

CHRISTCHURCH WEST MELTON WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE COMMITTEE
28 March 2012

**A meeting of the Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee was held in
The Function Room, Civic Offices on Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 6.03pm**

PRESENT: Ian Fox, Community Representative (Chairperson)
Councillor Sally Buck, Christchurch City Council
Deidre Francis, Community Representative (Deputy Chairperson)
Craig Pauling, Taumutu Rūnanga
Herena Stone, Rāpaki Rūnanga
Hugh Thorpe, Community Representative
Robert Wynn-Williams, Community Representative
Commissioner Rex Williams, Environment Canterbury

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absences were received and accepted from Ann Winstanley,
Councillor Debra Hasson, Jon Harding and Arapata Reuben.

An apology for lateness was received and accepted for Craig Pauling, who arrived at
6.18pm and was absent for clauses 1,2,3,4 and part of 10.

The meeting was opened with a karakia from Herena Stone.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 23 FEBRUARY 2012

It was decided on the motion of Rex Williams, seconded by Ian Fox, that the minutes be approved as
a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following amendment:

Clause 11 (Water and Health):

'The Committee raised the following areas for further consideration:

- *sources of the pollution? (dogs, birds etc)*
- *feedback on the future ground water protection*
- *what are the land use trends and demands over time that could impact demand?*
- *Christchurch north west – programme of improvement and project of WCP*
- *Cyanobacteria ~~solubility~~ **filtration***
- *contaminated sediments management*
- *rain water collection and associated human health issues.'*

2. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

Nil.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT ITEMS

Nil.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF ANY GENERAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Nil.

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5. TASK AND FINISH GROUP PROPOSALS ON “BIODIVERSITY PRIORITY OUTCOMES” AND “OUR APPROACH TO IMMEDIATE STEPS”

The Committee received a verbal update from the members of the Task and Finish group appointed by the Committee at the meeting on 23 February 2012 to consider priority outcomes for biodiversity and the Committees approach to immediate steps.

The Committee **agreed** that a written update would be circulated to the Committee for comment once confirmed by all members of the group.

6. INTRODUCTION TO RAIN GARDENS

The Committee **received** a presentation from Peter Wehrman in relation to Rain Gardens.

Summary of discussions:

- recognises the use of swales as an important tool to filter pollutants from storm water run off
- need to explore other methods to achieve this, including sweeping streets more regularly, and exploring opportunities for these getting into the system in the first place
- need to look at opportunities for daylighting of drains, what are the most viable opportunities
- acknowledge the assumption that this is effective water quality – will need to prove a link if we are to include this in the recommendations
- considers the importance of a ‘helicopter view’ of the problem of run off into streams and consider rain gardens in the context of how effective they can be to clean up waterways
- recognises the need to focus the use of these to areas where copper and zinc are identified as being high
- CWMS target to improve water quality in the context of streams and rivers in the zone. If the Committee identifies the removal of copper and zinc as key priorities to achieve this then rain gardens/swales could be a good method of removing.
- further consideration needed on where these would make the biggest impact filtering pollutants, and consider whether use in high traffic areas such as within the central city would be the most beneficial.

Within the discussions, the Committee acknowledged that it broadly agreed that swales and rain gardens were a useful tool to achieve better management of water storm in urban area, and agreed that these could be used to achieve a specific recommendation within the Zone implementation programme.

It was noted that the Committee would need to revisit this area, and explore it further within the context of the Committee’s priority outcomes once these had been established. The Committee also noted that this topic could be considered by a working group.

The Committee **requested** that staff provide a list of opportunities for swales to help inform its thinking when considering this issue in a broader concept.

7. POLLUTION HOTLINE DATA – WHAT DOES IT TELL US?

The Committee agreed to defer this item until its meeting on 26 April 2012, due to the unavailability of the presenter.

8. EARTHQUAKES AND FAECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA CONCENTRATIONS – AVON RIVER/ ŌTĀKARO AND AVON-HEATHCOTE ESTUARY/HUTAI

The Committee received a presentation from Lesley Bolton-Richie, Environment Canterbury, regarding E-Coli levels in the Estuary.

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The Committee identified the following areas for further consideration:

- comparisons with other estuaries, to establish a context for these findings
- storm water risk
- progress modelling and how to integrate with other water flows
- modelling of historic profile
- comparative analysis required to back up values judgement.

9. THE DRAFT REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

Matthew Ross, Zone Facilitator advised the Committee that the Draft Regional Implementation Programme (dRIP) had been published for consultation, and the Committee was asked to consider any synergies with the dRIP and issues within the Christchurch-West Melton (CWM) Zone.

The Committee acknowledged that it was at the initial stages of identifying priority outcomes for the zone, and in lieu of these agreed priorities, it would comment on the dRIP from the perspective of whether it is likely to support implementation in the zone.

The Committee agreed to Robert Wynn-Williams, Deidre Francis and Matthew Ross attending the feedback meeting to support the Committees submission, to be held at 2.30pm at Wigram Manner on Friday 30 March 2012.

The Committee made the following comments in relation to the dRIP:

General/Priority Regional Issues

- broadly comfortable with the four priority issues identified
- flood risk management, for example from the Waimakariri river, has regional implications with regards to storage of water/managing flood flows/taking flood flows and damage as a consequence of floods
- recreation could be considered as a cross cutting regional priority issues (including discussion around the trade off of recreational opportunity with economic development from new storage and distribution infrastructure)
- water quantity issues are not explicitly addressed in the four priority issues
- education of the wider population in relation to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) aspirations/outcomes/water management across the could be addressed by the Regional Committee
- "inter connected" would be more appropriate wording rather than "integrated" water management
- further explanation needed on how the timing of regional programmes of work being recommended will take account of CWM Zone Committee's needs.

Kaitiakitanga

- broadly comfortable with content.

Ecosystem health and biodiversity

- clarification on what is being considering with regards to identification and restoration of *previously* significant wetlands
- recommend revising the phrase "to get it right" , as unclear as to what 'it' refers to.

Land use and water quality (LUWQ)

- consideration of groundwater in relation to this issue needs to be more explicit, for example bottom of page 16
- how it the Committee is considering the balance between water use and soil type in relation to leaching and productivity
- the 2012 deadline for priority areas to have limits set – what does this mean for CWM Zone
- how does the LUWQ regional approach and preferred approach at a zone level fit for urban areas

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- how does the CWM Zone Committee ensure that the limit setting process in Waimakariri and Selwyn Waihora Zones has regards to potential impacts in the CWM Zone e.g. water quality in aquifers used for *drinking* water quality (*amendment made at the Committee meeting on 26 April 2012, during clause 2, confirmation of minutes*).

Regional Infrastructure

- how is the Regional Committee considering the economic relationship (and degree of inter-connection) between the Christchurch urban area and rural Canterbury
- could floods be considered under regional infrastructure e.g. stop banks.

10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Matthew Ross, Zone Facilitator, updated the Committee on the upcoming draft work programme.

A letter of correspondence (refer **attached**) was tabled for the Committee's information, from Network of the Ilam Stream.

The Committee agreed for Robert Wynn Williams, Rex Williams and Hugh Thorpe to attend the briefing to the Waimakariri Zone Committee from dairy NZ on Thursday 5 April at 10.30pm.

The Committee agreed for Ian Fox and Herena Stone to attend the joint session with the Waimakariri Zone Committee on May 7 at 4pm.

The Committee agreed for the field trip identified within the forward work programme to be held on Saturday 28 March in the afternoon.

The Committee agreed to alter the date of its meeting in May to 31 May 2012 at 5pm, followed by a Committee only workshop until 9pm.

The meeting closed at 9.23pm with a karakia from Herena Stone.

CONFIRMED THIS 26TH DAY OF APRIL 2012

**IAN FOX
CHAIRPERSON**



Network
of
the
Ilam
Stream

c/o 125 Waimairi Road,
Ilam,
Christchurch 8041
Tel: (03) 348 6606
25th March, 2012

Matthew Ross,
Zone Facilitator,
Christchurch West Melton Water Management Zone Committee,
Environment Canterbury,
PO Box 345,
Christchurch 8140.

Dear Matthew,

Ilam Stream Restoration Project and ECan's "Improving Urban Waterway Health" programme.

Our Society, the Network of the Ilam Stream or NOTIS*, has been working towards the re-introduction of water into the Ilam Stream since 2003. With the help of the Christchurch City and Selwyn District Councils, the New Zealand Transport Agency and their engineering consultants, a permanent flow was finally re-established during 2011.

We would like to extend an invitation to the Zone Committee to visit the stream to witness the benefits of co-operation between community groups and various authorities and the positive impacts that this type of project has on the local environment.

Although obviously the major component of our Society's mission is the restoration of flow, our aims also include the enhancement of the ecology of the stream and its immediate environs. Accordingly we have maintained contact with Environment Canterbury's "*Improving Urban Waterway Health*" programme and in particular the associated "*Community Education and Engagement*" project. We have found the work conducted to date by these projects to be very useful as we enter the second phase of our project. The programmes have begun to raise general public awareness of the value of and the dangers posed to our streams. The associated research, that has been conducted so far on matters such as contaminants, is also very helpful.

We understand that the Zone Committee has received a presentation on the Improving Urban Waterway Health programme. We wish to commend this programme and the Community Education and Engagement project to you, as we believe that they are raising the profile of our streams and are providing very useful information to community based groups such as ourselves. We would therefore be pleased to see these projects continue.

Yours sincerely,

Richard English

Richard English,
Hon. Sec. NOTIS.

* I have attached a short background resume of our Society.



Network Of the Ilam Stream

Incorporated Society No.: 1566255

Incorporated: 11th October 2004

In early European times the Ilam Stream, a headwater tributary of the River Avon /Otakaro, had a permanent, spring fed flow that supported numerous ponds and swampy areas along its course.



(Ilam Stream circa 1920)

However as the levels in the aquifer, from which the springs emanated, dropped so did the flow in the stream. By the early 1990's even the springs that fed the lower section of the stream below the College of Education appeared only very intermittently. (The natural flows from the reaches above Avonhead Road had ceased many years earlier.) By this stage the stream had been reduced to a dry, weed infested ditch which only flowed during times of heavy rainfall.

In 2003 a local resident, Nigel Powell, gathered together a core of other residents whose properties bounded the stream with the idea of forming a group whose aim would be to restore a permanent flow in the stream.

A potential source of water was identified and after a well attended and supportive public meeting, a constitution was drawn up and officers elected. The group was registered as an Incorporated Society in 2004. Discussions quickly followed with the Christchurch City and Selwyn District Councils. It was agreed that water from a section of the Selwyn Council stock water race, which at that time terminated in a soak pit near Ryans Road, would be utilised as the new source of flow for the stream.

Fortuitously an unused, but relatively small diameter pipe under Russley Road was discovered by chance. It was envisaged that this pipe would, at least on temporary basis, be used to transfer water from the water race under the State Highway into Avonhead Park through which the City Council agreed to construct an open swale. This swale would link the Russley Road pipe to one ultimately feeding into the head of the Ilam stream at Crosbie Park.

The swale was constructed during 2009 and a flow was subsequently re-established in the stream. Unfortunately the flows were not only low but also somewhat intermittent. The solution to this problem lay in tapping the larger flows in the stock water race in Ryans Road itself. However this could only occur if a new pipe was placed under Russley Road. Again fortuitously, and thanks to the help of the New Zealand Transport Agency, their consultants and the City Council once more, the opportunity to place the requisite new pipe was taken during the recent four laning of Russley Road. This enabled a better and more reliable flow to enter the stream.

Whilst some issues remain with the reliability and quantum of the flows, which the Society is working to resolve, the group is now preparing to move its focus onto its other aim of enhancing the ecology of the stream and its immediate environs.