

Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Water Management Zone Committee** held on Tuesday 28 March 2023, commencing at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

Councillor Richard Wilson, Chris Allen, Adi Avnit, Clare Buchanan, Angela Cushnie, James Meager, Sidinei Teixeira, Bill Thomas (Chair) and Les Wanhalla

In attendance

Environment Canterbury: Dave Moore (Facilitator), John Benn (DOC) and Carol McAtamney (minutes)

2 members of the public in attendance

1 Welcome

Dave Moore opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 Apologies

That apologies for absence be received on behalf of Mayor Neil Brown, Councillor Ian Mackenzie and Genevieve de Spa and for lateness on behalf of Chris Allen.

Meager/Buchanan

Carried

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 24 January 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Avnit/Buchanan

Carried

5.1 Matters Arising

Nil.

6 Correspondence

Inward:

Nil.

Outward:

Nil.

7 Public Contributions

Nil.

8 Boundary Drain Variable Flow Trial – Five Year Review

Adrian Meredith, Kimberley Dynes, Maria Captein

Outline

- Background to the trial and hinds drains context
 - Hinds drains Working Party Established in 2014
 - Identified 4 drain series
- Summary of monitoring data
- Assessment of Flow Trial Environmental Objectives
- Other considerations for the trial in 2023
- Review by Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua
- Next Steps

Chris Allen joined the meeting at 1.23pm

Key Messages

- Only two years of the 5 year trial were relevant to the new flow regime.
- Fish migration and recruitment, spawning, and habitat outcomes of the Boundary drain Variation Flow Consent trail were 'maintained' but in a poor condition – not enhanced.
- Flow variability alone is unlikely to only controlling factor of maintaining fish migration, recruitment, spawning or available habitat.
- The survivability of fish populations may be influenced by lack of preferred habitat, the effects of poor water quality and/or a limited macroinvertebrate food source.

Next steps

- Consent application – continuation of trial? Same monitoring or new emphasis?
- Any adjustment to the flow regime?
- Habitat enhancements an integral step
- Water quality improvements must be a factor
- Parallel processes (Nitrate reductions, enhancements) – gains will be made in parallel
- Cultural monitoring
- Incorporation of Runanga's comments into future trial
- Overall 'health' of the waterway – Te Mana o te Wai

9 Social Media Guidelines

Kim Whitwell

Discussions were held on best practices of communicating and engaging with the community across all of the Zone Committee Action Plan priorities and specifically to the Action Plan objective.

An approach is to be made to the ADC to see if there is a willingness for Zone Committee updates to be included on their Facebook page and other media outlets, to enable a more local focus to be publicised.

10 Committee Updates

Upcoming events:

31 March: South Zone Committees Hui, Waihao Marae Morven

1 May: Rakitata Revival Field Trip

23 May: Meeting/working bee at Staveley Camp

11 Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective – Water Science Update

Romy Van Der Boom (Summer Student)/Phill Everest (MCCC)

Romy Van Der Boom, University of Canterbury MSc student, was engaged on a summer scholarship to collate historical water quality and quantity data over the summer of 2022/23. A summary report was presented to the committee.

Part two of his project is to be the analysis of the available water quality metrics and the relationship between the water quality changes and land use changes in the region.

12 Action Plan Fund

A table detailing possible projects that may required funding in the 2022/23 financial year was tabled. In addition a funding matrix has been prepared which identifies various funding organisations/options that are available. A copy of the application form, along with the funding matrix is to be circulated to the groups that were identified as possibly requiring funding this year

13 Other Business

Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society

Gen de Spa is the current Zone Committee representative on the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society. An alternative representative is required in the case of Gen not being able to attend the meetings.

That Angela Cushnie and Adi Avnit be appointed alternative representatives on the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society.

Thomas/Wanhalla

Carried

Ashburton Biodiversity Advisory Group

That Adi Avnit replace Angela Cushnie as the Zone Committee representative on the Ashburton Biodiversity Advisory Group.

Thomas/Allen

Carried

14 Resignation

James Meager tendered his resignation as the Te Runanga o Arowhenua representative. The Arowhenua Committee are seeking a replacement. James thanked the Committee for the opportunity and wished them all the best for the future.

The Chair expressed thanks to James for his time and commitment to the Committee and wished him well for his new ventures.

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 23 May 2023.

The meeting closed at 3.36pm with a Karakia by James Meager.

Dated this 23rd day of May 2023 _____ (Chair)