

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIPARA RIVER WORKING PARTY HELD ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.00PM IN THE RSA ROOM, HURUNUI MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 111 CARTERS ROAD, AMBERLEY.

PRESENT

Garry Jackson (Chair), Ross Williams, Gareth Renowden, Leigh Love, Norton Hiller, Julie Coster, Ross Little, Tony Fitzsimmonds, Greg Bennett, Jake Lewis, David Beer, Brent McGuire, Brian Jensen, Paul Williams, Fred Murray, Rob Gerard

APOLOGIES

Geoff Scholes, Douschka Saunders, Andrew Parrish

IN ATTENDANCE

Helga Rigg (Minutes), Amelia Dalley, Major Ash Brunton, Major Chris Murphy, Richard Gourd

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 September 2009 were not confirmed. This was because there was some doubt as to whether the minutes of the meeting previous to that held on the 17 August 2009 had been read and confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mayor Jackson and Geoff Scholes to work together to scope the potential costs to remove willows from the fairway of the Waipara River with an outline of developing a river rating district.

Action Point – Mayor Jackson and Geoff Scholes to arrange meeting to consider costs for willow removal.

The continued absence of a rūnanga representative was queried.

It was suggested that the letter inviting LINZ to attend the Working Party meetings should be addressed from Mayor Jackson to the CEO of LINZ and possibly a copy sent to the Minister as this might carry considerably more weight and result in some action.

Action Point – Mayor Jackson to send letter to CEO of LINZ and copy to Minister.

Major Ash Brunton and Major Chris Murphy who were in attendance from the New Zealand Army gave an overview of the Army's activities in the Waipara River. They noted that the Army had been involved in a similar process with Selwyn District Council.

It was noted that the Army uses land for two forms – either as a public road for public use or for military use. The Waipara River is used as a public road similar to the general public. The river is used for driver training on approximately 12 occasions per year, using up to eight light vehicles at a time. The driver training courses run for a week with one day spent in the Waipara River during that time. The vehicles generally stay on formed tracks with some 4WD opportunities available at times. The quarry near the Waipara Garage is also utilised for training purposes. The Working Party was advised that the Army will stay clear of those areas that they know they should stay away from.

The Working Party thanked Majors Brunton and Murphy for attending and speaking to the group.

Majors Brunton and Murphy left the meeting.

CONTINUATION OF WORKING PAPER FIVE

Water Quality

It was noted that the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP) has rules and objectives in place with respect to water quality and that there is no need for the Working Party to cover the same ground. In addition, Environment Canterbury has a great deal of information available with respect to water quality.

Ms Dalley gave a short power-point presentation on water quality issues in the river. The presentation highlighted three areas within the river that the NRRP identifies as being of high recreational contact areas and as such cattle grazing within those areas are prohibited. There was a query whether Environment Canterbury had advised land owners within those areas of this. The Working Party was advised that the NRRP is a public document that has been involved in extensive public consultation and that the issue of stock access to waterways has been to a hearing. It was also noted that cattle can cause severe damage where there is intensive grazing in spring fed streams as opposed to braided river systems.

The Working Party was advised that there has been a lot of water quality testing in the Waipara River and that the quality is generally quite good. It was noted that the Waipara Township water supply is taken adjacent to the Waipara River immediately downstream from the old Waipara River dump which has been sealed off. It was suggested that there be some monitoring on the old dump. The depth of the well intake zone was queried. It was noted that the water supply goes brown when the river is in flood.

Action Point – Council Officers to obtain further information with respect to the current monitoring program on the river including the number of monitoring points, where they are located, what is monitored and the results of monitoring.

Action Point – Council Officers to confirm the location and status of the old Waipara dump site.

Action Point – Council Officers to provide details of Waipara Township Water supply in terms of sampling currently undertaken and whether there are any water quality issues. Also to discuss with Environment Canterbury regarding the old dump site and return data to next meeting.

The Working Party generally agreed that stock grazing management grazing should be managed under the NRRP and that the Working Party would have difficulty taking this further given that landowners were not present. NRRP going through public consultation process and landowners have opportunities to get involved.

WORKING PAPER SIX

Natural history / Scientific values

Mr Hiller gave a verbal presentation on the natural history and scientific values in the Waipara River.

There was a general discussion around the existing natural values within the river and the issue of access. It was noted that the part of the river between White Gorge and Doctors Gorge is a superb resource in terms of geological sequence and that amateur collectors, school groups and the Canterbury University visit this area. Landowners present at the meeting generally agreed that they were happy for people to access this part of the river, but that the type of access was at issue. It was generally agreed that pedestrian access through this area was acceptable and vehicle access be by permission of the landowners only.

It was noted that one of the landowners on the south side of the Waipara River has applied to establish a Queen Elizabeth II Trust (QEII) covenant on land located between Laidmore Road and Bobby's Stream. The Working Party was advised that QEII have assessed the area and come up with a plan that they can survey. The next step would be for QEII to provide a draft covenant for landowner approval.

There were some queries regarding whether the covenant would include that part of the river subject to AMF rights and whether the covenant would provide for public access to those parts of the river.

There was a brief discussion regarding the installation of signage to inform the public of the values of the area and to discourage the taking of fossils. There was also a suggestion that a car parking area be provided and developed at Laidmore Road.

The Working Party considered the recommendation put forward in the Working Paper. It was decided that a new recommendation was required for the next meeting.

Action Point – New recommendation required with respect to vehicular and pedestrian access between White Gorge and Doctors Gorge.

Next meeting confirmed for 16 November 2009

Meeting closed 9.15pm