MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE FUNCTION ROOM, RANGIORA TOWN HALL, 303 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017 AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT
David Ashby (Chair), Grant Edge (Deputy Chair), Cameron Henderson, Carolyne Latham, Gary Walton, Michael Blackwell, and Claire McKay (Environment Canterbury Councillor).

IN ATTENDANCE
Brent Walton (General Manager, WIL), Jamie Hamilton (WIL), Des Winter (farmer), Dugald McLean (Environmental Consultant), Greg Bennett (Land Drainage Engineer, WDC), Janet Fraser (Utilities Planner, WDC), Owen Davies (Drainage Asset Manager, WDC), Mike O’Connell (Senior Policy Analyst, WDC), Mark Andrews (Civil Engineer, WDC), Mayor David Ayers from 5.35pm, James Ensor (Oxford-Ohoka Community Board), until 5.20pm, Anna Veltman (Land Management Advisor, ECan), Meredith MacDonald (Senior Planner, ECan), Jo Jagusch (ECan), Jason Holland (Planning Team Leader, ECan), Treena Davidson (TRONT), Catherine Kappelle (public), Linda Pocock (public), Larry Burke (NZ Salmon Anglers Association), Michael Bate (Kaiapoi), Gina McKenzie (Real Communications), Andrew Arps (Zone Delivery Team Manager, ECan), Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and Adrienne Smith (WDC Committee Advisor).

1 APOLOGIES
Moved David Ashby seconded Claire McKay

THAT apologies be received and sustained from J Roper-Lindsay and N Harris for absence and for lateness from S. Stewart. S Stewart subsequently did not attend the meeting.

CARRIED

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no updates to the Register of Interest

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 13 November 2017

Moved Gary Walton seconded Grant Edge

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Confirms the circulated minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 13 November 2017, as a true and accurate record, with amendments as follows:

- Item 2, Michael Bate presentation: last sentence, change the word “creek” to “pond”
- Item 3.5 CAREX report on Glyphosate: first paragraph, last sentence, change name from Michael Bate to Michael Blackwell.
**CARRIED**

**MATTERS ARISING**

Regarding the ENC North Canterbury Business Awards for 2018, Andrew Arps said funds have been put aside to sponsor a category on behalf of the Zone Committee, and there will be discussions with Enterprise North Canterbury on this proposal.

2  **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK**

**Michael Bate**

Michael Bate spoke about the recent media coverage of salt water intrusion in the Kaiapoi River. He suggested using the Cam flood gates could be an easy option to control this intrusion. The gates are manually controlled. He then confirmed there are freshwater weeds right down to the Courtney Stream for the first time in about five years, and commented if humans look after the river and be smarter, it will recover.

M Bate also presented a video of the water quality in Kaiapoi River, and some tributaries, including Llineside and Beach Road creeks. Two drains on Revells Road showed no signs of instream life and not a lot of water running in either of the drains. The water quality of these drains and creeks is deteriorating as the water levels drop. M Bate noted it's not so much the presence of sediment, but what is in the sediment that is disturbing.

Greg Bennett, Land Drainage Engineer from WDC, offered some information on the Revells Road and Llineside Road drains between Bramleys Road. He clarified the water comes from the same source and explained the process the Council undertakes annually to clean out the drains. He also noted that this area between Llineside Road and Revells Road is a ponding area during heavy rain events and the fine sediment settles out in these drains.

**Des Winter**

As a farmer, Mr Winter is concerned with the rules and regulations being imposed and the impact of these on farming in the future. Mr Winter had heard speculation that if the water consented for farms is not being used, then the farmers will lose it, which would be a real concern for those farmers. Regarding low flows in rivers, the Courtenay Stream is not flowing and is choked with weed. He noted there are only three water takes from this river. Mr Winter noted that he had recently spent significant amount to get water supply for his property and suggested an alternative would have been to have subdivide this property into lifestyle blocks and for each of these blocks to have a well drilled, which wouldn’t require a consent but represented a similar level of water take. He suggested this was something for the Zone Committee to consider in its decision making.

D Ashby mentioned the recent series of Water Quantity Workshops for consent holders and Mr Winter said these were useful. Mr Winter asked that common sense prevail, otherwise farmers will be in serious trouble.

**Linda Pocock**

Ms Pocock spoke on her concerns with river flows and suggested that everyone has to look at common sense. She asked that consideration be given to introducing...
restrictions now in the Kaiapoi River, rather than waiting until the situation is an urgent one. To pre-empt an emergency situation, residents with water takes and farmers could be asked to reduce their irrigation use before the restrictions come into force. She concluded by stating people can’t keep taking water from aquifers that have taken thousands of years to fill, it is not an infinite resource.

Following a question from Grant Edge on water metering, Ms Pocock said she expected the community wouldn’t agree to metering, but it could become necessary to introduce in the future.

Brent Walton, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited (WIL)

B Walton confirmed WIL are investigating the salination in the Kaiapoi River noting that, as an irrigation scheme, they are quite prepared to take action early. He added WIL are well ahead on advances being made through farm audits,

He is also concerned with the emotive media coverage of these matters, without stories being based on factual information. There are real improvements in place and underway from farmers who are part of the WIL scheme.

After a question from Gary Walton, Brent advised that the scheme will be on restrictions by the end of this week, if there is no rainfall.

COMMITTEE UPDATES – Zone Committee Members, M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) A Arps (Waimakariri Zone Delivery Manager, ECan)

3.1 Regional Water Committee Working Groups meeting – 15 November 2017 (CWMS Regional Committee representative Carolyne Latham)

Carolyne noted the LAWA website (Land Air Water Aotearoa) which provides information to the public on the suitability of water for swimming at various popular recreation sites. Weekly water quality monitoring is about to start in Canterbury at popular sites and this information will be interpreted on the website: www.lawa.org.nz. Promotion of the website is important, as it is a central hub for water quality monitoring nationally.

Grant asked about the article on willow control at Te Waihora. Claire added this is focused on the removal of some crack, ‘but mainly grey willow. With the fencing off for stock exclusion, this allows the willows to increase which is a concern. For the Te Waihora project, ECan are in partnership with DOC to do a three year trial setting up a dedicated weed control team. ECan are also hoping to attract some external funding support.

3.2 Media and Communications Report 7 November – 4 December – Gina McKenzie (Real Communications)

Andrew Arps hosted two video presentations on Ravenswood resource consents. The first video showed the work that has been undertaken to ensure the Taranaki Stream is functioning as expected following its realignment.

The second video showed the use of coconut matting lining the banks of the new Taranaki Stream, to reduce sediment trapping. This stabilises the soil as vegetation grows through the matting.

Andrew Arps spoke on the low flow gauging, noting it is important that this is a robust process. This has been discussed at the last two zone committee meetings. Andrew advised that the monitoring is now being recorded more frequently but also noted that ECan staff can’t be everywhere all the time. There are priority catchments that staff work with and there are also visual assessments being done around the Zone. ECan staff also have
communication from members of the community, noting any possible unpermitted activities. There are some areas with lifestyle blocks where water takes are having an impact on water flows. An education brochure is being updated to inform residents on this issue. It is intended to distribute this brochure to approximately 500 letterboxes in the Ohoka area. It is also planned to have a version of this document published as a newspaper article.

Anna Veltman provided an update on land use consents for farms within the Zone. She clarified there are 67 irrigated properties, over 50 hectares, that are outside the Waimakariri Irrigation Scheme. Collected data since July 2017 indicated there is an improvement in the number of farmers who have either applied for consents, or are on track for a consent, or have clarified they do not require a consent at this time. In conclusion, the amount of work to acquire a consent was acknowledged.

3.3 **Waimakariri Water Zone Committee e-newsletter November Update**

A copy of the latest e newsletter was included in the agenda.

3.4 **Regional Update – new consenting requirements for farmers**

– ECan Communications

Moved G Walton seconded M Blackwell

**THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:**

(a) **Receive** these updates for its information and with regard to the committee’s 5 Year Outcomes, drafting of the Land and Water Solutions Programme recommendations, and 2018 community engagement priorities.

**CARRIED**

4 **TARGETED ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER – SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE WATER QUANTITY CONSENT HOLDER WORKSHOPS**

– (M Macdonald (ECan)

M Macdonald presented this report summarizing the discussions from the recently held at the water quantity consent holder workshops. Committee members were asked for feedback and comments on these workshops, each responding to the following questions:

1. **Are the response from these workshops what you expected?**
2. **Are there any responses, unexpected or otherwise, that you think need to be recognised?**
3. **As a result of these workshops, are there any gaps in knowledge or understanding the Zone Committee need more work on to inform the Zone Implementation Programme Addendum recommendations?**

**Carolyne** commented on the information from ECan which referred to the combined impact of lifestyle blocks, versus farm production and their respective water use. It was asked if this information could be provided to members of the zone committee. It was agreed to discuss this with ECan staff and information brought back to the Committee. Carolyne asked if maps can be provided to indicate what areas the comments are referring to.
Carolyn noted that even though the numbers attending the workshops had been small, the quality of discussion was worthwhile. Carolyn learnt a lot about irrigation on different soil types across the Zone. She added it is important to follow through with what was covered, for the next series of meetings. Hopefully those who did attend will take it to any neighbours or friends who wanted to attend but were unable to.

Claire – noted the feedback was in accord with what she was expecting. She also thought some farmers went away wanting to know more information.

Cameron – need to consider the comments going forward, particularly for the discussion on current minimum flows and how will this impact if there is changes to the minimum flows.

Michael – as Zone Committee members, we were there to listen. It would have been great to see a better uptake from the public. For the next round of workshops, Michael said it is important that the answers to the questions from these meetings are available.

Gary – was surprised at the level of reliability for down country farmers, as the up country farmers are already suffering. Pressure points in the district can be seen at the moment with no rainfall. Gary also commented on the knowledge gaps these meetings highlighted.

Grant – questioned if the Cust Main Drain has poor reliability? Dave clarified there is poor reliability for the Cust Main Drain, but it is managed properly. Grant added the responses were as he’d expected, but he didn’t hear any unexpected comments, which he’d expected. He noted some people had mentioned they had introduced weirs on their properties, for water storage, and he questioned if this being monitored?

In addition he felt it is important to put this information into the sub-catchment format, and noted the turnout was poor for these workshop meetings. Meredith noted that staff and committee members had worked hard to get people along to these workshops with follow up phone calls and emails.

Dave – considered the engagement overall to be a very good result with these workshops being one of the best community engagement processes undertaken to date. He noted his concern that there are waterways in the district that are not telemetrically measured. These need to be identified and measured to make the improvements to the environment that are needed. Manual measuring is not sufficient. Dave would like to see more Water User Groups established, and to encourage farmers onto these groups.

Grant suggested if the process was repeated again in the near future, given the positive response to these meetings, there would likely be much better uptake of attendance.

WAIMAKARIRI 2018 ON THE GROUND WORK PROGRAMME – UPDATE –
Andrew Arps (Waimakariri Zone Delivery Manager, ECan) and Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator – Waimakariri, ECan)

Andrew Arps provided an update on the Big Rocks document, advising that there is still discussions to be had with two Committee members to get their feedback. He also confirmed the $30,000 committed by the committee to the First 500 Springhead Protection Programme has been allocated and information on this will be brought to the first meeting in 2018. Andrew noted that there is more community interest being generated for this programme and people are wanting to be involved.

It was agreed to arrange a site visit for committee members to the proposed “First 500” spring head project in the New Year. Dave noted the cultural sensitivity of these
spring heads and it is important to get the community to buy into these projects. The possibility of getting schools involved was also suggested.

Michael noted that the clean water from these spring heads is currently finishing up in a poor state downstream and all parties involved need to be encouraged to have the same ethos.

Carolyne asked on progress with the Salmon Hatchery at Silverstream. It was agreed that options and information will be brought back to the committee in the New Year, in relation to possibly sourcing deeper groundwater, and whether this will provide a more nitrate free water supply.

Moved D Ashby seconded C McKay

**THAT** the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) **Receive** this update on the working draft of the 2018 On the Ground Work Programme as a basis for ongoing review and feedback.  

CARRIED

6 **GENERAL BUSINESS** – D Ashby and Zone Committee members

Carolyne asked if there is results available from the survey from the Ashley Rakahuri Rive Care Group (ARRG). Andrew confirmed he will follow up on this with ARRG.

Grant sought an update on the lifestyle block meetings and information on this. Andrew advised they are waiting for confirmation on an application for funding to continue this project. Feedback from the workshops will be presented to the committee in the New Year.

Action List – Murray noted updates included in this and some actions already undertaken and matters that will be dealt with in the New Year.

7 **NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the committee for their input and work for the year and extended best wishes for Christmas and New Year. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12 February 2018.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6pm.

CONFIRMED

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Chairman

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Date