

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE**  
**WATER RACE SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM**  
**ON MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2018 – 1.30pm**

**Committee Members in Attendance**

1. Nigel Barnett (Chairman)
2. Cr Pat McEvedy
3. Mike Chaffey (Ellesmere)
4. Harry Schat (Ellesmere)
5. John Clarkson (Malvern)
6. John Shanks (Paparua)
7. Martin Le Comte (Paparua Water Race Irrigation User Group)
8. Tim Morris (Paparua)
9. Clayton Fairbairn
10. Mike Mora (Christchurch City Council - representing Waimairi and Wigram Wards)
11. Kerry Pauling (Malvern Community Board representative)

**In Attendance**

12. Murray England, Strategic Manager Water Services
13. James Skurupey, Surface Water Engineer
14. Daniel Meehan, Surface Water Operations Engineer
15. Maree Pycroft, Secretary
16. Creagh Robinson, Accountant

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cr Craig Watson

**Moved – Pat McEvedy / Seconded – Harry Schat**

*“That the apology be noted.”*

**CARRIED**

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Michael Schat, Ardlui Road, Dunsandel

Mr Schat questioned why Council had not addressed the poor performance of the water race and overall inefficiency of the system. He raised the following issues:

- Only sections are cleaned at a time rather than the whole race
- The race continually blocks and overflows from weeds and debris
- The races are expensive to maintain by both Council and residents
- The rating method is unfair for large dairy farms who are unable to use them

Operational staff will be instructed to review the cleaning programme.

### Ms Mandy Burrows – North Rakaia Road

Ms Burrows spoke at the Annual Plan hearing for the closure of the Upper Ellesmere water race and expressed disappointment she had not received feedback on her submission.

She expressed her support of Michael Schat's verbal submission and made the following points in support of the Upper Ellesmere closure:

- Dairy farmers are unable to use water races for dairy herds as they need to control what cows drink
- Dairy farmers still have to fence, clean and pay rates for water races that run through their properties regardless of not using them
- Ms Burrows expressed the belief that water races are an inefficient, outdated water carrier and irrigation method and does not see the water races delivering any value
- There has been substantial cost on re-routing races to achieve efficient irrigation, installing bridges and fencing
- Council need to provide an alternative source for the minority of people using the system
- Minor races go into soak hole
- The neighbour's land holding is 50 ha, leased to another person who does not use the water race
- Ms Burrows stated there was no danger of fire as the land is green from being irrigated and every dairy farm has hydrants

Council will follow up Ms Burrow's original submission and apologised that she had not received a response.

The Subcommittee noted the reasons to close the water race and are sympathetic. Council has legal obligations with a third party meaning that the closure of the whole Upper Ellesmere scheme is not currently possible.

### Mr Doug Gough, Coal Track Road

Mr Gough spoke in support of his application to shift the water race running through his property.

- All properties on this race have independent water supply
- The end of the race is always dry
- CPW can provide pressurised water during the peak irrigation season
- All property owners have signed the closure application apart from Mr Michael Fraser Milne
- It is possible to supply this property from another source
- Mr Milne has requested the following requirements:
  1. Water source to fight fires
  2. Maintain the ecological system
  3. Confirmation that CPW can supply water to his property

### Mrs Somerton-Smyth – Paparua School Road – rates and closing race

- Mrs Somerton-Smyth questioned the water race rating formula and the 70% increase in 2013/14 charged for the entire property
- She is paying the old rate which has accumulated debt until it is resolved
- Her neighbour has a small pond supplied by a water race in a small corner of his 360 acres
- Mrs Somerton-Smyth has her own water supply and does not need the water race.

The Subcommittee asked management to investigate and communicate the findings.

The Sub Committee advised Mrs Somerton-Smyth to initiate a formal closure application process.

Ratepayers out of the District will be reviewed in the annual plan.

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved – Harry Schat / Seconded – Mike Mora**

*“That the Selwyn District Council Water Race Sub-Committee confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday, 11 December 2017 as a true and accurate record.”*

**CARRIED**

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board dated 14 November 2017 expressing their concern about the ongoing closure of water races in the Selwyn District was noted. The Board is an advisory body for the Department of Conservation. The Water Race Subcommittee welcome their interest and encourage their input into the future strategy of the water races in Selwyn District.

The meeting debated various options to fund water races including adding a general good rate through ECAN to preserve the ecological value and the pros and cons of a per ha charge and the financial implications of the options. A revised rating structure forms part of the Councils LTP consultation.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **5.1 Sheffield Rural Fire Meeting**

Murray England attended a meeting of the Sheffield Rural Fire meeting to discuss their enquiries about future firefighting water provision. With more discussion about water race closures the CPW network is being used a lot more. Council does not have an obligation to provide water to FENZ.

**The Water Race Sub Committee asked management to obtain advice on what provision FENZ have made for firefighting and report back to the meeting.**

#### **5.2 Historic Water Race Heritage**

Cr Craig Watson asked through Murray England in his absence, to raise the matter of historic water race sites for the District Plan. The Water Race Sub Committee does not have the authority to consider whether the asset be defined as a historic heritage place.

Historic heritage places such as a structure, road, site or in this instance water race are defined as significance to people on account of historical, physical and cultural values. Water races could be considered a place with a ‘story’ (the heritage values) about the interaction of people with the water races.

### **6. FINANCIAL**

#### **6.1 Finance Report to 31 December 2017**

Creagh Robinson provided an overview of the financial operating position of all water race schemes for the period ended 31 December 2017.

The projected deficit of combined water races is break even for 2017/18.

The LTP proposes a standard rate of \$17/ha compared to the current ratings of Malvern \$23.46/ha, Ellesmere \$16.16/ha and Paparua \$16.51/ha

**Moved Martin Le Comte / Seconded Cr Pat McEvedy**

*"That the financial report to 31 December 2017 be received for information".*

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Items of Unplanned Expenditure over \$5,000**  
(Daniel Meehan, Surface Water Operations Engineer)

**Moved Mike Mora / Seconded Kerry Pauling**

*"That the Water Race Sub-Committee receives the Unplanned Expenditure Report".*

**CARRIED**

**7. WATER SERVICES REPORT**

**7.1 Water Race Maintenance Contract**

Cr Pat McEvedy declared a conflict of interest as a SICON Director.

John Shanks asked management to explain the increase in water race maintenance costs from 2011 to 2017.

Gareth Morgan, Service Delivery Manager advised comparing SICONs costs from 2011 to 2017 is not balanced as many things changed including the contract methodology. Mr Morgan went on to explain the increase in maintenance over the past few years is a result of higher levels of service delivery which is now detailed in the maintenance contract, quality and health and safety practise imposed as a result of the revised Health & Safety Act.

It was noted Council approved the appointment of SICON as the Water Services Network Management Contractor by negotiation not tender.

**7.2 Water Race Bylaw**

It was noted that the revised Water Race Bylaw was adopted by Council for consultation on 14 February. Consultation runs from the 21 February to the 21 March 2018. A copy of the Statement of Proposal and revised Bylaw can be found on the Council webpage.

**7.3 Strategic Water Races – Ecological and Aesthetics**

The map tabled identifies priority 1 and priority 2 water races which should remain open to provide ecological and/or aesthetic benefits. Priority 1 races will have a high threshold for closure than priority 2 races. The races were identified through a number of sources including the 2011 EOS Ecology report, Map of the County of Selwyn 1883 and written submissions to the Water Race Strategy workshop meeting. The Asset Manager Water Services led the committee through the map logic and answered questions.

It was proposed that the subcommittee adopt the plan as a working draft and that the Asset Manager Water Services present the working draft to the Christchurch, West Melton and the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Meetings for further feedback and development.

## **Moved Clayton Fairbairn / Seconded Kerry Pauling**

**That the Water Race Subcommittee adopt a working draft for consultation.**

**Carried**

### **7.4 Fish Screen Project Update**

- Upper Kowai Fish Screen been operational for 1 year.
- Lower Rakaia Practical Completion Awarded
- Waimak (Skurrs) Practical Completion Awarded – Bypass not connection due to concerns over use of Spring Channel to be resolved with onsite meeting with Ecan.
- Glentunnel – Screens installed and work to finish site is progressing well practical completion due by end of Feb

## **8. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT**

All the quoted Priority 1 sites have been installed. All Priority 2 and 3 are current being priced. Options for Kowai Air Shaft are currently being investigated.

## **9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Hororata Charitable Trust Bus Tour**

This historical tour has been organised around the district on 11 March at \$45 per head. Further information is available on the Hororata Charitable Trust website.

### **9.2 Fish Screen at Hole 13, Hororata Golf Club**

- The flood event in February significantly jeopardised the site.
- Awaiting recommendations from the Council's Insurance Consultants.
- Due to the safety of the site, responsibility was handed back to Council.
- Council is discussing redesign with Jacobs.
- River works need to occur including willow removal encroaching the site.

### **9.3 Next Meeting**

14 May 2018

Meeting closed 4.07pm

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Signed as true and accurate record of the meeting.

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Chairman

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Date