/21**

**That** the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 8 June 2021 be taken as read and confirmed.

Smith/Rawlinson

Carried

### **Agency Updates**

#### **Val Clemens & Edith Smith (Forest and Bird)**

- Updated on Braided seminar that occurred recently.
- Played a clip from TVNZ Q&A on significant natural areas (SNAs).

#### **Bert Hofmans (Ashburton District Council)**

- Biodiversity Officer will hopefully be recruited in second half of this year. The priorities of the position are still to be confirmed through the development of the position description. The business case will be used as the basis for this.
- Commented on follow up from field trip on 6 April: There has been no follow up on this other than it is a work in progress.

#### **Ian Fraser (Department of Conservation)**

- New whitebait regulations this season. Video explaining rule changes can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUEDKLgI0Y4>

- Working with landowners/neighbours to repair fences from damage caused by the rain event at end of May.
- Intensification and extensions up tributaries of the Upper Rangitata trapping programme are close to being completed.
- Jobs for Nature projects are underway.
- LINZ have funded significant amount of weed control work in the south branch of the Hakatere river above Blowing Point bridge as well as possum control in the Stour valley in the past few months. This work will continue for the next three years.

**Marcelo (Fonterra)**

- Work still ongoing for the farms that were affected by the floods.

**Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.)**

- Working with DOC to clarify where they can and cannot spray.

**Donna Field (Ecan and Whitcombe Landcare Group)**

- Busy with flood relief.
- A number of audits coming in from farms.

**Ian Soper (ADC)**

- Plans progressing for native planting area in the Ashburton Domain.

*The purpose of the minutes taken for each meeting was questioned. It was clarified that the purpose of minutes taken is to record attendance, recommendations to Council, resolutions and action points.*

**Action Points**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Circulate report that Mike Harding is working on around Alford Forest Vegetation Monitoring	Bert Hofmans
Circulate web link to District Plan which shows location of all areas of significant nature conservation value (ASCVs).	Bert Hofmans
Invite Ian Hyde to next meeting to get more explanation from him on SNAs. Any questions to be sent to <a href="mailto:Governance@adc.govt.nz">Governance@adc.govt.nz</a> in advance.	Aisling O'Reilly

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 1:00pm

The meeting concluded at 2:30pm