



**128th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
SELWYN - WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD AT THE TAI TAPU
COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2025
AT 4:15 PM**

"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water..."

Loran Eisely, US Author

SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE – Meeting Runsheet

MEETING: **Monday 17 February 2025**. Check in at 4:00pm then meeting starts at 4:15 pm-5.40 pm, at Tai Tapu Community Centre

TIMETABLE & ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item	Time	Description
	4:00 pm	<i>Committee check-in</i>
		Opportunity for Committee members to provide non-committee related updates and for whakawhanaungatanga
		<i>Public meeting begins</i>
1	4.15 pm (10 min)	Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Apologies • Identification of Urgent General Business • Register of Interests review • Confirmation of minutes 11 November 2024 • Public contribution • Correspondence
2	4.25 pm (20 min)	Committee Appointments 2025 – for decision The Committee will confirm the Chair, Deputy Chair and committee appointments up to June 2025.
3	4:45 pm (30 min)	Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Work Plan to June 2025 – for decision Update the Committee on progress with CWMS Zone Committee Review and agree a work plan through to June 2025.
4	5:15 pm (10 min)	Committee updates – for information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWMS Water Zone Committee Review 2024 Update • Zone Committee Action Plan Budget project report – Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project • Actions
5	5:25 pm (15 min)	General Business
6	5:40 pm	Meeting closed with <i>karakia</i> .

SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE – Register of Interests

Declaration of Interests – February 2025

Keeping a Zone Committee Members' declarations of interest register allows Zone Committees to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises.

The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when: "A member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest or duty that the member or official may have."¹

If a member is in any doubt as to whether or not they have a conflict of interest, then the Member should seek guidance from the General Counsel, Environment Canterbury via the Zone Facilitator, and/or refer to the following guidance: <https://www.oag.govt.nz/2010/lamia>

Types of Interests to be documented in this Register:

- Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Member or the Member's spouse for profit or gain
- Company, trust, partnership etc for which the Member or their spouse is a director, partner or trustee, or a shareholder of more than 10% shares
- Address of any land in which the Member has a beneficial interest and which is in the area of the Zone Committee
- The address of any land where the landlord is Environment Canterbury, or Selwyn District or Christchurch City Council and:
 - The Member or their spouse is a tenant; or
 - The land is tenanted by a firm in which the Member or spouse is a partner, a company of which the Member or spouse is a director, or a Trust of which the Member or spouse is a Trustee.
- Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Member's actions during the course of their duties as a Member.
- Any contracts held between the Member or the Member's spouse and Environment Canterbury or Selwyn District Council or Christchurch City Council. Including contracts in which the Member or their spouse is a partner, a company of which the spouse is a director and/or holds more than 10% in shares, or a Trust of which the Member or their spouse is a trustee (noting that no committee member should be a party to a contract with Environment Canterbury or the relevant TLA if that value is more than \$25,000 per annum)

Zone Committee members need to ensure that the information contained in this register is accurate and complete.

¹ Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for public entities

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Register of Interests	
Zone Committee Member	Interest/s
Simon Bryant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former shareholder CPW • Owner sheep / beef farm with riparian and river boundary to Hororata River
Allanah Kidd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee – Ravensdown
Khan McKay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Selwyn Youth Council member • Aqualinc Research Limited
Tayla Nelson-Tuhuru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whakapapa to Rāpaki Runanga • Employed by Ngāti Wheke (TRoNT) • Post-graduate student in Planning, Lincoln University
Cr Vicky Southworth (ECan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor, Environment Canterbury Regional Council • Family membership of Forest and Bird • Family membership of Fish and Game
Helen Troy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company Director of MBY Investments Ltd. Property portfolio • Post graduate student Lincoln University
Les Wanhalla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning good health and mauri to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere • Kaitiakitanga, Whakapapa • Te Taumutu Rūnanga representative – Ashburton and Selwyn Waihora Zone Committees • Te Taumutu Rūnanga representative – Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society • Trustee – Central Plains Water for Selwyn District Council • Rugby league, life member, honorary south Kiwi
Marie Pollisco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Board Chairperson, Christchurch City Council • Board member, Riccarton Bush Trust • Staff member (City Planning Team), Christchurch City Council
Cr Sophie McInnes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor, Selwyn District Council • Resident within the water zone (I can provide the address if required) • Co-director of a beekeeping business (Dads Bees) • Board member, NZ Motor Caravan Association (voluntary role) • Farmlands shareholder • Postgraduate student, Lincoln University • Husband is a member of Fish & Game • Husband and children whakapapa to Wairewa Rūnanga
Caine Tauwhare (Rāpaki Rūnanga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-employed artist

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee – Register of Interests	
Zone Committee Member	Interest/s
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with CCC (lead designer for Te Nukutai o Tapoa/ Naval Point, Lyttelton) • Contract with 2/1 RNZIR (NZ army) carving • Contract carving for Wairewa Runanga
Alice Docking (Youth Member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate student, Lincoln University • Youth Representative on ECan Regional Leadership Climate and Community Resilience Committee • Former ECan Youth Rōpū Member

**MINUTES OF THE 127th MEETING OF THE SELWYN WAIHORA ZONE COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE TAI TAPU COMMUNITY CENTRE ON
MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 4.15 PM**

Meeting Agenda

Item	Time	Description
	4:00 pm	<i>Committee check-in</i>
		Opportunity for Committee members to provide non-committee related updates and for whakawhanaungatanga
		<i>Public meeting begins</i>
1	4.15 pm (10 min)	Meeting commences with Karakia and formal order of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Apologies Identification of Urgent General Business Register of Interests review Confirmation of minutes 12 August 2024 Public contribution Correspondence
2	4.25 pm (15 min)	Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – confirm recommendations – for decision The Committee will confirm projects for recommendation to Environment Canterbury to support using the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Action Plan Budget FY24/25.
3	4:40 pm (30 min)	Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together – for information Peter Langlands and Ken Hughey will provide details of a proposal - A new ‘farming’ venture for Canterbury, with an initial focus around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere: Matuku-hūrepo (Australasian bittern) farming.
4	5:10 pm (30 min)	Enviro Collective and Advance Mitigations – for information Richard Fitzgerald, General Manager of Enviro Collective will provide a presentation which includes an overview of Advanced Mitigation (AM) and how it builds on GMP practices, farmer responses to AM, changes at the farm level, insights into farmer engagement and measuring success.
5	5:40 pm (10 min)	Committee updates – for information and decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selwyn Well Water Testing Events – Killinchy and West Melton CWMS Chairs and Deputy Chairs – Zone Committee Review Update Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee and Element Environmental – Selwyn Waihora Leaders Project and Catchment Support scoping project - update
6	5:50 pm (10 min)	General Business
7	6:00 pm	Meeting closed with <i>karakia</i> .
8		End of year kai for Committee members

PRESENT

Caine Tauwhare (Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki) Rūnanga), Simon Bryant (Community Member), Cr Sophie McInnes (Selwyn District Council), Helen Troy (Community Member) Khan McKay (Community Representative), Les Wanhalla (Taumutu Rūnanga), Marie Pollisco (Christchurch City Council Representative), Cr Vicky Southworth (Environment Canterbury Council), Alannah Kidd (Deputy Chair / Community Member); Matt Dodson (Chair / Community Member); and Alice Docking (Youth Representative) online.

IN ATTENDANCE

Jaimee Grant (Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), John Benn (Department of Conservation), Peter Langlands (Wild Capture Research), and Richard Fitzpatrick (Enviro Collective).

Alannah Kidd welcomed everyone, and Caine Tauwhare provided a karakia. Meeting opened at 4:17 pm.

APOLOGIES

Received from Tayla Nelson-Tūhuru.

IDENTIFICATION OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

None.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Matt Dodson noted he is still seconded to Environment Canterbury for another three weeks.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 126th Meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on 12 August 2024.

Moved – Councillor McInnes / **Seconded** – Les Wanhalla

‘That the minutes of the 126th meeting of the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee (Water Management) held on Monday 12 August 2024 be confirmed as circulated.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

REPORTS

1. Zone Committee Action Plan Project Recommendations

J Grant noted the September workshop which led to the development of the recommendations outlined in the agenda paper.

Moved – Simon Bryant / Seconded – Alanah Kidd

‘That the Zone Committee:

- **Confirms** its decision to support the funding recommendations for the following projects:

1. RCS Tunnel House Irrigation Project	Rolleston Christian School	\$1,297.00
2. Fantail Trust Bird Sanctuary	Fantail Trust	\$2,500.00
3. Old Tai Tapu Bush Deer Fence	Queen Elizabeth II Trust	\$12,762.00
4. Halswell/ Huritini Wetland Restoration	Environment Canterbury	\$10,000.00
5. Scamander Swamp Wetland Restoration	Environment Canterbury	\$16,500.00
6. Te Ara Kākāriki Kids Discovery Plantout and Monitoring at Te Motu Huritini o Ahuriri 2025	Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust	\$6,941.00

CARRIED

2. Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together

Peter Langlands provided a presentation on the Matuku-hūrepo. The species of significant ecological importance, particularly in wetland habitats and as an indicator of wetland health.

L Wanhalla noted that it is not considered a taonga species in this area and P Langland noted it holds cultural and ecological value in others, such as up north in New Zealand.

Their population is critically low, with only about 30-50 in Canterbury, a situation exacerbated by habitat fragmentation, predation, and environmental degradation. Females are particularly vulnerable due to their nesting duties, leading to male-dominated populations. The Department of Conservation (DOC) principal scientist has described this as a “perfect storm,” with factors like roadkill, wetland destruction, and predator pressures contributing to their decline. The loss of the Matuku-hūrepo could signify the collapse of wetland ecosystems, as these birds are top predators.

Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) is a key wetland site, but it faces numerous challenges, including nitrogen enrichment, saltwater intrusion, human disturbances, and predators. Recent observations indicate a significant decline in food sources for the Matuku-hūrepo, such as bullies, contributing to starvation among juveniles.

Efforts to create large-scale wetland habitats at sites such as the Lower Huritini/Halswell and Ahuriri Lagoon, are critical. These projects could enhance breeding habitats, with raupō (bulrush) identified as a vital component for providing coverage from predators. While some juveniles have successfully joined local populations, the species’ survival depends on significant conservation efforts, including habitat creation on a larger scale. In Australia, they have survived to an extent in commercial rice fields as refuge habitat.

Potential restoration areas include Ahuriri Lagoon, Harts Creek, and Osborne Drain, but challenges such as willow invasions and fragmented wetlands must be addressed. There is also an urgent need for increased water flow and better management of Te Waihora’s ecosystems to support wetland productivity.

Advocacy from the Committee alongside collaboration with landowners, iwi, and agencies like Ngāi Tahu, is essential. The establishment of wetlands with public amenities could garner broader support.

Members thanked P Langland for his presentation to the Zone Committee, one the previous weekend and his mahi.

C Tauwhare noted over in Hickory Bay there was talk 10+ years ago of establishing raupō and might be of interest and get in touch with the family over there.

Cr McInnes asked whether he had been in touch with landowners or looked at land value in those key places. She noted there was low-level grazing land, areas owned by Environment Canterbury and Ngāi Tahu, and some flood-prone land near Ahuriri that might be suitable. At Coes Ford, Selwyn District Council (SDC) has been developing a constructed wetland, though land costs there were high, as with the Te Kuru wetland purchase.

L Wanhalla noted the ambition for Ahuriri Lagoon involves going across the side of Huritini/Halswell and some adjacent land. Muriwai once had Matuku-hūrepo (10 males, 1 female), but raupō has declined due to saltwater intrusion, though the opposite issue occurs on the leeward side.

M Dodson noted an upcoming bus trip to be undertaken with community groups and note that could be an opportunity to engage groups on this subject. He also noted the Committee is also connected with other groups who may wish to support this project.

Moved – Marie Pollisco / Seconded - Alannah Kidd

That the Zone Committee:

- 1) **Receives** the presentation “*Matuku-hūrepo – the Australasian bittern: a taonga we can save if we have a vision and work together*” in consideration of their Action Plan 2021-24.

CARRIED

3. Enviro Collective and Advance Mitigations

Richard Fitzgerald, Group Manager of Enviro Collective (EC), explained the ownership of EC noting their objective to help groups meet their consent requirements. EC are trying to broaden the impact of the farmers activities to a catchment scale and aim at getting the biophysical and farm management systems working together instead of looking at individual farms.

AM focuses on five key target areas outlined in the presentation. It operates alongside GMP (Good Management Practices), with the expectation that farmers achieve an A-grade standard. For the Barhill Chertsey scheme, all participants are assessed against AM criteria, which represent a higher level of performance and a more advanced set of credentials. Independent auditors evaluate the farmers' Farm Environment Plans (FEPs), including the thought process and rationale behind them. Participation in AM is voluntary, but achieving an A-grade is both a standard and a prerequisite for involvement.

A proactive approach has been taken in setting clear expectations for farmers to implement meaningful changes. Engaging and supporting farmers throughout this journey is critical to achieving success.

The key message they aim to communicate is that AM delivers tangible business benefits. The value proposition of AM goes beyond simply meeting consent requirements; it provides a strong, data-driven case for participation, which is crucial given its voluntary nature.

AM focusses on three areas: Irrigation, Nutrients, and Point Source. The thought process required ensures farmers are considering how they farm. The goal is to support farmers in adopting deliberate, informed practices rather than defaulting to what they have always done. Focus is on identifying outcomes to be achieved under the three areas and then then leave it to farmers to determine how to achieve them.

There are associated challenges which were detailed in the presentation for both working with farmers and also for auditors.

AM is forward facing and is looking both to the future and for those opportunities now. Initiating change for the right reason is important, if initiating due to regulations, those regulations can change and will probably see those changes.

Barhill Chertsey Irrigation noted as performing above the Canterbury average and attributed AM practices as being key in that.

Water monitoring was noted as being critical to ensure sufficient progress is being made quickly enough and enables the assessment of efforts and taking action to achieve the desired outcomes.

AM is a framework focused on nitrogen management, but in areas like Selwyn Waihora, it can be adapted to address different issues and guide the development and delivery of tailored outcomes.

The question was asked why not use ISO9001 certification as a framework to provide farmers with credibility and a clear benchmark for improvement? R Fitzgerald noted the focus is on helping farmers understand issues and deliver outcomes, whether through ISO9001 or other frameworks like AM. While ISO could be used, there is no strict preference, but AM currently has support and engagement.

It was commented that in terms of working in a catchment context, it seemed the focus was more around understanding key issues and then individuals working on their own 'patch'. Is there an opportunity for farmers to collaborate to achieve catchment-wide outcomes? It was noted that catchment context is largely captured within consents specific to their area and will vary across regions. Their catchment is their "scheme catchment". While there is currently no comprehensive alignment or coordination at the catchment level, there is potential and zone committees to take on the role to support/lead it.

M Dodson commended the presentation and EC's work. He asked if AM was EC's IP or if they were talking to other schemes to see if this works and if there is much uptake? He also noted that schemes were often held to a higher standard than independent irrigators and asked how that could be closed. R Fitzgerald noted it was not their IP. EC had had conversations with a number of schemes and the most interested are those in the Waimakariri. Most schemes would be familiar with this approach to the extent and may have similar approaches with their own customised versions.

A source of frustration is that attention is often on schemes given they capture large groups of people and can impact large areas whereas independent irrigators are not subject to the same rigour. Parity could strengthen the case for unified catchment management under a single scheme. It was noted there were irrigators who wanted to buy in to AM but not into a scheme.

Non-compliant members face robust performance management tied to their environmental performance and water access. Measures range from advice on land use changes to a hierarchy of penalties, with the most severe being water shutoff or expulsion.

S Bryant asked if the scheme was still linked to FEPs, and R Fitzgerald confirmed they were.

M Dodson thanks R Fitzgerald for his presentation.

Moved – Khan McKay / Seconded - Simon Bryant

That the Zone Committee:

- 1) **Receives** the presentation, "*Enviro Collective and Advanced Mitigations*".

CARRIED

4. Committee Updates

J Grant provided an update on the Selwyn Well Water Testing Days noting around 150-180 tests were taken. M Dodson the events were well organised and having suppliers and experts there to talk about results and solutions learnt itself to the events. S McInnes noted the Killinchy event was enjoyable. J Grant noted Dr T Chambers also attended one event and noted opportunities for future use of the nitrate sensors e.g. potentially having testing before or after Committee meetings.

M Dodson and A Kidd both attended the CWMS Committees Review Chairs and Deputy Chairs online update. Both noted key comments and themes heard at that meeting. The key date noted was 26 November and was when a paper would be going to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to get their agreement on what happens next. L Wanhalla noted equal partnership as being important for any structure and ensuring mana whenua have sufficient representation.

M Dodson noted the Selwyn Waihora Leaders Project and Catchment Support scoping project did not get funding support from the Access to Experts fund however, noted those conversations the project would support will still need to be had with groups and organisations.

M Dodson noted a letter he was intending to be sent to Environment Canterbury requesting an update on the Near River Recharge project in Selwyn. Clarity was required around the Selwyn Infrastructure Rating from Environment Canterbury and what those funds were going to. There were no objections from the Committee to send the letter.

S McInnes noted a recommendation that the Selwyn District Council Annual Plan does not go out for public consultation.

M Pollisco noted Christchurch City Council Annual Plan is coming up and may ask for early feedback from the Committee in December.

L Wanhalla noted there was electric fishing coming up at Osbourne's drain.

C Tauwhare noted he has enjoyed the presentations provided at Committee meetings and wanted to put forward consideration for getting speakers in to talk about atua whakapapa and mātauranga Māori. L Wanhalla suggested some possible people to speak to.

Moved – Marie Pollisco / Seconded - Helen Troy

That the Zone Committee:

- 1) **Receives** the updates for its information and in consideration of its Action Plan 2021-24.

CARRIED

General business

C Tauwhare closed the meeting with karakia.

Meeting closed at 6:12 pm

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2	SUBJECT MATTER: Committee Appointments 2025 – for decision
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 17 February 2025

PURPOSE

This agenda item provides the Zone Committee the opportunity to confirm its appointed positions for 2025.

These appointments are in accord with the Zone Committee’s Terms of Reference, which state that the committee make these appointments each year, typically as part of the committee’s refreshment process. No refresh process was undertaken in 2023 and 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee:

1. Appoints its Chair and Deputy Chair for 2025.
2. Appoints representatives to:
 - a. Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society.
 - b. Coes Ford Wetland Working Group.
 - c. Whakakōhanga Kōrero Group.
 - d. Waitatari Harts Creek Boardwalk and Bird Hide Working Group.

BACKGROUND

Committee Membership

As of January 2025, the Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee membership is:

- **Community Representatives**

Simon Bryant, Allanah Kidd, Khan McKay, Tayla Nelson-Tūhuru, and Helen Troy.

- **Rūnanga representatives**

Les Wanhalla – Te Taumutu Rūnanga, Caine Tauwhare – Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Vacant – Ōnuku Rūnanga, Vacant – Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Vacant – Wairewa Rūnanga, Vacant – Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata.

- **Council Representatives**

Cr Vicky Southworth – Environment Canterbury, Marie Pollisco – Christchurch City Council, Cr Sophie McInnes – Selwyn District Council.

Required Appointments

- **Chair and Deputy roles**

Each year, the committee shall appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair from the membership by simple majority. There is no limit on how long a person can be in either of these positions.

The current Deputy Chair is Allanah Kidd. In December 2024, former Chair Matt Dodson resigned from the Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee and consequently, the Chair role is currently vacant.

APPOINTMENTS PROCESSES

Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

- 1.1 The committee shall accept nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2025.
- 1.2 The committee shall then accept nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson for 2025.

Should there be more multiple nominees for any of these positions the appointment process shall be undertaken by a simple ballot vote.

Other appointments

That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee confirm the following appointments:

2. Accept nominations for the zone committee's representative on the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society.
3. Accept nominations for the zone committee's representative on the Coes Ford Wetland Working Group.
4. Accept nominations for the zone committee's representative on the Whakakōhanga Kōrero Group.
5. Accept nominations for the zone committee's representative on the Waitatari Harts Creek Boardwalk and Bird Hide Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3	SUBJECT MATTER: Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Work Plan to June 2025 – for decision
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 17 February 2025

PURPOSE

To update the Zone Committee on progress with CWMS Zone Committee Review and agree a work plan through to June 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee:

1. Receives the information, and
2. Agrees to a work plan through to June 2025

BACKGROUND

CWMS Zone Committee Review

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum launched a review of Zone Committees in 2023 to consider how best to include local leadership in freshwater decision making.

Mayoral Forum Consideration

Following this review, a report was presented to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 29 November 2024. After considering these findings, the Forum acknowledge the significant contribution Zone Committee members have made to freshwater outcomes throughout Canterbury, both as individuals, and collectively agreed that:

- In principle, zone committees, as a consistent structure across Waitaha Canterbury, are in some places no longer the preferred option to support effective local freshwater leadership.
- Further work is needed to refine what an improved model might look like, with another report planned to go to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025 seeking agreement to a proposed model.
- In the first half of 2025, Environment Canterbury will lead this work with Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga, and to assist with how to transition from zone committee to any new model (see 'Next Steps' below).

Next Steps

In the interim period, through to June 2025 key areas where ongoing Zone Committee input will be valuable include:

- Completing 2024/25 Action Plan budget allocations and oversight of funded projects (funding agreements are almost complete for 2024/25);
- Supporting work to complete the 2025 CWMS Targets and Goals report; and

- Assisting in identifying local priorities for the new leadership groups to consider based on ZIPs and plans that have guided our efforts to date.
- If there is other work or actions that committees would like to do, including interim changes, then we welcome hearing about these. This could include Huritini/Halswell Stocktake Bus Trip.

Potential Zone Committee meeting/workshop dates to June 2025

The following dates are based on last year's previous cycle of holding meetings/workshops/briefings on the second Monday of each month, subject to change where required:

- Monday, 10 March
- Monday, 14 April
- Monday, 12 May




Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee

Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Work Plan to June 2025

CWMS Committee Review 2024 update and work planning

*The Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee is a
community led committee supported by councils.*

 fb.com/canterburywater

Christchurch
City Council 

 **Selwyn**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

 **Environment
Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaunihera 17iao ki Waitaha

Background

- Report to Canterbury Mayoral Forum on 29 Nov 2024
- Key Findings and Decisions:
 - Zone Committees may no longer be the best option for local freshwater leadership in some areas.
 - Further work required to develop an improved model.
 - Next report to Mayoral Forum in May 2025 for agreement on a proposed model.
 - Environment Canterbury to lead transition planning with Councils & Papatipu Rūnanga in early 2025.

What does the Committee want to focus on that is meaningful and adds value?:

• Considerations

- March to end May
- 2-3 opportunities

• Current group involvement:

- Coes Ford Working Group
- Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Society
- Whakakōhanga Kōrero Group.
- Waitatari Harts Creek Boardwalk and Bird Hide Working Group

• Potential actions:

- Huritini Halswell Stocktake Bus Trip – community interest
- Informing the development of the new entity e.g. assisting in identifying local priorities, focusses, community connection
- Supporting work to complete Targets and Goals Reporting
- Any other work streams/projects to consider?

Calendar 2025

Meeting dates based on last year's cycle:

- Monday, 11 March
- Monday, 14 April
- Monday, 12 May

For example:

- March – Huritini Halswell Stocktake Bus Trip
- April – Workshop – informing new structure, focusses etc.
- May – Meeting (if required)

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4	SUBJECT MATTER: Committee Updates (for information)
REPORT BY: Jaimee Grant – CWMS Facilitation, Environment Canterbury	DATE OF MEETING: 17 February 2025

PURPOSE:

The following updates are provided for the Committee's information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Zone Committee:

1. **Receives** these updates for its information.

1. CWMS Water Zone Committee Review 2024 Update

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum launched a review of Zone Committees in 2023 to consider how best to include local leadership in freshwater decision making. Following this review, a report was presented to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) on 29 November 2024. After considering these findings, the CMF acknowledged the significant contribution Zone Committee members have made to freshwater outcomes throughout Canterbury, and collectively agreed that:

- In principle, zone committees, as a consistent structure across Waitaha Canterbury, are in some places no longer the preferred option to support effective local freshwater leadership.
- Further work is needed to refine what an improved model might look like, with another report planned to go to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025 seeking agreement to a proposed model.
- In the first half of 2025, Environment Canterbury will lead this work with Councils and Papatipu Rūnanga, and to assist with how to transition from zone committee to any new model.

A copy of the paper that went to the Canterbury Mayoral Forum is attached as **Agenda Item 4.1**.

2. Zone Committee Action Plan Budget project report – Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project

Progress reports are a requirement for all recipients who receive funding from the CWMS Zone Committee Action Plan Budget. A progress report has been received from the Rakaia Hut Holders for the Boat Creek Reserve Native Restoration Project. This is attached as **Agenda Item 4.2**

3. Actions from previous meetings

<i>From 12 February workshop</i>		
1	J Grant and M Dodson	Request information on PC1 e.g. background and/or progress. <i>Environment Canterbury Science is unable to provide information and presentations to water zone committees at this stage.</i>

Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Date: 29 November 2024

Presented by: Craig Pauling, Environment Canterbury

CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 – Reporting and Next Steps

Purpose

1. To report on the outcome of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy Zone Committee Review 2024 (the 'Review') and seek endorsement from the Canterbury Mayoral Forum on proposed next steps.

Recommendations

That the Canterbury Mayoral Forum:

1. **acknowledges that the Review has been completed, with the full technical report provided to territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees**
2. **agrees that zone committees as a consistent structure across Canterbury are no longer fit for purpose**
3. **agrees that a proposed model of local freshwater leadership groups with core membership of territorial authorities, mana whenua, and regional council be investigated in early 2025**
4. **endorses work to be undertaken to refine the operation of this core model and to report back to the Mayoral Forum in May 2025, seeking agreement to the proposed model**
5. **agrees that this work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga**
6. **agrees that this work continues to be supported by a working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and the Environment Canterbury Chair.**

Key points

2. A working group of nominated Canterbury Mayors and mana whenua representatives workshopped (i) principles, functions, and bottom lines for local freshwater leadership and engagement, and (ii) models to achieve these principles and functions.
3. It was agreed that while the underlying vision and principles of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) remain sound, zone committees as a consistent regional structure are no longer fit for purpose and should be replaced.

4. A replacement model was identified that centres on connecting territorial authorities, mana whenua and regional council at a leadership level, with connections to local communities critical but best tailored at the local level.
5. Further work is required to refine the operation of this replacement model. This work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga.

Background

6. On 30 August 2024, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum (CMF) nominated four mayors to work with Environment Canterbury's Chair to workshop what local freshwater leadership the CMF will support into the future. The four nominees were Mayors Mackle, Bowen, Black, and Mauger. Mayor Munro later joined the working group.
7. Also on 30 August, Te Rōpū Tuia agreed to nominate mana whenua representatives to participate. The two representatives were Rik Tainui (Chairperson, Ōnuku) and Dardanelle McLean-Smith (Chairperson, Te Rūnanga o Waihao). Environment Canterbury's Ngāi Tahu Councillors, Crs Cranwell and Korako, joined the working group.
8. This working group met for two-hour workshops on 21 October and 4 November 2024 in hybrid in-person and online settings.
9. This report concludes the Review, with recommendations for next steps presented below for endorsement by the CMF. A full technical report will be shared with territorial authorities, Papatipu Rūnanga, and zone committees once finalised.

Workshop outcomes

10. Workshop content was based on the Review's empirical findings (see Attachment 1) and aimed at testing (i) principles, functions, and bottom lines for local freshwater leadership and engagement, and (ii) models to achieve these principles and functions.
11. There was a shared view that while the CWMS vision and principles remain sound, and provide a good basis for future work, the zone committees as a consistent structure across Canterbury are no longer fit for purpose.
12. While some committees work well and opportunities should be created to keep the momentum and membership of these committees, the majority of committees have not been well placed or supported to move from planning-centric work to an implementation work programme.
13. Through the workshops a preferred base model was identified as well as questions that require further investigation before this new model can be operationalised.

Key features of proposed local leadership model

14. A base model was identified that centres on connecting territorial authorities, mana whenua and regional council at a leadership level and at place, with connections to local communities critical along with the need to reflect a maturing partnership with

mana whenua. Connections to Central Government and industry alongside, and as part of, local communities may also be important for future success.

15. The working group recognised that the relationship of these three partners should be meaningful and have clear purpose – it ought to extend beyond loose connections and involve direction setting, and possibly support funding decisions to achieve outcomes. Members of the working group framed this well – it is about these local leadership groups confirming a master plan of local priorities and then utilise their resources, mana, and networks to support delivery towards these priorities.
16. The scope of the leadership groups was also discussed by the working group, and it was agreed that the fundamentals of the CWMS and guiding plans (e.g. Zone Implementation Programmes) remain crucial for identifying freshwater management priorities and focus efforts. Leadership groups may, however, wish to extend the scope of local priorities to other overlapping cross-boundary issues, such as land use, biosecurity, biodiversity and natural hazards.
17. The working group acknowledged that an approach is needed that achieves a degree of regional consistency from a membership and function perspective, with enough flexibility to enable locally suitable solutions, which will include determining at place the mechanisms for local community engagement, setting of priorities, and degree of investment support.
18. The group also noted that future options should be effective and efficient without duplicating existing structures or recreating known challenges to achieving outcomes. Successful examples of partnership approaches across Canterbury may serve as points of reference (e.g. Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment Strategy and Whakaraupō Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour).
19. The success of future options will depend on clear responsibilities and accountability, with the support of councils and Rūnanga being critical.

Key questions to be considered

20. Some key design questions need to be worked through in early 2025 before final advice can be provided to the CMF. For example, should these groups operate according to existing CWMS zone boundaries, district boundaries, or be based on proposed freshwater management units?
21. Options for how these groups are mandated also need to be determined. Zone committees are joint committees of territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury, whereas other mechanisms, such as Whaka-Ora, are underpinned by a voluntary partnership reflected with a Collaborative Agreement.
22. These questions, along with operational details (e.g., options for wider membership, meeting formats and frequency, and administrative support), need to be investigated further.

Proposed next steps

23. Further work is required to resolve the questions outlined above and refine the proposed model. Under the auspices of the CMF, this work should be undertaken collaboratively by staff from territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, and Rūnanga.
24. It is proposed that this work continues to be supported by a working group of Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Environment Canterbury Chair. The working group that met on 21 October and 4 November has been highly effective, and there will be ongoing value to support refinement of the proposed model.
25. Final endorsement from the CMF will be sought at its May 2025 meeting, in order to have new groups operational in the 2025/26 financial year.
26. This timing would enable further discussions in individual councils (noting changes to the zone committee approach will require decisions by each council given these are joint committees) and for the new structures to commence in the 2025/26 financial year. It is intended that new groups would operate within existing CWMS Zone Committee funding envelopes.
27. It is intended that the CWMS zone committees continue their work in their current form until new groups are established.
28. A progress update will be provided at the CMF's February 2025 meeting, with a finalised model presented at the May 2025 meeting.

Cost, compliance and communication

Financial implications

29. In refining the proposed model, staff are working towards new groups being funded within existing CWMS Zone Committee budgets.

Risk assessment and legal compliance

30. Given the collaborative approach taken for this Review, key parties have received regular updates and participated in determining the outcomes of the Review. Therefore, no major risks or legal implications are foreseen.

Significance and engagement

31. This work affects the relationship and future collaboration between key CWMS parties, including territorial authorities, Environment Canterbury, Ngāi Tahu, the Canterbury community, and organisations with interests in water.
32. Further collaborative engagements between territorial authorities, mana whenua, and regional council are required at a leadership and staff level to refine the operation of the proposed leadership group model. Zone committee members will be engaged throughout early to mid-2025 as part of the transition to a new model by July 2025.

Communication

33. Progress updates on proposed next steps will be communicated through upcoming quarterly meetings of the CMF and Chief Executive Forum, as well as other avenues on an as-needed basis (e.g. Canterbury Policy Forum). Zone committee members will continue to receive regular updates.

Next steps

34. A progress update will be provided to the CMF in February 2025, with a final model to be presented in May.

Attachments

- Summary of the CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024

Attachment 1: Summary CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024

Background

The CWMS Zone Committee Review 2024 (the 'Review') aimed to address key questions about the future of local freshwater leadership to determine necessary functions, structures, and resources needed to support local leadership into the future. Led by Environment Canterbury under the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, the Review engaged a range of stakeholders between March – June 2024, including zone committee members, Canterbury Mayors, Rūnanga representatives, and Environment Canterbury Councillors. Several qualitative methods were employed to gather feedback, such as workshops, interviews, and surveys. Key insights from these engagements are summarised below.

Views on the current function of Zone Committees

Participants stressed that **Zone Committees have been an integral part of collaborative freshwater management** in Canterbury over the last decade, including substantial involvement in several plan changes, the development of zone implementation programmes and addendums, as well as by enabling a range of local community-led initiatives (e.g. catchment groups).

Additionally, many participants reflected on the less tangible, or associated, **benefits of zone committees**, including:

- being a **unique shared forum** for diverse community voices, local and regional councils, and mana whenua
- providing a **formalised structure for constructive discussion, functional disagreement, and effective collaboration** to establish shared targets, with the **support from facilitators and local and regional council staff**
- offering opportunities for **shared learning** about local freshwater issues, **capability building** (including for emerging community leaders), and in some cases **inter-cultural learning**
- **influencing local environmental efforts** through setting priorities, allocating and coordinating funding, connecting community members, and liaising with local and regional councils.

However, it was widely acknowledged that the **context for zone committees has changed in recent years**, partly due to:

- a **shift from the 'strategic phase' of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy** (e.g., planning) towards a stronger implementation focus
- more **directive national legislation** limiting (sub)regional flexibility (e.g., National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020)
- the **increased activity of catchment groups and collectives**, supported by national funding (e.g. Jobs For Nature), which leads to overlaps in function.

Many participants consequently expressed **a range of concerns about zone committees in their current form and function**, including:

- feeling a **loss of purpose and (political) mana** with councils, **frustration over limited progress with implementation** and their **inability to influence** this (e.g. insufficient

funding), their **role reduced to allocate funding**, and **significant uncertainty over their future**

- several participants acknowledging that, for various reasons, **some zone committees are disconnected** from councils, local community activities, and/or mana whenua (e.g., limited links to operational activities or lacking involvement in emerging issues)
- an acknowledgement that **support from territorial authorities and regional council has declined** in recent years
- some participants questioning zone committees' **efficacy and 'value for money'** in achieve desired environmental outcomes.

Considerations for the future of Zone Committees and local leadership

Participants outlined **broad considerations over the future of local freshwater leadership and the role of zone committees**. These considerations include:

- widely shared views that **collaborative approaches remain crucial**, including between councils, mana whenua and local communities
- a need to **maintain the holistic and systematic focus** of the CWMS and Zone Committees, with core principles (e.g. balance of views) and guiding plans (e.g. ZIPs) still relevant
- the importance of **maintaining strategic oversight** of on-the-ground activities, including but not limited to catchment groups, and of **addressing gaps** where applicable
- a need to **sustain lasting connection and coordination** among groups and individuals involved in local freshwater management, with a concern that **losing zone committees could disrupt relationships** formed over many years
- a need for mechanisms to **maintain diverse community influence on strategic direction and plans**, with a lot of current activities being led by rural communities (e.g. catchment groups) with **limited participation from urban, non-farming communities and mana whenua**
- having mechanisms to **achieve local community engagement**, including encouraging local participation and ownership to **achieve outcomes and create accountability** where required
- a need for **safe forums that bring together diverse local community voices, council staff and mana whenua** in a collaborative and inclusive manner
- a potential gap resulting from the **loss of Zone Committees' independent voice and their role as trusted mediators** between councils and local communities
- a need for **shared learning spaces** that help to **build capability and capacity**.

Following these requirements for, and benefits of, local freshwater leadership, views **diverged on whether Zone Committees (or similar groups) are required** in the future, ranging from participants advocating for their disestablishment while others prefer them to be refreshed and strengthened. There is, however, shared agreement that **certainty over their future role is required**, including adequate commitment from Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, Rūnanga and other key parties.

Participants outlined **diverse recommendations for achieving effective future local freshwater leadership and engagement**, with or without Zone Committees. Relevant recommendations included:

- Several **principles that apply regardless of future options**:
 - diversity and balance of views should be supported, potentially beyond freshwater
 - clear purpose, adequate support, and targeted outcomes are required
 - acknowledgement that 'strategic' and 'implementation' functions may differ
- A **range of potential structures suggested**, noting those **should be effective and efficient**:
 - mechanisms for community connection and engagement, possibly formalised as sub-regional Water & Land Forums or Groups
 - umbrella groups that enable community and catchment groups, such Catchment Leaders Forums, noting that those groups may perform different roles to zone committees
 - advisory groups or community boards to support Councils
 - a Governance and Planning Forum or Committees with strategic oversight and potentially a broader focus than freshwater, e.g. including climate change and biodiversity
- Strong sense that **flexible solutions are need across the region** without one-size-fits-all solutions, while noting that support from **facilitation and liaison staff remains important**
- Acknowledgement of **membership as an important success factor**, with a need to maintain connections to local community and diverse views on suitable composition and size
- Range of suggestion for **more effective working and funding procedures** (e.g. fewer formal meetings and simplified funding allocation), but a desire to **keep existing CWMS funding**
- Widely shared view that for any successful future option **adequate support from territorial authorities and Environment Canterbury will be crucial**, including collaboration and coordination between them as well as effective support to enable local leadership.

Summary

The Review confirmed that Zone Committees in Canterbury have played a crucial role in collaborative freshwater management over the past decade, contributing to plan changes, zone implementation programmes, and community-led initiatives. They have fostered dialogue between diverse stakeholders, including local councils, mana whenua, and community members, while influencing local environmental efforts.

The Review confirmed that the evolving context of freshwater management, including national legislation and the rise of catchment groups, has led to concerns about the Committees' current effectiveness and relevance. The Review also highlighted that meaningful connection with community remains vital in shaping strong positive outcomes for water management.

In considering future leadership options, the Review has incorporated a wide range of views on the challenges faced by Zone Committees and outlines considerations for how to maintain effective local freshwater management and community engagement moving forward.



Progress Report to Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee

Funding Received January 2024 - \$7,800

Funding Purpose

To undertake woody weed eradication of 2 Hectares of heavily infested land as part of the long-term restoration project of Boat Creek Reserve

Outcomes To December 31st 2024

- Aerial spraying of affected area undertaken by helicopter in January 2024 (see attached)
- Spot spraying of regrowth undertaken as needed
- Identification of natural native regeneration identified as it occurs

Ongoing Actions

- Mulching of the large area of gorse to be undertaken in March-April 2025
- Ongoing spot spraying of unwanted weeds
- Continued identification and nurturing of natural native regeneration
- Pursuit of suitable funding to plant the area in line with existing 3 Ha already restored

Milestones Achieved To Date With Boat Creek Restoration Project

- 3 Ha cleared of unwanted weeds
- 10,000 eco-sourced native seedlings planted over five years since October 2019
- 250 meters of Boat Creek cleared to enable free running water for first time in 50+ years
- In excess of 5,500 hrs of labour input from 65 Volunteers
- Contributions of goods and services from more than 15 businesses and organisations
- Completion of seven Information Panels – one of which funded by Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee (see attached)
- Achievement of a Conservation Award in November 2023 from Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board (see attached)

Attachments

- Aerial photo of the area sprayed with funding from Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee
- Information Panel "The Rakaia River, The Lagoon and The Sea: A Dynamic Relationship"
- ~~Conservation Award~~
- Progress Photos

Hamish Jones
Project Coordinator
17th January 2025

Aerial photo of the area sprayed with funding from Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee



Info Panel

The Rakaia River, The Lagoon and The Sea A Dynamic Relationship

CS CamScanner

As the mighty Rakaia River reaches the coast, it forms a 4km long lagoon/hāpua at its mouth. The lagoon has a large natural sand and gravel barrier wall created by waves, and an opening to the sea.

The Lagoon Water Levels Rise and Fall

Weather, sea conditions, tides and the river flow are all factors that can affect the water levels in the lagoon. When the Rakaia River flow is low and as wave conditions move the coastal sands and gravel northward, the barrier wall can restrict the channels flowing into the sea. This can cause lagoon water levels to rise. Comparatively, high rainfall events and storms at sea can also mean that lagoon water levels will rise.

The location and width of the lagoon mouth to the sea is the most significant factor affecting water levels in the lagoon. When the mouth to the sea is narrow and not aligned with the river channel, the lagoon water can rise.

If there are high river flows following heavy rain in the Southern Alps combined with heavy swells and high tides, the lagoon levels can lift.

Eventually, the water pushes through the gravel barrier to widen the mouth or create new openings. Lagoon water levels will usually then fall.

A Changing Climate

Changing weather patterns for Canterbury are likely to include longer low-rainfall periods, less summer snow melt, and an increase in the occurrence of extreme storms accompanied by high rainfall events. These changes in combination may increase the frequency and extent of lagoon water level fluctuations, particularly when high river flows follow a period of low stable flows and the opening to the sea cannot let the water out fast enough.

Examples of the Different Types of Openings That Can Form at The Rakaia River Mouth



Selwyn Waihora
Water Zone Committee

Boat Creek
Restoration Project

Boat Creek Restoration Project

Progress Photos



Main Entrance January 2025



Five Years of Growth



January 2025



Part of Area Planted October 2024