MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE CANTERBURY WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WAIMAKARIRI ZONE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2018 AT 3.00PM.

PRESENT
Dave Ashby (Chairperson), Wendy Main, Erin Harvie, Carolyne Latham, Michael Blackwell, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Cameron Henderson, Sandra Stewart (Councillor, Waimakariri District Council), Claire McKay (ECan Councillor), Arapata Reuben (Te Ngai Tūhuriri Rūnanga representative), and John Cooke (Te Ngai Tūhuriri Rūnanga representative).

IN ATTENDANCE
G Edge (Edge Landscaping Projects), P Williams (WDC Councillor), N Atkinson (WDC Councillor), B Stokes (Farmer), R Johnston (Farmer), M Bate (Kaiapoi Resident), J Ensor (Oxford-Ohoka Community Board), L Burke (NZ Salmon Anglers) J Benn (Department of Conservation), D Kimber (Department of Conservation), G Cleary (WDC Manager Utilities and Roading), J Fraser (WDC Utilities Planner), B Pearce (WDC Project Engineer) O Davies (WDC Drainage Assistant Manager), G Meadows (WDC Policy Manager), Z Ploeg (ECan), A Veltman (ECan), B Waldon-Gibbons (ECan), S Bragg (ECan), A McLeod (Incite/ECan), I Weepu (ECan), L Woodberg (ECan), A Arps(ECan), A Fenemor (Incite), M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan) and T Kunkel (WDC Governance Team Leader).

1 BUSINESS

KARAKIA
A Reuben provided the karakia to open the meeting.

1.1 Apologies
Nil.

1.2 Welcome and Introductions
The Chairperson welcomed the newly appointed members to the Waimakariri Zone Committee, W Main and E Harvie. E Harvie advised that she was an environmental consultant that worked in resource management in the Waimakariri for the last 10 years. W Main introduced herself by advising that she had been a dairy farmer for the last nine years and a resident of View Hill. She stated that she wished to assist fellow farmers to understand what was required of them with regard to environmental management.

1.3 Register of Interests
M Griffin confirmed that the Register of Interest was current as at 12 August 2019.
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting of 13 May 2019

D Ashby tabled an amendment proposed by G Edge.

Page 4 of 7; paragraph 5 should be amended to read as follows:

“G Edge suggested a change from using the word “drain/waterway management”, as some are natural waterways and the word “Maintenance” to be replaced with “Management”.

Moved M Blackwell seconded C Latham

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Confirms the Minutes of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Waimakariri Zone Committee meeting, held on 13 May 2019, as a true and accurate record, with three amendments.

CARRIED

Matters Arising

S Stewart referred to the ‘Lineside Drainage and Wetland Update’ (pg 5), and requested an update of the data collected by the drone regarding the source and cause of the discoloration of the water. A Arps sought clarification on whether ECan was requested to investigate the abovementioned matter. G Cleary undertook to advise as to who was undertaking the work and what the findings were.

J Roper-Lindsay requested that members be provided with a copy of the presentation that formed part of the WDC Waterway Consent Application Briefing (pg 3). In response to questions, O Davies confirmed that a Waterway Consent Application had been lodged.

2. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2019 – M Griffin

D Ashby stepped down as Chairperson, with the CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, temporarily facilitating meeting.

S Stewart asked if the Committee had the authority of elect ‘Co-Chairs’. The reasoning for suggesting the appointment of ‘Co-Chairs’ was explained however, after consultation with the WDC Governance Manager it was advised that the Committee was not able to elect ‘Co-Chairs’. Subsequent to discussion, the Committee therefore agreed to appoint a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

M Griffin proposed that the Chairperson and Deputy only be appointed until February 2020, to ensure that the Committee was on the same schedule as the other Canterbury Water Zone Committees. This would also give new members an opportunity to ascertain what strengths each member brought to the Committee, and they would therefore be able to make an informed decision in February 2020, when the matter of electing a chair would be considered again. The Committee were comfortable with this approach.

M Griffin called for nominations for Chairperson.
THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Appoints Michael Blackwell as Chairperson of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee to take immediate effect from 12 August 2019 until the first meeting in 2020.

CARRIED

The CWMS Facilitator, M Griffin, then vacated the Chair in favour of the elected Chairperson, M Blackwell.

M Blackwell called for nominations for Deputy Chairperson.

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Appoints Cameron Henderson as Deputy Chairperson of the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee to take immediate effect from 12 August 2019 until the first meeting 2020.

CARRIED

M Blackwell then called for nominations for a CWMS Regional Committee representative for 2019.

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Appoints Carolyne Latham as the CWMS Regional Committee representative for 2019 to take immediate effect from 12 August 2019 until the first meeting 2020.

CARRIED

M Blackwell thanked the previous Chairperson, D Ashby, for his leadership during the difficult period with developing Plan Change 7 (ZIPA) and also thanked him for his time and dedication. M Blackwell extended the Committee’s gratitude to G Edge for the work he did as Deputy Chairperson. M Blackwell expressed the Committee’s respect for G Edge’s vast knowledge and his care for the environment and waterways. He urged G Edge to maintain contact with the Committee.

C Henderson thanked D Ashby for his commitment to the Committee and his support of new Committee members.

In response, D Ashby stated that Plan Change 7 was the most difficult change that the Committee had to work through with the Waimakariri community to date. The Committee therefore needed to carefully monitor the implementation and effects of Plan Change 7 within the zone. He further stated that it was now the time for the Committee to play a larger role in the implementation of various policies and processes in a bid to effect real change. However, the biggest challenge the Committee still faced was to ensure the support and buy-in of the Waimakariri community. D Ashby thanked the Committee members for their support during his tenure as Chairperson.

C McKay thanked D Ashby and G Edge for their service and contribution to the Committee over the last nine years.
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

R Johnston

R Johnston expressed his appreciation for the work done by D Ashby while he was Chairperson of the Committee. He congratulated M Blackwell on his appointment as the new Chairperson. He also congratulated W Main and E Harvie on their appointment to the Committee.

R Johnston expressed his distress regarding the environmental damage caused by the Ashley River on the frontage of his property. He invited the Committee to visit his property and inspect the damage. He congratulated C McKay on voting ‘No’ to the ‘climate emergency’, as he did not believe that there was such a great climate emergency as portrayed in the media.

R Johnston raised his concerns regarding the ramifications of the implementation on Plan Change 7. He expressed his doubt regarding the science that found that the Waimakariri’s waterways were contaminating Christchurch’s groundwater. He stressed that it was not fair to impose additional plan changes on the Waimakariri community. He stated that imposing Plan Change 7 prior to the legislation being finalised was unjust, as it could only be challenged on a point of law and not on science.

R Johnston also raised a concern regarding the continued reliance on Overseer for regulatory purposes, because it had a variability factor of approximately ±30%. He therefore suggested that alternative systems should be investigated. He stated that the farmers were not getting enough recognition for the work they were already doing to save the environment.

M Bate

M Bate showed a video taken of the Styx River in December 2018 showing the sludge that remained after the weeds died back. He also showed a video showing the pollution two weeks ago in the Cam River (behind the Mill) in Kaiapoi. He stated that the weeds were not growing back in the Cam River. He also showed a photo of the pollution at the drain (Revells Road) that runs into the Lineside Road Creek.

M Bate expressed his concerns that the proposed reduction in nitrate levels in Plan Change 7 was only 30% by 2040. He felt this would not be enough, especially in light of the study done in Denmark which found a correlation between the increase in bowel cancer and the nitrate levels in groundwater. W Main clarified that the 30% would be below ‘good management practice’ and not on the farmers current output.

C Latham responded by explaining that the monitoring of nitrate levels would be important. If it was found that the nitrate reduction was not sufficient by 2030 or 2040, the plan could be reviewed to continue with the proposed reductions. C Henderson suggested that M Bates submits all his concerns to ECan as part of the Plan Change 7 consultation process.

M Bate stated that there were no healthy waterways left in the Waimakariri. The use of fertilizer in the foothills should therefore be stopped to ensure that the zone’s groundwater quality improved. Residents have made substantial investments within the Waimakariri and they deserved an environment that they could live in. C Henderson highlighted that the whole area would be subject to Plan Change 7 and the Farm Environment Plan process, substantial improvements should therefore be made within the next few years. The general farming practices has also changed considerably over the last few years as farmers became more environmentally focused.
G Edge

G Edge congratulated M Blackwell, C Henderson and C Latham on their new appointments. He also thanked the previous speakers for their kind words.

G Edge expressed his support for the collaborative Zone Committee process. However, he raised a concern that people living, working and recreating in urban communities and the zone as a whole, who were concerned with environmental issues were underrepresented on the Committee. He suggested that to overcome the perception of bias in the decision-making process, every effort should be made in this current post-ZIPA stage to engage with non-farming communities.

G Edge stated that the Committee should move swiftly to develop its Sub-catchment Management Strategies which would require more engagement with rural and urban communities. Hopefully this process would defuse the growing urban/rural rift, mostly brought on by environmental concerns. The Committee tried to balance environmental and economic issues and outcomes in its ZIPA recommendations. However, he was of the view that given various accumulative factors the timeframe for improvement needed to be slashed. This could only come about from incentivising land use changes.

C Latham advised that incentivising land use changes was also on the Regional Committee Agenda, so all suggestions that G Edge might have on this matter would be appreciated. S Stewart concurred and stated that the Waimakariri District Council was also aware of the need to incentivise biodiversity.

4 PROPOSED PLAN CHANGES 7 AND 2 TO THE CANTERBURY LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN - BRIEFING – A Fenemor (INCITE)

M Blackwell stated that the report could be taken as read and that A Fenemor should concentrate on the Waimakariri Zone.

A Fenemor advised that ECan had developed a high level presentation on the proposed Plan Change 7 (PC 7) that was available to members of the public. She highlighted the Plan Change process and advised that the period for submissions on proposed PC7 to the LWRP would close on 13 September 2019. Submissions could be made by sending a written or electronic submission to ECan. Submissions must be in accordance with Form 5 of the Resource Management Regulations. After the closing date ECan would produce a summary of the decisions requested by submitters that would be made available to the public.

A Fenemor advised that all technical reports relating to PC 7 were available on the ECan website. ECan would be appointing an independent panel of Commissioners to hear submissions and make recommendations to the Council. Any person who made a submission would have the right to appeal the decision, on points of law, to the High Court.

A Fenemor reported that nitrate management was of key importance in the Waimakariri. All current government data indicated that there were high levels of nitrate in the Waimakariri waterways. Nitrate limits have therefore been set for all rivers, groundwater and water wells. She stated that the main way to achieve this reduction was to reduce the property size for permitted farming land use from ten hectare to five hectare and also the amendment to the winter grazing for properties.

A Fenemor explained the nitrate property sub-areas and the nitrate allocation rules that would apply to each sub-areas. Nitrate levels must be reduce in all sub-areas to the GMP baseline loss rate. She also explained the micro priority area and nitrate allocation rules that would apply to this area. A Fenemor clarified that the allowed nitrate levels in the various sub-areas were determent by the receiving waterbodies down gradient from each area.
With regard to minimum flows and allocations, A Fenemor reported that PC 7 was aiming to increase the minimum flow over time on nine rivers and to decrease the allocations on those waterbodies that have been over-allocated in the past. PC 7 also proposed the capping of current allocations and prohibiting new abstraction. The northern tributaries management unit have B block allocations that have also been removed from spring-fed streams. PC 7 would also allow the substitution of surface water and shallow groundwater takes for deep groundwater in over-allocated catchments. Additional water transfer restrictions would also be implemented in over-allocated catchments.

C Henderson questioned the substitution of surface water for deep groundwater, as according to PC 7 the definition of deep groundwater was “…where the average abstraction rate were not larger that 10 liters per second.” A Fenemor reported that water allocations would be done for mahinga kai enhancement from the Ashley River, Cam River and Silverstream. There are also other tools to achieve the fresh water outcomes for the sub-region such a targeted steam augmentation and active management of agricultural recharge. There were also rules set out for catchment restoration activities.

A Fenemor highlighted the introduction of the Ashley estuary / Te Aka Aka coastal protection zone that required a number of properties adjacent to waterways in this area to focus on the loss of contaminates, such as E.coli, phosphate and sediment discharged into the waterways. This would be done by requiring properties larger than five hectares, and properties adjoining to rivers/lakes, and has any irrigation and winter grazing of cattle to prepare an audited Farm Environment Plan.

In response to questions, A Fenemor confirmed that this would only apply to properties adjoining rivers and/or lakes and not all waterways. She also confirmed that rivers and lakes were defined in ECAn documentation. A Fenemor advised that ECAn had the Canterbury maps tools on its website that would be easy for members of the public to use. C Latham enquired if the effected property owners would be consulted. M Griffin confirmed that ECAn would be arranging consultation with property owners in this protection zone area. J Roper-Lindsay stated that the Committee members needed all the relevant information to the Te Aka Aka coastal protection zone to enable them to consult with the community.

C Latham stated that it was unclear if this would also apply to properties adjoining the estuary, as it seemed strange to have the rules apply to the rivers and lakes but not to the estuary itself. A Fenemor stated that ECAn was in the process to compiling more comprehensive documentation that would make it clearer as to which properties would be effected. These documents would be made available to the public via the ECAn website.

A Fenemor reported that it was also proposed that all activities in the protection zone should avoid discharge of contaminants to surface water, if not possible, the Best Practicable Option should be applied to meet water quality outcomes and limits. C Henderson expressed a concern regarding the vagueness of the abovementioned statement as there was no timeline and no definition of ‘Best Practicable Option’.

A Fenemor advised that the proposed stock exclusion rules were based on the current rules. However, the proposed stock exclusion was extended in the Waimakariri sub-region to include drains, springs and artificial watercourses. Farmed cattle, deer and pigs were excluded from all water bodies on the Ashley/Waimakariri plains area (land below 350m elevation). In conclusion, A Fenemor briefly highlighted the other provisions.

In response to a question from J Roper-Lindsay, A Fenemor explained that Numeric Freshwater Outcomes have been determined for all zones. These Outcomes have been developed by ecologists and were driven by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, as well as the community outcomes.
A Fenemor stated that there were many technical reports and plans available on the ECan website. She undertook to assist any Committee members that may struggle to navigate all the technical data. To ensure that the process remained fair and transparent all questions and answers would be published on the ECan website.

M Blackwell requested A Fenemor to forward her contract details to M Griffin to enable members to contact her if they had additional questions.

Moved J Roper-Lindsay seconded C Henderson

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Receive the briefing on the proposed Plan Changes 7 and 2 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan for their information.

CARRIED

5. KAIAPOI STORMWATER NETWORK DISCHARGE CONSENT APPLICATION UPDATE - J Fraser (WDC Utilities Planner)

J Fraser advised that the Kaiapoi Stormwater Network Discharge Consent Application has been prepared and would be the third global consent application logged with ECan. A comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan would be prepared for Kaiapoi by 2025 that would take into consideration the data being collected currently. The Stormwater Management Plan would be used to meet the required water quality standards by 2040.

B Pearce explained the Water Quality Baseline sample done for Kaiapoi in 2016. Both up-stream and down-stream samples were taken at twelve different testing locations. He stated that sampling in Kaiapoi was made more difficult by the number and size of waterways flowing through the town as well as the changing tides. He highlighted the weather conditions when the samples were taken and the effect that the weather had on the sampling.

B Pearce elaborated on the following:

- Electrical Conductivity tested higher in Courtenay Stream and the Macintosh Drain. This could be due to brackish water or from residual salt from the sand dunes that were washing up.
- E. Coli tested very high in Kaikanui Stream on the north side of Neeves Road. This was of concern however, E.Coli did not test consistently high.
- The Macintosh Drain (south of Fuller Road) tested the highest for dissolved reactive Phosphorus in December 2016. Kaikanui Stream (north side of Neeves Road), Kaikanui Stream (The Oaks Reserve), the Kaiapoi River (south of the motorway) and the Macintosh Drain (south side of Beach Road) also tested high in December 2016.
- The rural waterways such as the Kaiapoi River and Silversteam both tested high for DIN in August 2016, the source of these contaminates was unknown, but it might be from the groundwater run-off.
- High Ammoniacal Nitrogen levels were measured next to a golf course along Courtenay Stream, it was however unclear if the run-off from the golf course contributed to these high levels as there was also a dairy farm nearby.
- Total Suspended Solids measured light in most of Kaiapoi’s waterways. However, the Kaiapoi River tested high at Hall Street, but it was suspected that the back-flow for the Waimakariri River might have contributed to this higher level.
- Kaikanui Stream (The Oak Reserve) tested very high for dissolved Zinc. This was however downstream from a light commercial/industrial area and some historical industrial sites (old freezing works).
- Dissolved Lead and Copper levels were low in all the Kaiapoi waterways.
In conclusion, B Pearce stated that there was high rural agricultural contaminants in some streams especially nitrates. There were known wastewater overflow issues in Kaiapoi that were contributing to the high E.Coli and Phosphorus levels in some areas. It was important to identify the source of the Zinc contamination in the Kaikanui Stream.

J Fraser advised that staff met with ECan’s scientist to discuss the abovementioned results. It was found that the sampling might have been done in the wrong areas, as it was not picking-up the content of the major stormwater distributors in such high flowing streams and tidal influence streams. ECan has therefore requested the WDC to start monitoring TSS and dissolved metals from the major stormwater outlets. Because there were no Schedule Five plans of these discharge outlets, the WDC was proposing to collect data for several years from these outlets to establish a baseline.

J Fraser tabled plans indicating the proposed stream health and dissolved metal testing sites in the Kaiapoi receiving waterways. The testing sites would include two in the Kaiapoi River main stem and three in the Kaikanui Stream. There are currently compliance thresholds in terms of Schedule 5 plans for the proposed testing sites that could be used as triggers for where investment in stormwater improvement was needed. The testing site higher up in Kaikanui Stream should pick up any metals from the highway, the middle testing site should pick up any metals from the older houses in Kaiapoi south and the testing site near the discharge should pick up any metal from the industrial area.

J Fraser stated that the rural monitoring would be done at the upper town limits in the Cam River, Silversteam as well as the up and down stream at the Macintosh Drain. The aim is to develop a basic metal contaminant source model by 2020, especially zinc and copper and to then investigate options to reduce or control source contaminants.

G Cleary explained the challenges experienced with monitoring the water quality in Kaiapoi. He advised that major capital works to Kaiapoi’s wastewater and stormwater networks was planned in terms of the Long Term Plan, this would hopefully improve the wastewater management in Kaiapoi. The Stormwater Management Plan would be updated regularly with the data gathered from the testing sites.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired as to ECan’s involvement with the proposed monitoring. O Davies confirmed that the WDC and ECan would be sharing data.

C Henderson and M Bates sought clarity on the testing for urban bases contaminates such as oil, paint etc. J Fraser confirmed that testing would be done for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

In conclusion M Blackwell stated that the Council should consider wetland creations as a mitigation measure to filter the urban and rural networks. He requested J Fraser to send copies of the 2016 Baseline Report and the presentation to M Griffin to circulate the information to Committee members.

Moved: D Ashby       seconded: J Roper-Lindsay

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Receive this briefing paper.

(b) Note the pending application for stormwater discharge consent for the Kaiapoi stormwater network to be lodged shortly with Environment Canterbury.

CARRIED
6. COMMITTEE UPDATES – M Griffin (CWMS Facilitator, ECan)

6.1 Introduction of new ECan Staff

A Arps introduced Z Ploeg, who was a new member of the ECan Bio-diversity Team. S Bragg introduced I Weepin and B Waldon-Gibbons who joined the ECan Water Management Strategy Facilitation team.

6.2. Media and Communications

M Griffin reported that A McLeod would be working closely with the Committee. G McKenzie would now be moving to a special projects role.

6.3 WDC 3 Waters Briefing and ECan CWMS & Zone Briefing – 9 September 2019

The Committee noted the date of the proposed briefings. M Griffin advised that S Allen would send a update on the briefings to Committee members closer to the date.

6.4 CWMS Regional Committee meeting Report – 11 June 2019

C Latham took the report as read.

J Roper-Lindsay inquired as to the proposed content of the letter to be drafted to ECan regarding “ETS and its accounting system” referred to in paragraph two of the report. C Latham stated that it was a brief discussion, to deal with various issues raised by Mr and Mrs Helps. The draft letter would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

C Latham reported that a preliminary decision to grant the consent to the WIL Wright Road storage project, subject to additional requirements. Also an “Essential Freshwater Proposals Discussion Document” being released soon by Central Government that would be followed-up with a roadshow. The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) was hosting a Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Workshop on 27 August 2019. She suggested that Committee members should attend the workshop to ascertain if any of the Committee’s projects might qualify for IMP funding.

J Roper-Lindsay enquired if the possibility was being investigated to access some of the funding pledged by Prime Minister Ardern on 11 August 2019 for the reduction of pollution in waterways. A Arps undertook to follow-up on the matter.

Moved: J Roper-Lindsay  seconded:  C Henderson

THAT the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee:

(a) Receives these updates for its information and regarding the Committee’s work programme and community engagement priorities for 2019.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor S Stewart advised that the Waimakariri District Council established a Land and Water Working Group. The Working Group had its inauguration meeting on 25 July 2019, where she was appointed Chairperson. The Working Group considered the concept of creating a network of recreational walkways and cycleways (Arohatia te Awa) along waterways. Arohatia te Awa would link up and provide access to publicly-owned land along waterways in the Waimakariri, while also carrying out restoration work, with community input and ownership to enhance biodiversity. Arohatia te Awa was endorsed by the Council as it has the potential to increase the offering of recreation and amenity throughout the district. Economic
enterprises would also be encouraged to utilise the river access network, such as for cycling tours and agri-tourism ventures. The first task however would be to create a database of the already publicly-owned land along waterways. Arohatia te Awa would be instrument of implementing the ZIPA recommendations and enhance access for mahinga kai (customary food gathering) in consultation with the Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga.

The Land and Water Working Group also initiated a study to test for arsenic in the groundwater around Kaiapoi, due to previous high arsenic levels found in the outskirts of Kaiapoi. A pilot study was also being done on nitrate levels in groundwater, for private wells in the Cust and Eyreton areas. Ten private wells in the Cust area and ten private wells in the Eyreton area are proposed to be sampled in the spring of 2019. This study was being done due to the previous high nitrate levels reported in Environment Canterbury monitored wells and reports from private well owners. This was the implementation of the ZIPA recommendations and funding has been made available through the Annual Plan. It was envisaged that the wider study would be conducted in 2020.

Councillor S Stewart confirmed that the consultation with the Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga would happen through the Mahi Tahi Development Committee to be established by Council in the new term. It was agreed that consultation with the CWMS Waimakariri Zone Committee would be through Councillor S Stewart, who was the chairperson of the Land and Water Working Group and a member of the Waimakariri Zone Committee”

KARAKIA

A Reuben closed the meeting with a karakia.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CWMS Waimakariri Water Zone Committee will be held on Monday 9 September 2019 commencing at 4.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.45pm.

CONFIRMED

_____________________
Chairperson

_____________________
Date

9. WORKSHOP – WWZC 2019 WORK PROGRAMME

At the conclusion of the meeting a workshop to review the Zone Committee 2019 work programme priorities was held.