

CWMS Committees Current Issues and Activities: September-October 2016

Below is a summary of recent activities and discussions carried out by the CWMS Committees and their working groups.

Ashburton Zone Committee

Facilitator: Olivia Smith. olivia.smith@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Meetings: 25 October.

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities

5 year Outcome and Milestones for the Ashburton River

The committee discussed progress and next steps for the Ashburton River milestones. As part of this discussion, Ashburton District Council (ADC) advised the committee that they are developing an integrated storm water management plan which will be subject to public consultation next year. ADC also highlighted that establishing an improved relationship with Ngai Tahu and local rūnanga is a key focus of the new council. ADC plan to actively engage with Ngai Tahu and Arowhenua on the closure of the stock water race network and consequently update their stock water management strategy.

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Pilot Project

The MAR Pilot Working Group provided the committee with a project update. To date, monitoring results indicate promising improvements in water quantity and quality levels. It is agreed that the pilot project on track to proving concept and it's hoped flows in the lowland drains will be improved in time.

The committee supported the working groups request that the pilot project continue for the full 5 years. Currently the water for the project and funding for technical expertise and monitoring is secured until mid-2017.

The committee supported the working group's recommendation that a governance group be established in early 2017. The purpose of a governance group is to consider the potential use of MAR in other parts of the zone to deliver the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Implementation of 5 year work programme

The committee received their first quarterly report on the implementation of the 5 year work programme. Significant progress has been made in the last quarter with many practical actions or well underway. Examples include: recommendations to protect braided river bird habitat in the Ashburton River, a variable flow regime trial in Boundary Drain, secured industry commitment to continue community monitoring programme in the Hinds, multiple GMP extension events.

Looking ahead:

The committee will attend a fieldtrip in November to the upper Rangitata River to learn more about the natural character of braided rivers and a weed and predator control programme underway to protect braided river bird habitat.

The committee will work with the MAR Pilot Working Group to develop the Terms of Reference for a MAR Pilot Governance Group. It will also consider how to seek ongoing commitment from ECan and ADC to ensure the existing project can continue.

The committee will visit the Ashburton River to learn more about the summer recreation monitoring programme and the health of the river. Further information about current water take consents on Ashburton River will also be discussed. In addition, the committee will receive an annual update from Barhill Chertsey Irrigation Scheme on their latest FEP auditing results.

Date of next meeting: 29 November

Banks Peninsula Zone Committee

Facilitator: Lesley Woudberg lesley.woudberg@ecan.govt.nz;

Date of Last Meeting: 23 August

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities

Improving the health of Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour and catchment

In September the committee supported the Lyttelton Harbour Healthy Catchment Project as the partners (Rāpaki Rūnanga, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and the Port Company) held 3 community meetings to discuss issues and actions that could make a difference. The committee helped with the development of a website for the project that includes a story map of current knowledge

<http://healthyharbour.org.nz/>

Improving the health of Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth

There have been no appeals to Plan Change 6 (Wairewa) to the Land and Water Regional Plan. Provisions become fully operative once formally adopted by the Council.

Unfortunately the warm winter has meant the toxic *cynaobacteria* has remained in bloom throughout the winter and health warning continue.

Education and Engagement

Canterbury Enviroschools held a successful camp based at Takamatua 13-14 October. As part of their activities the group held a mock zone committee meeting that focused on the current issue of what to do with Akaroa. As well as a lot of fun the group gained valuable insights into the complexity of values held by different interests and the difficulty finding solutions to such a complex problem.

EOS Ecology recently presented to all schools on Banks Peninsula a freshwater invertebrate identification chart and kit. We hope to see these schools taking an interest in their local streams and being able to identify plenty of net winged midge larvae, endemic to Banks Peninsula and an indicator of very healthy habitats.

Looking ahead:

We anticipate a number of membership changes over the next month as a consequence of the local government elections.

Improving the health of Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth

Te Roto o Wairewa/Lake Forsyth faces another summer of toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Dr Sean Water will be discussing his recently completed research to establish a phosphorous budget for the lake and what this means for the community.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

Up to six biodiversity projects proposals seeking funding support will come before the committee for decision in November.

Date of next meeting: 22 November, Okuti Hall

Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee

Facilitator: lesley Woudberg lesley.woudberg@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 22 September

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities

Improving the health of urban waterways

The zone Committee received the annual report from CCC on the water quality of stream and rivers around Christchurch. The monitoring is a condition of the City's stormwater consent. The major contaminants are sediment and heavy metals, particularly zinc and copper. Spikes in E.coli occur particular after rain events mainly due to wild fowl and dog faeces. Waste water overflows can also occur but these have significantly reduced as infrastructure has been repaired after the earthquakes. The water quality results are similar to the previous year. Zone Committee Chair Arapata Reuben had an opinion piece published in the Press 17 October on the state of the Ōpāwhao/Heathcote River and efforts being made to improve its water quality.

The committee hosted a workshop with about 50 members of the construction industry on erosion and sediment control. At the workshop it shared the results of trials on various site treatments as well as new provisions that will be included in ECan's *Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines*. The committee also hosted a workshop with recreational groups on water quality at Kerrs Reach, Avon River.

The Whaka Inaka project, involving placing hay bales along the Heathcote River to encourage inaka to spawn, has been successful and has shown the Heathcote River has potential for one of the longest spawning reaches in New Zealand if suitable riparian vegetation is available. Sixteen local schools have been involved in the project and a reported their findings to the zone committee at a workshop in October.

The new eel condos at the Avon precinct steps are becoming popular with the lunchtime crowds. The eels are becoming very tame, poking their heads up to

demand lunch. The eels are, however, having to compete against the cute fluffy ducklings for affection from some in the public gallery.

Looking ahead:

We hope to have councillors from both Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury appointed to the zone committee by the next meeting.

Improving the health of urban water

A number of actions need follow up from the meeting with recreationalists at Kerrs Reach.

The committee will hear from the University of Canterbury who have been developing a model to predict contaminants from urban catchments and the effectiveness of various management strategies. The model will help it recommend the most effective management approach for different catchments.

Protect Christchurch City's groundwater resource

The committee has been working with Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury on a communication strategy to raise awareness and appreciation of Christchurch's groundwater resource over the coming summer.

Date of next meeting: 24 November

Hurunui-Waiiau Zone Committee

Facilitator: Ian Whitehouse. ian.Whitehouse@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 17 October

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

Healthy rivers – Productive land

The Hurunui Waiiau Zone Committee, with Environment Canterbury, is starting the development of a long-term water management solutions package for the zone – “Healthy rivers – productive land”. This includes review of the Hurunui Waiiau Rivers Regional Plan (HWRRP) – acknowledging the difficulties with the “10% rule” in the plan. As part of the solutions package, a plan change will be notified in mid-2019 with zone-specific limits and rules for the Hurunui Waiiau zone where required.

The zone committee is doing a lot of preparatory work for this project including reviewing the recommendations in its Zone Implementation Programme (ZIP; prepared in 2011) and considering what they like and don't like about the HWRRP. This has identified the need for additional work, for example to identify and progress issues with the Waiiau, Conway/Putaputa and Hurunui hapua (estuaries/river mouths).

Integrated water infrastructure

The committee is encouraged that the major irrigators and developers in the zone (Amuri Irrigation Company (AIC); Hurunui Water Project and Ngai Tahu Farms) appear finally to be working collaboratively on an approach to integrated water infrastructure, including major

water storage. The developers told the committee at the August meeting that an integrated approach was very challenging under the HWRRP. To support the committee's thinking on water storage options Environment Canterbury has been asked to provide a strategic assessment against CWMS targets (and other factors) of storage concepts for Hurunui-Waiau catchments.

Looking ahead:

Hurunui Science Stakeholders Group

It is important that all information from all sources, not just Environment Canterbury, is used over the next two to three years to revise the HWRRP and develop the water management solutions package (ZIP Addendum) for the whole zone. **The Committee has agreed to establishing a Science Stakeholders Group** to help get widespread buy-in on the technical information, models and assessment results, thereby improving the focus on the value judgements needed and lessening the contest over technical matters in the RMA Hearing on the plan change.

The first Hurunui Science Stakeholder Group meetings are on 20 October, 2 and 16 November. In-river water quality will be the initial focus of technical briefings starting with Waiau catchment.

Date of next meeting: 21 November

Kaikoura Zone Committee:

Facilitator: Murray Griffin. murray.griffin@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 28 September

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

- The meeting began with a workshop focused on water quality on the Kaikōura Plains towards a fuller understanding the characteristics of this catchment and clarifying the priorities for water management on the plains over the next 3 to 5 years. The workshop included briefings from Fonterra and ECan Land Management and Science (water quality and hydrology) representatives.
- An Immediate Steps update, including a new application on Swan Creek, was provided by ECan Biodiversity Officer Jess Hill.
- The committee received updates on its priority projects including Love the Lyell, the Draft Weed and Predator Management Plan and a CWMS Special Edition newsletter on the Clarence/Waiau Toa.
- A discussion followed on the committee's work programme and preferred options on how to profile this both for itself and the wider public.
- The meeting concluded with an acknowledgment and appreciation of ECan Commissioner David Bedford's contribution to the Kaikōura Water Zone Committee since its formation.

Looking ahead:

- Further discussion on the possibility of an extended period of drought conditions across the Kaikōura Zone and options for the community to improve water efficiency and storage.

Date of next meeting: 30 November 2016

Lower Waitaki South Coastal Canterbury Zone Committee

Facilitator: Nic Newman Nic.newman@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 21 September

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

The Independent Hearing Commissioners' recommendations on Plan Change 3 to the Land and Water Regional Plan were adopted by Council in late September and the decision publically notified on 1 October. This plan change originates in the collaborative process the zone committee ran from 2013-2014 in South Coastal Canterbury. The implementation of the plan change and the non-statutory work in the area are critical to achieving community aspiration for freshwater management, including for Wainono Lagoon and consented but unimplemented irrigation schemes.

The Zone Delivery work programme is under development but work is ongoing in the catchments of Waihao Wainono as part of the Wainono Project and extension on irrigation efficiency, sediment loss on steep country, and farm environment plans. Other work in the catchment is progress on Hunter Downs Water and the advisory group working on the augmentation of Wainono Lagoon.

The committee is working on how to provide long-term protection for the braided river character of the Hakatarmea River. Recent activity in the catchment has threatened this character. While specific mitigating actions are underway, the committee is looking at long-term protection and how community agreement on the extent of the braided river and appropriateness of activities there could be used to inform future consenting decisions. Complementary to this is work to produce a non-statutory action plan with the community in the valley.

Looking ahead:

- Further discussion on key features of the Plan Change

Date of next meeting: 16 November

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Zone Committee

Facilitator: Olivia Smith. olivia.smith@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 3 October

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

Healthy Catchments Project

The committee held three public workshops to seek feedback on the current state of the zone. This highlighted aspirations, issues and matters to consider when developing solutions.

The committee reviewed the key messages from the technical work; zone-wide, catchment-specific, and from the community. It then discussed how the upcoming 'Current Pathway' assessment will effectively reveal the likely impacts of current practical actions underway combined with the rules. In late November the committee will seek community feedback on the acceptability of this assessment in public workshops.

Silver Fern Farms (SFF) Visit

SFF invited committee members and local catchment group members to visit their Pareora operation. They discussed how they have significantly reduced their water usage through changes to operational processes in the last 5 years, and have researched and trialed several innovative techniques for better managing their wastewater, such as distributing an increasing amount of wastewater to land and undertaking various actions to reduce nutrient leaching and to filter overland runoff. They are committed to improving their environmental performance and are keen to be part of the Healthy Catchments Project.

Rock Art Fieldtrip

Arowhenua and Waihao Rūnanga jointly agreed to host a fieldtrip for the committee and local catchment group members. The fieldtrip focused on building people's knowledge about the significant rock art sites in South Canterbury. Experts explained the risks to the sites, noting changes in hydrology as a key risk. Work is underway to better understand what planning tools could help better protect these precious sites. This work will be integrated into the Healthy Catchments Project.

Looking ahead:

- The committee will attend a fieldtrip in November to the Upper Rangitata River to learn more about the natural character of braided rivers and about a weed and predator control programme underway to protect braided river bird habitat.
- The committee will host 3 public workshops to seek feedback on the assessment of the 'Current Pathway'.

Date of next meeting: 21 November

Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee

Facilitator: Ian Whitehouse. Ian.Whitehouse@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 4 October

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

Replacing groundwater takes with CPW "alpine" water

CPW development will provide water from Rakaia River (including from Lake Coleridge) to replace groundwater takes which currently irrigate 30,000 ha. This replacement will significantly reduce groundwater takes in the zone, increasing flows in the lowland streams. In the first year of operation, Stage 1 of CPW, irrigating about 15,000 ha, there was a 75% reduction in groundwater takes with about 80,000,000 m³ of groundwater being replaced with alpine water.

Zone Committee visit to Taumutu

The Zone Committee's October meeting was at Ngati Moki marae, Taumutu. The day included a field trip to the Te Waihora lake opening, the Taumutu commonage (to discuss farming practice on the Te Waihora margins) and the wetland restoration on Waikekewai. The visit reinforced to the committee the significance of Te Waihora and its margins and catchment to Ngai Tahu.

Membership changes

Karaitiana Taiuru has replaced Charles Crofts as the representative for Koukourarata Runanga. Charles has made a significant contribution to the zone committee since its establishment.

Terrianna Smith has taken leave of absence from the committee. Taumutu Runanga will appoint a new representative to the committee.

John Sunckell, Zone Committee community member, has been elected to the Canterbury Regional Council as the representative for the Mid Canterbury Regional Constituency. Further membership changes may occur as the result of the local government elections as the new councils refresh their appointments to the zone committee.

Looking ahead:

Swimmable Selwyn@Coes Ford

The zone committee is looking to developing a “flagship” project around Selwyn River focussing on improving Coes Ford.

Date of next meeting: 6 December

Upper Waitaki Zone Committee

Facilitator: Nic Newman. Nic.Newman@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 16 September; 21 October

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

The committee has been focused on continually improving our understanding of the water resources in the Upper Waitaki to assist with management. New science work will address ZIP recommendations by understanding groundwater flow paths and surface water interactions around the Kellands Pond/Wairepo catchments. The committee has also been looking at the opportunities and challenges of measuring leaching at the farm scale. The validation of model leaching predictions under different soils, climates, and land use across Canterbury is critical to achieving the targets and limits set with the community. The committee supports Landcare Research in seeking funding to validate predictions in the high country.

Zone Delivery work has been focused on the Willowburn catchment. The Committee has set aside a portion of its immediate steps funding for this catchment for a limited period, to incentivise uptake. Work so far has included a full stream walk and analysis of critical source areas, meeting with all the landowners involved, and the removal of willows in the Lower Catchment recreational area where they were choking the stream.

There continues to be good uptake and engagement with the Immediate Steps biodiversity programme. Recently completed projects include the protection of a spring head to protect bignose species, and the entire fencing of the Maryburn on one station, including generous riparian buffers. Additionally a recently approved project will protect a kettle hole tarn and associated turf communities.

Looking ahead:

The Zone Committee will complete a field trip to view work done in the Lower Willowburn, following their October Zone Committee meeting.

Date of next meeting: 18 November

Waimakariri Zone Committee:

Facilitator: Murray Griffin. murray.griffin@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 12 September

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

- Matt Dodson (ECan Technical Lead for Waimakariri) provided a briefing on the proposed scenarios for the Waimakariri planning process.
- Alastair Picken (Senior Planner, ECan) provided a briefing on the proposed zone boundaries for the Waimakariri planning process.
- Darren Mann (Canterbury Regional Manager, Rayonier Matariki Forests Ltd) provided a briefing on the forestry activity within the zone and potential impacts on water quality and water management.
- Andrew Arps (Zone Delivery Manager) lead a review of the Zone Delivery Team work programme and its alignment with the committee's Community Outcomes, 5 Year Outcomes, and sub regional planning process. The first of the community meetings on the current state reporting for the Waimakariri Land and Water Solutions Programme (sub-regional planning process) was held at the Cust Hall on Monday 10 October.
- The meeting concluded with an acknowledgment and appreciation of ECan Commissioner Rex William's contribution to the Waimakariri Water Zone Committee since its formation.
- The 10 October committee meeting was cancelled given the timing of the local body elections with neither ECan nor WDC able to confirm their new Council appointments for this meeting.

Looking ahead:

- The November meeting will focus on related briefings from the ECan Science and Planning Teams towards the next round of community meetings for the Waimakariri Land and Water Solutions Programme in November. These meetings will focus on 'scenarios'.

Date of next meeting: 7 November 2016

Regional Committee:

Facilitator: Barbara Nicholas barbara.nicholas@ecan.govt.nz

Date of Last Meeting: 11 October 2016

Key outcomes, discussion points, activities:

Changes in membership

The committee's membership is currently undergoing significant changes. The community positions have been 'refreshed' and five new community representatives attended their first meeting in August 2016. Also attending their first meeting were three new rūnunga representatives for north, mid and south Canterbury. There will be further changes in membership at the December meeting arising from the local body elections; Environment Canterbury, CCC and Territorial Authorities all make new appointments, and there will be changes to zone representatives from two zone committees due to the election of the current representatives to Environment Canterbury.

Current work

The Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity working group continues to advocate for and support actions to advance the five year priority outcomes for regional biodiversity. It has received updates on its Flagship projects in Wainono, Te Waihora, and Rangitata and Rakaia Upper Catchment, and anticipates agreeing on the next phase of long term commitments for Immediate Steps in early 2017. It has also welcomed the Minister of Fisheries decision to effectively stop commercial harvesting of longfin eels in the Canterbury region – the committee had earlier made a submission to separate long and short fin eels in the South Island for management purposes.

The Infrastructure working group held its latest workshop in South Canterbury and invited the various parties and organisations working on infrastructure options in that area. Key community and commercial groups (Gary Rooney, Geraldine Water Trust, Opuha Dam Co, Morvern Glenavy, Aoraki Water, Hunter Downs, Timaru District Council, and Aoraki Water) each talked of their work, and were briefed on the Healthy Catchments project being led by the OTOP zone committee.

The recreation and amenity working group reported on its meeting in July with recreational working groups. The working group is in conversation with zone committees to identify ways the regional committee can support zone projects that enhance recreational sites and opportunities.

In addition the committee has received updates on

- How climate change is taken into account in the work of Environment Canterbury. CWMS itself is a major work stream designed to make the region's management of water more sustainable including in event of extreme weather, but climate change is also considered in flood modelling and management, coastal hazard modelling and management, biosecurity and pest management, planning, science investigations and modelling and identification of long term trends.
- Drinking water issues across the region

Date of next meeting: 13 December 2016

For Further Reading

The accounts above are intended as an overview only. For further information on any of the committees' activities, contact the Facilitator or read their meeting papers off the [Canterbury Water](http://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/canterburywater/committees/Pages/Default.aspx) webpage

(type <http://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/canterburywater/committees/Pages/Default.aspx>)

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