

AGENDA

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 8 July 2024

Date Monday, 8 July 2024

Time 1pm

Location Council Chamber, Council Building, King George
Place, Timaru

File Reference 1681122

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru, on Monday 8 July 2024, at 1pm.

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Members

Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Glen Smith (Chairperson), Bailey Lissington, Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Pye, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain and Rynnee de Garnham

Quorum – no less than 5 members

Order Of Business

1	Opening Karakia	5
2	Apologies	5
3	Public Forum	5
4	Identification of Items of Urgent Business.....	5
5	Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature	5
6	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	5
7	Chairperson’s Report.....	5
8	Confirmation of Minutes	6
8.1	Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2024.....	6
9	Reports	12
9.1	OTOP Orari River Protection Group - Funding Progress Report	12
9.2	OTOP Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon update	20
9.3	OTOP Committee update 8 July 2024	21
9.4	OTOP ZC Action Plan review.....	25
10	Consideration of Urgent Business Items.....	28
11	Consideration of Minor Nature Matters.....	28
12	Closing Karakia	28

- 1 Opening Karakia**
- 2 Apologies**
- 3 Public Forum**
- 4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business**
- 5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature**
- 6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 7 Chairperson's Report**

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2024

Author: Rachel Scarlett, Governance Advisor

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Attachments

- 1. Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 6 May 2024**

MINUTES

Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting Monday, 6 May 2024

**Minutes of Timaru District Council
Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting
Held in the Council Chamber, Council Building, King George Place, Timaru
on Monday, 6 May 2024 at 1.03pm**

Present: Glen Smith (Chairperson), Chris Konings (Deputy Chairperson), Suzanne Eddington, John Henry, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin, Sharyn Cain

In Attendance: Mayor Nigel Bowen, Dave Moore (Zone Facilitator, Environment Canterbury), Rachel Scarlett (Governance Advisor, Timaru District Council)

Presenters: Richard Jacomb (Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy), Felicity McMillan (Lagoon Plant Maintenance)

1 Opening Karakia

John Henry conducted the opening Karakia

2 Apologies

2.1 Apologies Received

Resolution 2024/6

Moved: Glen Smith

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the apology of Bailey Lissington, Rynee de Garnham and Clr Michelle Pye be received and accepted. **Carried**

3 Public Forum

There were no public forum items.

4 Identification of Items of Urgent Business

No items of urgent business were received.

5 Identification of Matters of a Minor Nature

Trees on the Opuha walkway by the Tengawai bridge at Pleasant Point.

6 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

7 Chairperson's Report

7.1 Presentation of Chairperson's Report

No report was provided by Chairperson Glen Smith. Deputy Chairperson Chris Konings provided an update on the Waitarakao Project.

Discussion included the Waitarakao Project draft, and the draft strategy consultation process.

Resolution 2024/7

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Glen Smith

Carried

8 Confirmation of Minutes

8.1 Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024

The Committee members expressed concern regarding item 9.2 (Barkers Creek Action Plan Funding Request). The Committee discussed whether it would have been better to have had more engagement with Te Runanga o Arowhenua prior to the funding request being taken to Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee.

The Committee also discussed the safe guards for property owners introducing new species.

Committee members agreed to follow a process in the future to open up a channel for discussion prior to the meeting date, and agreed it would be beneficial to defer items to a future meeting if necessary, so informed decisions can be made.

Resolution 2024/8

Moved: Chris Konings

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the Minutes of the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting and that the Chairperson's electronic signature be attached.

Carried

9 Reports

9.1 Zone Committee Action Plan Budget – applications for funding

The purpose for the report is for the Zone Committee to consider three applications received for funding using their Zone Committee Action Plan Budget for FY2023/24.

Richard Jacomb spoke to the Committee to consider the application for the Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy funding request.

Discussion included how the restoration would provide habitats, diversity, improves water quality and adaptability of the ecosystem. Richard Jacomb explained his vision for the future restoration and development of a strategy, including, site visits, big picture events with the site, planting, signage, trapping and potentially installing a viewing platform in the future.

Discussion also included the removal of fencing from the wetlands, intentions of implementing a plan, personal fund contributions for this project by land owners and restoring the wetlands with native plants. Richard Jacomb spoke to the Committee regarding the mouth of the stop bank and the effects of receded salt water to the environment.

The Committee spoke about the beneficial work that has been implemented in the area to date, and the potential use of project funds being put towards administration and project management.

Felicity McMillan spoke to the Committee to consider the application for the Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance.

Discussion included the work that has been done to date, including maintenance of plants to increase survival rates, clearance in the area and the relocation of lagoon rocks to help stop vehicles from damaging the wetlands.

The Committee queried the maintenance costs and the time line of maintaining plants as to increase their survival rate, plants are maintained for three to four years and there will be a required four rounds of planting and two rounds of maintenance over a twelve month period.

Discussion also included, the creation of partnerships with agencies, Council and local land owners as an opportunity to create communication and DOC being in support of this project.

The Committee discussed both of these submissions, along with the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.

The Committee agreed to increase their funding towards these two submissions, Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance and the Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy, and discussed a field trip to visit these sites next spring 2025.

The lack of follow up with maintenance projects was discussed, there was a recommendation for project funding applications to include; how maintenance is planned to be carried out. There was also requests of a list of all projects that they have funded and review the outcome or where shortfalls may be.

Resolution 2024/9

Moved: Clr Deon Swiggs

Seconded: Clr Phillipa Guerin

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee:

1. Receives the three applications from Richard Jacomb, Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd (Arowhenua Native Nursery), and Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.
2. For each project,
 - a. To support the allocation of \$15,000 to Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance and;
 - b. To support the allocation of \$22,810 to Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration – Remediation strategy, to include \$3,000 or more for implementation of planning and;
 - c. To not support the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust.

In Favour: Suzanne Eddington, Glen Smith, Chris Konings, Deon Swiggs, Phillipa Guerin and Sharyn Cain

Against: Nil

Abstained: John Henry

Carried 6/0

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

No items of urgent business were received.

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

Timaru District Council's infrastructure team has ordered the removal of trees on the Opuha walkway by the Tengawai bridge at Pleasant Point due to safety concerns. The trees were part of a former Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone native planting project. The landowner who submitted this concern is agnostic about the trees being taken down, but is concerned about the impact on the walkway, native plants and bat roosting habitat.

The Committee suggested a better outcome would be trimming the trees back off the walkway. The Committee agreed that the facilitator will discuss this matter with Timaru Council, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation and the landowner, and will bring report back to the Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Water Zone Committee. The Committee also discussed the metal sheets around the trees at the Opuha walkway that reduces possums climbing, as the trees are nesting location for bats.

12 Closure Karakia

John Henry conducted the closing Karakia

The Meeting closed at 2.50pm.

.....
Glen Smith
Chairperson

9 Reports

9.1 OTOP Orari River Protection Group - Funding Progress Report

Author: Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee receives the report

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update the OTOP Water Zone Committee on progress with the Orari River Bat population investigation project - Stage 1

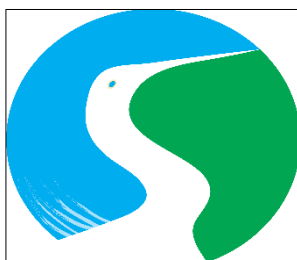
Background

- 2 In November 2023 the OTOP Zone Committee recommended Action Plan funding of \$2,498 (excl. GST) to the Orari River Protection Group for Stage 1 of their Orari River Bat population investigation project.
- 3 The aim of the project is to establish habitual movement and behaviour of the bat populations in Orari Gorge, and other sites where populations have been identified, as well as other areas along the Orari River that have not yet been investigated.
- 4 The group will employ bat detectors and monitors, as well as predator traps to provide a database for future Stage assessment and planning. Traps will protect areas of intense bat activity.
- 5 The funding was for:

	Number	Each	Subtotal
Handheld Bat			
Detector	2	\$300.00	\$600.00
Acoustic Bat Recorder	5	\$450.00	\$2,250.00
AT220 Traps	5	\$400.00	\$2,000.00
Total:			<u>\$4,850.00</u>

Report

- 6 Drew Brown will present the attached report on behalf of the Orari River Protection Group.



Orari River Protection Group

Progress Report for ECan funding through OTOP 2023-24
CWMS Action Project.

Title of Project: Stage 1 Bat population investigation Orari River specific sites

Group: Orari River Protection Group (O.R.P.G.)

Date: 12/6/2024

Author: Drew Brown (Chair)

Participants/parties involved:

(1) ECan (funder) & OTOP

(2) Volunteer members of ORPG

(3) ORPG has a very good working relationship with Orari Gorge Station, on whose property ORPG will endeavor to identify bat populations

(4) It has also forged a new relationship with Carr Estates (North side Orari Gorge)- potential sites.

(5) ORPG is a member of the Catchment Collective of South Canterbury (now Living Landscapes)

(6) We have also formed a good working relationship with Hobbs & Banks Gravel Extractors, and the Geraldine Golf Club along whose borders we have access to trap for predators and possibly identify bat populations.

(7) Rooney Contracting: This group has cleared potential nesting islands in the river of lupin, gorse and broom with heavy machinery.

(8) DoC has indicated assistance will be given when required.

Table 1: Activity Matrix

Activity	Number of items/action	Location/sites	No: people engaged	Number of volunteer days
2023/4 Bat Detection activity with Detectors and Monitors	DoC loaned bat detectors and monitors: <u>Upper True Left (near Andrew's Stm)</u> <u>Burdon Rd crossing</u>	 43deg 55' 18.70" S 171deg 10" 56.30" 43deg 59' 33.89" S 171 deg 14' 11.99" E	5	On average 3 days each 5pax x 6hrs x 3 days =90 hrs

	<u>Thatcher Rd crossing</u>	44 deg 00' 32.90" S 171 deg 14' 14.89" E		
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Table 2: High Level outcomes achieved from and for detection

ORPG bat detection results 2023	ORPG Action 2024
<p>1. In 2023 Rob Carson-Isles (DoC Ruakapuka) established that there is strong evidence of bat activity in the areas identified above above. His group used monitors and data confirmed healthy bat activity in some areas of the Orari.</p> <p>ECan also has (part of it's ecosystems layering mapping) evidence on their maps of bats in these areas, ORPG now has an excellent opportunity to extend research and gather further data in order to establish where roost trees are and to implement further stages of investigation and protection.</p>	<p>2. When Rob's data from the monitors is finally deciphered ORPG intends to use this to extend and refine potential bat roosting sites.</p> <p>3. ORPG has used the OTOP funding to purchase 2 bat detectors from the UK, and 5 Monitors from DoC.</p> <p>4. With data results and use of equipment ORPG will start monitoring activity in Spring 2024.</p> <p>5. ORPG will place predator traps around appropriate bat sensitive areas.</p>

Narrative & Outcomes:

The main objectives of ORPG's activities are the suppression and potential eradication of predators and invasive plant species in the Orari River's ecosystems, thereby ensuring a healthy, and as far as reasonably possible, a biodiversity that encourages the return and regeneration of endangered native species.

In practical terms, our small community conservation group would find it near impossible to make any meaningful impact without funding and grants. To make any meaningful contribution to Predator Free 2050 small groups like ours need assistance.

The most significant outcome from Waitaha funding and OTOP (ECan CWMS Action Plan funding) will be an ecosystem that has been further protected and supported, as well as increasing data and knowledge of endangered fauna.

It is always hard to precisely quantify the outcome for native flora and fauna because of our activities but trappers have noticed a general decline in some predators whilst also

remarking on increased presence of gecko, and native birds. We hope to repeat this trend with bats once we have data on which to base qualified and authenticated on.

We have found it difficult to get monitor data processed and this is a critical area that ECan and OTP may be able to assist us.

Identified deliverables have been used efficiently and have shown positive returns. We look forward to working with ECan in the future.

ORPG Ledger for spending 23-24 OTOP bat project budget

ORPG Budget for OTOP

Funding Application Stage 1

2023-24

Grant of \$ 4,850.00

	Number	Each	Amount inc. GST
Handheld Bat Detector	2	\$209.59	\$419.19 incl postage
Acoustic Bat Monitor	5	\$509.00	\$2,926.75
AT220 Traps +conv. Kits + batteries			\$1,507.79
	TOTAL SPENT		\$4,853.73

Invoices



NZ AutoTraps

Building 3,4,5
 143 Commerce Street
 Whakatane 3120
<https://nzautotraps.com/>

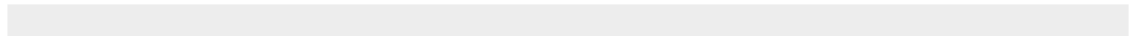
ORDER

SO-00003879

Customer Ref: ECan/ OTOP Funding
 161570



Customer Name	Orari River Protection Group	Deliver To:	Orari River Protection Group	Due Date:	08/04/2024
Customer Address	34 Thatcher Road	Address:	34 Thatcher Road	Order Date:	08/04/2024
				Completed Date:	
Customer City	Geraldine	City:	Geraldine	Delivery Method	
Customer Post Code	7991	Post Code	7991		



Code	Description	Qty	Price
AT220 Pouch A	AT220 Pouch Assembly (inc Batt)	2.00	455.00
USB Charger	USB Charger	2.00	0.00
Lure 350g pouc	Lure 350 grams in pouch with cap	2.00	0.00
Pouch kit retro	Pouch kit for retro fitting to traps wi	3.00	40.00
BPA2	Battery Pack	4.00	55.00
Freight	Freight	2.00	30.56

Charge	Price	Tax Rate	Invoiced	Sub Total
				1,311.12

Charge Sub Total 0.00

Tax Total 196.67

Total 1,507.79

Delivery Instruction

Comments:

Payment Terms:

Please pay on placement of order, using the order number as your reference. Tax invoice can be issued on shipment if requested. Please note change of Bank Account number below

Payment Details: Please use account number 02 0316 0695865 000 for all online payments. please note is a new account number.



Department of Conservation
 PO Box 10420
 WELLINGTON 6140
 0800 677 800
 ar@doc.govt.nz

Tax Invoice

GST Number: 067-809-823
 NZBN: 9429000028295

ORARI RIVER PROTECTION GROUP INC SOC
 34 THATCHER ROAD, RD 21
 GERALDINE 7991

Tax Invoice Number: 1800005832
Tax Invoice Date: 04/06/2024
Account Number: 209241
Customer Reference: PO 161570

Description / Comments	NZD Amount
5 x Acoustic Recorders/batts/SD cards Attn Drew Brown	2,545.00
Sub-Total	2,545.00
GST	381.75
Total NZD	2,926.75

For any queries please contact DOC Accounts Receivable on the above contact details

Remittance Advice

Tax Invoice Number: 1800005832	Total NZD: 2,926.75
Account Number: 209241	
Department of Conservation PO Box 10420 WELLINGTON 6140 ar@doc.govt.nz	Due Date: 20/07/2024
	Payment Method: Customer Payment
	Bank Name: DEPT Main Bank Account (00)
	Account Holder: Department
	Bank Account: 03-0049-0002808-000

For more details on how to pay please refer to the next page.

NHBS, 1-6 The Stables, Ford Road Toines, Devon, TQ9 5LE
 customer.services@nhbs.com
 Tel: +44(0)1803 865913



Invoice to:
 Andrew Brown
 34 Thatcher Rd
 RD 21
 Geraldine 7991
 New Zealand

Deliver to:
 Andrew Brown
 34 Thatcher Rd
 RD 21
 Geraldine 7991
 New Zealand

Order S1268779

Standard Shipping VAT

Acknowledgement

Dispatch Note:	S1268779	Order Reference:	C94432979	Your Account:	161570 OTOP Funding	Total	£193.43
Date:	4/4/2024	Terms:		Payment Due:		Memo:	05/04 - Emailed
Customer Comment:							

SKU	Qty	Item	Product Code	Unit Price	ex VAT Total	VAT	Line Total	Status
171849	2	Magenta Bat 5 Bat Detector	Magenta Bat 5	88.33	£176.66	£0.00 (0%)	£176.66	This will be dispatched to you within 48 hour
	1	Standard Shipping VAT		16.77	£16.77	£0.00 (0%)	£16.77	
							£193.43	Total: £193.43

Check the status of your order online: www.nhbs.com/user/recent-orders . If you require your items dispatched separately or have any other questions about your order, please email Customer Services on customer.services@nhbs.co.uk or phone on +44 (0) 1803 865913 - we will be glad to help.
 All prices listed are subject to change. We will always inform you of any change to the price of items you have ordered from us and you will be able to change or cancel your order at this time.

Attachments

Nil

9.2 OTOP Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon update

Author: Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee receives the report.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update the OTOP Water Zone Committee on the Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment Strategy.

Report

- 2 Deputy Chair of the OTOP Zone Committee, Chirs Konings, will provide and update on the draft Our Waitarakao: Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment Strategy, which is available for public feedback until 15 July 2024 and can be found at Our Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon Catchment | Have Your Say (ecan.govt.nz).
- 3 The strategy is the result of a partnership between the Department of Conservation, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Timaru District Council, the local community and Environment Canterbury.

It includes five overall outcomes, which each have objectives, first steps, and ongoing actions:

- Ecological revitalisation or restoration achieves and sustains thriving, healthy, functioning ecosystems.
- Increase mahinga kai to enable customary harvest of food and resources that were traditionally gathered from the area, ki uta ki tai.
- Enable the community to appropriately interact with the catchment.
- The community is informed about, and involved in, the restoration of the mauri/life force of the Waitarakao catchment.
- Resilience planning reduces the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of natural hazards.

Attachments

Nil

9.3 OTOP Committee update 8 July 2024

Author: Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator

Authoriser:

Recommendation

That the OTOP Zone Committee receives this report and provides feedback.

Purpose of Report

- 1 To update the Committee on actions from the previous meeting, relevant information and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Report

1. Pleasant Point bat roost trees

At the May OTOP Zone Committee meeting Councillor Swiggs raised concerns about trees on Tengawai Road, Pleasant Point, which pose a hazard to traffic. Several of these trees have been identified as Pekapeka/Longtail Bat roosting and maternal bat roosting trees. The Facilitator undertook to investigate further and report back to the committee.

Report

In 2018 the property owner wished to remove the trees to bring a rough paddock into productive pasture, it was full of willow trees and some large poplar trees. Several of the trees alongside the road were identified as bat roosting and maternal bat roost trees and so the landowner was unable to remove them.

In 2018/19 the landowner fenced out the poplar trees from his paddock and Environment Canterbury funded native plants beneath the trees on the roadside to increase foraging opportunities for the Long-tailed bats and in the longer term provide ongoing roosting habitat. There is now a public walkway through the area with signs saying that it is a bat habitat.

Earlier this year a branch from a tree close to the bridge (not a bat roost tree) fell onto the road. Timaru District Council Roading engaged an arborist to inspect not only the guilty trees but all the poplar trees along the road.

A meeting was held on site on 10 June with the landowner and representatives from the Department of Conservation, Timaru District Council, the arborist and Environment Canterbury to discuss options to protect the bat habitat while also mitigating risks to road safety. Various options were discussed including trimming some, or all, of the trees, removing selected trees and disposal of logs.

Quotes are now being obtained for the above options and disposal of logs. We are also exploring funding options and whether any other groups are interested in taking over the management of the site from the landowner.

2. 2023/2024 Action Plan fund summary

In the 2023/2024 financial year the Ōrāri Temuka Ōpihi Pareora (OTOP) Water Zone Committee Zone Committee has recommended the following projects to be funded from the \$75,000 of CWMS Action Plan Budget available for allocation in the OTOPI Water Zone:

2.1. Orari River Protection Group Orari River Bat population investigation: \$4,850

The Department of Conservation has established that there is strong evidence of Long Tail Bat activity in the Orari Gorge and lower catchment. The Orari River Protection Group received funding to purchase bat detectors and recorders, and predator traps for stage one of their project to establish habitual movement and behaviour of the bat populations in Orari Gorge, and other sites where populations have been identified, as well as other areas along the Orari River that have not yet been investigated. This work will provide a database for future assessment and planning. Traps will protect areas of intense bat activity and will only be used for bat protection.

2.2. Burkes Pass Heritage trust Wetland and Riparian Restoration: \$12,340

Burkes Pass Heritage Trust received funding for supplementary planting of native grasses and release and mulching at Te Kopi-O-Te Ōpihi/Burkes Pass wetland and riparian restoration site. This will ensure the investment in existing planting is protected.

Te Kopi-O-Te Opihi (Burkes Pass) Wetland and Riparian Restoration is a long-term project that includes native eco-sourced riparian planting along a segment of the Upper Opihi River adjacent to the Burkes Pass township. The project has had significant beneficial environmental outcomes and is important for mana whenua. The OTOPI Zone Committee has supported this project over the last two financial years.

2.3. Barkers Creek Catchment Group dung beetle trial: \$20,000

Barkers Creek Catchment group received funding towards a catchment-wide release of dung beetles for ongoing benefit to nutrient and sediment outcomes in the catchment. Barkers Creek Catchment is different to its neighbouring catchments in that a large part of the catchment is clay-based with a higher risk of sediment and phosphorus loss (within the High-Risk Runoff Phosphorus Zone). There is also a high proportion of ephemeral gullies and/or critical source areas that can be more difficult to manage than the neighbouring flat ground catchments. An enduring solution to these risks is to establish a dung beetle population in the catchment. The tunnelling beetles dung burial results in reduced run-off after rainfall, better retention of dung and urine in the soil, and increased biological activity. Potential benefits are improved water quality, reduced run-off from paddocks into waterways, improved soil structure and health, organic carbon capture, recycling of nutrients quickly back into the soil and improved plant and animal health.

The funding covers 50% of the cost to purchase dung beetles to be released over 12-18 months and spread amongst 15 farms in the catchment. Establishment takes 5-7 years with the full benefit being realised in the longer term (~ 20 years).

2.4. Opihi Lagoon Plant Maintenance 15,000

The Opihi lagoon is a large and significant wetland located on the south side of the Opihi River mouth. It has high ecological and cultural values and is classified as a 'High naturalness waterbody' in the OTOPI ZIPA. The wetland has received significant investment over the last four years as its values are threatened by weed encroachment, vehicle damage and predation of birds, but existing funding for this work has come to an end.

Funding to Te Kete Tipuranga o Huirapa Ltd (Arowhenua Nurseries) will provide maintenance of the plantings in the dryland areas and cement the gains made over the last four years.

2.5. Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon Restoration and Remediation Strategy \$22,810

The landowner at Pig Hunting Creek lagoon (approximately 6km south of Timaru) received funding to commission a strategy and design for undertaking the hydrological restoration and indigenous plantings for Pig Hunting Creek Lagoon (\$19,810), and for initial implementation of the strategy (\$3,000).

A Strategy is required to shift the management of Pig Hunting Creek lagoon from stock grazing to management focused on achieving ecological outcomes consistent with its prior state and species composition. The lagoon has several Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) comprised of indigenous herb field and wetland vegetation. Ongoing improvements in indigenous cover will increase the habitat value for wading birds and waterfowl and coastal migrants. It is understood the creek and lagoon are important habitat for mahinga kai but that value is degraded.

The landowners have already procured an engineering report for accessing drain and bank remediation with necessary hazard analysis and have removed 99% of the fences across the lagoon. They hope this work will encourage neighbouring properties to be inspired to undertake compatible restoration activities.

3. Review of the Ecological health of the Opuha and Kakahu rivers

Following community concerns about the health of the Opuha and Kakahu Rivers Environment Canterbury commissioned the Cawthron Institute to prepare a report on the health of these rivers, which was shared with the Zone Committee via email.

The report provides an independent assessment of the health of the Opuha and Kakahu rivers, based on existing information, and identifies key issues as well as gaps in knowledge.

The report's key findings are:

- The ecological health of the Opuha River below the Opuha Dam has declined over time and is currently assessed as poor.
- The ecological health of the Kakahu River in the vicinity of the Kakahu Irrigation Scheme discharge is assessed as 'moderate' but declines to 'poor' further downstream.
- Key drivers of the health of the Opuha River are the regulated flow regime and persistence of the invasive algae didymo.
- The key ecological driver of concern for the Kakahu River in the vicinity of the Kakahu Irrigation Scheme discharge is fine sediment arising from the discharge, with the increased variability and volume of flow also likely to play a major role.
- Knowledge gaps identified include the state of the Opuha trout fishery, drivers of turbidity in Lake Opuha, sources of fine sediment in the Kakahu River and the effects of changes in water flow.
- Claims of DDT contamination have been extensively investigated and no work to date has provided information to substantiate the claims made.

A community hui was held in Pleasant Point Thursday 13 June, to discuss the findings of the report and the next steps. The authors of the report Roland Eveleens and Dr Roger Young from the Cawthron Institute presented their findings along with representatives from Environment Canterbury. There was a good turn out of interested parties and plenty of discussion.

4. Our Future Canterbury – the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

Environment Canterbury is reviewing the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. We spoke to the community about this review last year and have now prepared a draft which we are sharing and consulting on.

Who are we consulting with?

This phase of our consultation is broadly according to Schedule 1, clause 3 of the Resource Management Act which defines both the process and the specific entities we must consult with, including local government, tangata whenua and Government Ministers.

So that we hear from a broad spectrum of interested groups, we have opted to consult more widely than required. Our hope is to take our communities with us and create the best CRPS we can through a more inclusive approach. For that reason and in appreciation of your connections within your communities, we are informing you of this consultation, noting that you will likely hear from catchment groups, industry bodies, NGO's and other community groups.

We are contacting key stakeholders directly and ask that you support us in keeping the consultation targeted to the organisations and groups we have identified. To that end, we ask that you don't share the draft document outside of the Zone Committee.

This stage is intended to help us work with key stakeholders to refine the draft document so that when we share it widely later in the year, the community will see a document that reflects the best information available. When we notify the Regional Policy Statement (currently scheduled in December) everyone in the community will have the opportunity to make submissions and be heard.

For those CWMS Zone Committee members who would like to find out more about this stage of the Regional Policy Statement review process, and its associated consultation, an online drop-in session has been arranged on Friday 12 July (from 12:00 – 1:00pm). All zone committee members have been emailed the details for this session.

Attachments

Nil

9.4 OTOP ZC Action Plan review**Author:** Dave Moore, Zone Facilitator**Authoriser:****Recommendation**

That the OTOP Water Zone Committee:

1. Reviews the current "Action Plan" actions and agrees changes, if any.

Purpose of Report

- 1 For the Zone Committee to consider any amendments to the OTOP Action Plan for FY2024/25

Report

The existing OTOP Zone Committee Action Plan is for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.

There is currently a review of Zone Committees being undertaken and therefore it is not desirable to create a new three-year Action Plan at this time. However, the committee may wish to make minor amendments to the existing plan for the near future. This would not include reviewing the committee's purpose or role.

Action Plan 2021-2024 actions

Current	Changes
<p>We commit to assist with the protection, enhancement and restoration of mahinga kai (to work the food – gather, harvest, preserve, conserve) and tuhituhi o neherā (rock art or rock drawings) sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a session for members of the public at the Te Ana Māori Rock Art Centre and host a field trip to Taniwha Gully with invited catchment group members. • Focus on tuhituhi o neherā sites and mahinga kai and how best to manage these. 	
<p>We commit to providing opportunities to engage and collaborate with Rūnanga (tribal councils or tribal iwi/authorities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an annual Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop for community members to attend. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Papatipu Rūnanga (Ngāi Tahu regional tribal councils) and relevant landowners to host at least one hīkoi (involves a walk across the local area to understand the flora and fauna, taonga or treasured species and culturally significant sites) for the community. Areas of interest include Waitarakao Washdyke Lagoon, Te Ahi Tarakihi Reserve and Creek, Milford Lagoon, Rakitata restoration and Arowhenua Nursery. 	
<p>We commit to raising understanding of te mana o Te Mana o Te Wai me Te Mana o Ngā Awa (the importance of water and the importance of our waterways) in a rural, urban, and industrial context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a public forum, combined with other Southern Canterbury zone committees, to assist the public in understanding what te mana o te wai me te mana o te awa means for them. • Request six monthly briefings from Environment Canterbury on the state of our water resources from each catchment and results from monitoring and share with relevant catchments. 	
<p>We champion safe and reliable drinking water for the OTO community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host at least one community session offering on-site indicative private drinking water testing. Include presentations of possible solutions and research on reducing high nutrient and contaminant concentrations. 	
<p>We engage with the community and raise awareness of the impacts of human activity on land and water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and engaging with the Catchment Collective South Canterbury Society Incorporated (CCSC). • Zone committee members to be a member of a catchment group(s) where appropriate. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek reports from CCSC Chair and / or catchment groups for OTO meetings.• Bi-monthly media presence (e.g The Courier) and engagement through official local council channels.• Have a physical presence, at least twice a year, at key public events (e.g Geraldine Fete, Farmers Markets etc).• Promote OTO zone activities via dedicated zone links on local council websites.	
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Attachments**Nil**

10 Consideration of Urgent Business Items

11 Consideration of Minor Nature Matters

12 Closing Karakia