

**Minutes of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee
Annual General Meeting, held at the
Gorge Road Clay Target Club,
13 Waituna Lagoon Road, Kapuka South
Tuesday 23 April 2024, at 1.00 pm.**



Present:	Mr E Pirie	(Co-Chair)
	Mr C McCrostie	(Co-Chair)
	Mr H Amtink	
	Mr J Ballantine	
	Mr L Ballantine	
	Mr R Botting	
	Mr N Haan	
	Ms K Stanley	
	Mr T Tatham	
	Mr T Tatham (Jnr)	
	Mr M van Rossum	
	Mrs W van Rossum	
	Mr M Waghorn	
In Attendance:	Ms T Millar	(Thriving Southland)
	Mr C Duncan	(Fonterra)
	Cr P McDonald	(Environment Southland)
	Cr J Pemberton	(Environment Southland)
	Mrs T Hawkins	(Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr D Connor	(Team Leader, Catchment)
	Mr C King	(Works Supervisor)
	Mr N Perham	(Partnerships Manager, ICM)
	Ms A Raymond	(Senior Land Sustainability Officer)
	Ms P Bulling	(Team Leader Biodiversity)
	Ms J Lloyd	(Team Leader Corporate Reporting)
	Mrs M Wass	(Personal Assistant – Minutes)

1 Welcome and Chairman's Report (*Haere mai*)

The co-Chairs Mr Pirie and Mr McCrostie welcomed the attendees to the meeting and spoke to their Chairman's Reports, which highlighted the following:

- An outline of the maintenance programme – Triannual clean (The main Waituna channel had only be cleaned as far as Badwick Road due to budget constraints. The remainder of the main channel and all side channels would need to be completed within the next financial year).
- Bank stabilisation – expended budget on three properties (two McCrostie properties at Mokotua and the McSwag property) – The McSwag's had advised they would continue the operation at their own expense.
- Sediment pond on the Jordan – Figures had been released from the survey work done on sediment levels.

- 800 metres of erosion control work had been done – acknowledged and gave thanks to those involved.
- Involvement in some of the Environment Southland Long-Term Plan workshops. The workshops have been centred around developing policy and a rating system to fund current and future climate resilience through an infrastructure strategy and floodplain management. Moving to capital value rating system. It was noted that the liaison committee chairs have forwarded their concerns to Environment Southland for consideration and submission forms would be available for individuals to make submissions on the Long-term Plan.

Resolved:

Moved Mr R Botting, seconded Mr N Haan that the co-chairs report be received.

Carried

2 Apologies (*Nga Pa Pouri*)

Resolved by Consensus:

That apologies be recorded on behalf of Mr L McCallum, Ms G Munroe, Mr K Crack, Ms J Crack, Mr R McCrostie, Mrs J McCrostie, Mr G Herbert and Ms N Paterson

Carried

3 Terms of Reference

It was noted that the Terms of Reference, circulated with the agenda, were provided for information purposes and were not to be considered an agenda item.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of 17 February 2023

Amend the title of W van Rossum to ‘Mrs’ in the present section of the minutes.

Resolved by consensus:

That the minutes of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee Annual General Meeting held on 17 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7 Appointment of Committee and membership

Mr Ewen Pirie noted that he would be stepping down as co-chair of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee. The committee thanked him for the work he'd done as co-chair over the years.

Mr Connor assumed the Chair. Mr Conner called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved:

Moved Mr E Pirie, seconded Mr T Tatham (Jnr) that Mr C McCrostie be elected to the position of co-chairman of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Resolved:

Moved Mr C McCrostie, seconded Mr L Ballantine that Mr T Tatham (Jnr) be elected to the position of co-chairman of the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Carried

Mr McCrostie called for nominations for the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee.

Resolved by consensus:

That the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee comprise of Mr L Ballantine, Mr R Botting, Ms G Munroe, Mr N Haan and Mr K Crack, and that the committee have the authority to co-op other members in the future.

Carried

8 Catchment Report

Mr Connor spoke to his presentation which gave an overview of the previous season of work as well as upcoming work in the Waituna area. (A copy of the presentation slides would be available on file). He highlighted the following:

- Bank stabilisation work on multiple properties. (McSwag being one, who agreed to carry on the work at their own expense).
- Erosion control work using a mixture of full rock, 'rocking' inside bends only and minimal/no rock on different areas. Information on what sites 'held up' the best would be helpful when creating future river management plans.
- DOC had removed the logs that were put in the Waituna as a trial to encourage fish. The results from the trial would be released in a report.

- Waituna lagoon opening – asked at short notice under emergency powers to open the mouth of the lagoon, Multiple committee members and Council were involved in the work plan and it made for a very successful opening. A report on the situation would be available once a review had been completed.

Mr Connor spoke to his presentation which gave an overview of the flood protection situation in southland and the immediate priorities. He also noted the asset improvement programme and how defects were prioritised.

9 Financial Report – 2022/23 and proposed 2023/2024

Mrs Hawkins spoke to the financial report (presentation slides would be available on file) and noted that the overhead and staff costs would not be charged out to individual catchments anymore and would come directly from the regional budget. It was proposed that the general rate in the River Works budget be removed from all catchment liaison committee budgets and instead be spread out evenly across the entire region as a flood infrastructure rate. The Long-term plan consultation outlined further information and included a proposal to moving to capital value rating.

Discussion took place and it was clarified that staff would still be noting where time was being spent, however it wouldn't be charged separately to each budget. It was suggested that staff time still be recorded and included as part of the financial report to future Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee AGM's for transparency.

Resolved:

Moved C McCrostie, seconded Mr N Haan, that the Waituna Catchment Liaison Committee Meeting approve the draft 2024/25 drainage budget.

Carried

10 General

Long-term Plan 2024-34

Cr McDonald gave an overview of the high-level points for the infrastructure strategy and LTP matters:

- He noted that any feedback to the long-term plan was encouraged, whether it was for or against - If there were alternative suggestions then please also include those.
- Moving to capital value rating system (as part of the rating review) which bases rates on capital value instead of land value, ensuring an even spread of rates over the whole region, instead of having smaller pockets of the region with larger rate increases than others;
- 30 year strategy – general focus on flood protection scheme review and levels of service and prioritising urban flood protection;
- Meteorological phenomena where there will be heavier rainfall and higher flow rates that will last longer - climate change would add another layer;

Mrs Hawkins explained the proposal for an infrastructure strategy rate. (Her presentation would be available on file) The presentation highlighted:

- Three consultations under the long-term plan – rates changes, budgets changes and fees & charges.
- Review of catchment rates had been undertaken beforehand and feedback from the catchment liaison chairs had been used to form the proposal. (noted that not all chairs were in agreement)
- 140 catchment rates becoming one rate, based on capital value – will have a different impact depending on the ratio of land value to capital value. Taking away classifications and moving biosecurity and land sustainability rates into a general rate.
- If Regional Council didn't change the way they rate now, then future increases would fall on a small group of people.
- Doesn't affect drainage rates, as there would need to be a review on the drainage rate in the future.
- She noted that members in attendance would receive an estimate of their properties rates increase following the meeting.

The co-chairs noted that the committee needed more time to consider the proposal and encouraged everyone to submit individually or as a group, through the Long-term Plan process.

Showcasing the catchment

Ms Bulling gave a presentation on the additional things that were happening in the catchment. A copy of her presentation would be kept on file. She highlighted the following:

- Environment Enhancement Funding for special ecological projects.
- Check, Clean, Dry – vessel messaging for freshwater.
- Biosecurity pests that are prevalent including 'Heather'; and some that could come to Southland and become a risk, including Wallibys.

Sediment traps

Mr Duncan from Fonterra shared with the group the results of the sediment trap monitoring on Martins place. He noted large amounts of sediment from the six tiles they had put in. From the top end on the southern side there was approximately one metre, in the middle half a metre and at the front end 20 centimetres. Moving to six monthly monitoring. A small amount of gravel was at the top end but mostly sand and moving forward, finer material.

11 Termination

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 3:51pm.