MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE RAKAHURI COMMITTEE ROOMS 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2018 AT 3.10PM.

PRESENT
Grant Edge (Acting Chair), Carolyne Latham, Gary Walton, Michael Blackwell, Claire McKay (Environment Canterbury Councillor), Arapata Reuben (arrived at 3.20pm during item 2) and Sandra Stewart (Councillor, Waimakariri District Council).

IN ATTENDANCE
WDC Councillor Paul Williams, James Ensor (Member Oxford-Ohoka Community Board), Phillip Redmond (Member Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board), Sophie Allen (Water Environment Advisor, WDC), Owen Davies (Drainage Asset Manager, WDC), Libica Hurley (Technical Administrator, WDC), Meredith Macdonald (Senior Resource Management Planner), Jocelyne Allen (ECan), Gina McKenzie (Real Communications Ltd), Andrew Arps (ECan), Bruce Stokes (Farmer), Michael Bate, (Kaiapoi resident), Murray Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and Sarah Nichols (WDC Governance Manager).

1. APOLOGIES
Moved C McKay   seconded M Blackwell
That an apology for lateness be received from Arapata Reuben.
That apologies for absence were received and sustained from David Ashby, Judith Roper-Lindsay and Cameron Henderson.
CARRIED

2. REGISTER OF INTERESTS
There were no changes to the Register of Interests.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
3.1 Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting – 10 September 2018

Moved: C Latham   Seconded: G Walton
That The CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:
(a) Confirms the minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 10 September 2018, as a true and accurate record.
CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING
S Stewart queried when the Committee could expect the report related to R Johnston’s property on the banks of the Ashley River that had been raised at previous meetings. C McKay advised the report was currently being reviewed by ECan staff.
M Blackwell queried an update related to the Pines Beach meeting with K Simpson (WDC). S Stewart and Councillor P Williams (WDC) advised the matter was in hand and sorted.
M Blackwell queried the Lineside Road paddocks. It was advised that Sicon had started a work assessment and drone footage was being taken of the area. General discussion occurred. G Edge requested the 3Waters team investigate and report back to the Committee.

G Edge enquired of C McKay on the alternative economic outlook for diversification. C McKay advised this project was market led, and not ECAN led, noting that Lincoln University were undertaking some work in this area.

A Reuben arrived at 3.20pm.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES – ZONE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MURRAY GRIFFIN, (CWMS FACILITATOR, ECAN)

4.1 CWMS Regional Committee working group meeting 11 September 2018 – Carolyne Latham, (Waimakariri Zone Regional Committee Representative)

M Griffin clarified with C Latham there were no additional updates to add to her report.

G Edge asked for an explanation of the Fit for Future projects with a focus on the targets. C Latham explained there were six task groups and noted that the task group for Regional and National Economic indicators target areas had not yet met to discuss this issue, although some of other groups had discussed economic issues. She commented on a spreadsheet of potential targets for 2025 and the group being asked for input.

C McKay explained much of the work for the economic target area was related to economic contributions from water management, employment and other values associated with water in Canterbury. It was difficult to get the right people together on this task.

C Latham said the Zone Committee would have input/feedback later (currently the work was at a very preliminary stage). C McKay confirmed the project organisers appreciated both the Waimakariri and OTOP zone committees would have limited capacity to provide feedback at this early stage of the project, because of current workloads focused on their respective ZIP Addendums. M Griffin explained there will be a second round of feedback for this project and the Zone Committee would input during that phase. G Edge asked for information to be circulated to the Committee.

G Edge noted the targets for irrigated land. C Latham provided an update on recent discussions regarding year 2040 targets and noted more discussion would occur at tomorrow’s Regional Committee meeting.

4.2 Media and Communications – September 6 – October 1 Update – Gina McKenzie (Director – Real Communications)

M Griffin introduced the information, commenting on feedback received at the Ohoka Market, where people had taken documents and discussed the information with committee members and support staff. G McKenzie noted there are more articles to come, which will be accessible on the ECAN website, local news and the Council. She also confirmed the Irrigation NZ magazine was being trialed for disseminating information.

S Stewart asked about articles published and what has come from community interest rather than by ECAN communications. She remarked that many of these articles are PR rather than legitimate information. G McKenzie commented on her monthly meetings with local newspapers and their discretion on what they chose to publish. S Stewart asked if in future reports it could be differentiated on what was PR information from ECAN and what was legitimate news generated by newspapers themselves. G McKenzie confirmed that request could be accommodated in the future.
C Latham asked S Stewart why this distinction matters. S Stewart responded that it is useful to know what is generated by community concern rather than PR. General discussion occurred. C McKay commented on the importance of education.

Moved: C McKay Seconded: M Blackwell

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Receive these updates for its information and regard to the committee’s 5 Year Outcomes and community engagement priorities.

CARRIED

5. **PROPOSED STOCK WATER RACE CLOSURES** - Owen Davies (Drainage Asset Manager, WDC) AND LIBICA HURLEY (TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATOR, WDC)

O Davies advised the Committee of recent applications received by the Waimakariri District Council to close Council owned stock water races R8-1 and R3Q-5. He provided a general overview and outlined reasoning for recommending closure, including effects on neighbouring properties.

C Latham queried para 5.5 and 5.6 of the report asking for an explanation in the increase of WDC water race closures.

O Davies spoke on water race effects on the region and changes to the way ground water operates in the District. He spoke of the Managed Aquifer Recharge trial occurring currently and effects on ground water take levels, believing it would have minimal effect. Staff advised that there are approximately 835km of water race in the Waimakariri District, of which there are areas not closed but re-routed around paddocks for pivot irrigators. Short lengths of water race may close and potentially even out the situation; however it does not mean that overall WDC are reducing water races. O Davies spoke of self-funding and how the Council is protective of the water race system, which he does not envisage will be closed any time soon.

C McKay asked that given the value of water races is the WDC looking at rating on the overall area. O Davies advised the Council were looking at wider benefits for bio-diversity, however the matter had not been considered in depth by Council at this time. O Davies spoke of the relevance that the resource consent allows use for stock water, electricity generation and irrigation. At present WDC do not have the right to use water races as a supply to recharge water. O Davies cautioned getting into a robbing Peter to pay Paul scenario. The WDC will have further discussions in the future.

G Edge tabled a question from J Roper-Lindsay in her absence related to assessment methods. O Davies advised that staff had yet to look closely at ecological values and noted the difficulty of assessment given some water races do not have water for most of the year. Ecological value is minimal in many cases and the matter could be looked at more closely in the future. G Edge referred to one example in the report and wondered if more discussion on Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) and assessment prior to closure could occur to help farmers under their FEPs. He referred to photos 4 and 5. O Davies commented it may have been a secondary stormwater drain at the time. Photo 1 of gum trees was commented on in regard to ecological/biological areas and removal of the race. G Edge commented that this example may not comply with the WDC Water Race Policy but it may have broader ecological benefits. O Davies commented there is no mechanism at present for that to happen and more investigation and discussion would be required. The matter could potentially be discussed in the future as a Council debate.

C Latham sought clarification on the decision sought from the zone committee. Staff advised the final decision is with the WDC Utilities & Roading Committee, which would receive a report prior to Christmas.
C Latham mentioned draft ZIPA feedback received about ECan/WDC bringing closures to the Committee for input prior to final decision and this aspect should be strengthened. O Davies advised that matter needed to be debated at Council level.

A Reuben advised the Rūnanga were supportive of this race closure and have provided feedback on the proviso that native species are removed prior to the closure.

G Walton believed closure of the water race made sense in this situation, given the pivot irrigator path. He commented that the farmer does not need the race as they have alternative solutions for stock. C Latham reiterated the ZIPA feedback shared.

S Stewart stated it is timely that this Water Zone Committee asked the Council for a report on the matter.

Moved: S Stewart Seconded: G Edge

(a) That the Canterbury Water management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee requests Waimakariri District Council to prepare a wider strategy for water race closures, looking at benefits of ecological and biological and reasoning. The report is to include firefighting capacity of closure impacts.

CARRIED

6. WAIMAKARIKI LAND AND WATER SOLUTIONS PROGRAMME - DRAFT ZIP ADDENDUM – ENGAGEMENT FORUM – MEREDITH MACDONALD (SENIOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNER) AND MURRAY GRIFFIN (CWMS ZONE FACILITATOR)

M Macdonald provided an update on the consultation process. There had been seven sessions at various venues, involving a combination of day and evening sessions. In Kaiapoi 30 people were present, whilst the Pegasus session received a low turn-out. There were seven groups attending one Rangiora session with the morning session being full. Oxford had the best turnout with 20 people present in the morning, and 40 people attending the evening session. Belfast had only single numbers of attendees. At the Ohoka Market 35 people attended the first session and 45 people were present during the second session and provided great feedback. The Ohoka Market had been a positive engagement with people commenting on a range of issues including fencing, seeking an understanding of what to do, when and how.

G Edge acknowledged the work of ECan staff during the consultation process. The last session was being held this Thursday 7-9pm at Rossburn, Rangiora.

M Bates spoke briefly, expressing his concern about minimum flows and the timeframes. He believed that the timeframes needed to be brought forward. He commented on the diminishing fish life he had observed and that the Waimakariri River aspect has to be factored in to assist the Kaiapoi River proposals. M Bates also expressed concern that the Ashley flow is too low at the Gorge. He commented on the declined in wetland areas and the benefits that wetlands can bring for wildlife. M Bates posed the question of what are we trying to solve.

G Edge suggested M Bates put his views in writing and the Committee will review all the feedback. The comments were noted by staff.

Moved: C Latham Seconded: M Blackwell

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Receive this update and feedback as part of the community engagement on the Waimakariri Land and Water Solutions Programme Draft ZIP Addendum 2018.

CARRIED
7. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

C Latham commented on a newspaper extract related to herbicide trials (*Weedex*) and a desire for WDC to investigate the matters further.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee will be held on Monday 19 November 2018 at 4.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm.

CONFIRMED

______________________  Chairman

______________________  Date