

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.04 P.M.

PRESENT:

R. Scarlett (Chairman), P. Ewen, B. Chinn, A. Robb, D. Davidson, T. Archer, A. Birchfield

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager),
T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) that the minutes of the Council Meeting 8 July 2008 be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS

S. Moran spoke to this report and took it as read. The cross section work in the Waiho River and Waitangitaona River has now been completed. River analysis has also been done for these rivers. S. Moran stated that the Asset Management Plans would benefit from this additional information. This work will be continued with other rivers having this work carried out, as the benefit to communities is valuable knowledge to the flood protection schemes in these areas. S. Moran due attention to the total amounts of rock being taken from Camelback, Blackball Miedema's and Whataroa quarries. He stated that there is a lot of rock available at the moment from the work done in these quarries.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the report be received.*

Carried

4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report on behalf of C. Pullen. C. Ingle advised that now that the Vector Management area is managed by Animal Health Board this report is just for council information, as a funder of 10% of the programme. All aerals aside from a small part of Turiwhate are now complete for the year. The Chairman stated that C. Pullen has handled this area very well.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *that a letter from Council be sent to C. Pullen thanking him for the way he has handled the management of the Vector Programme.*

Carried

Cr Robb passed on his gratitude to the rest of council staff and asked that staff be thanked as well. Cr Davidson expressed his concern at the level of protest regarding the VM programme. The Chairman advised that this would be discussed further with representatives from the Animal Health Board at tomorrow's meeting of the Regional Animal Health Advisory Committee meeting.

Cr Davidson asked for further information regarding the deer that died at Kaiata. The Chairman clarified that the landowner drew the area to be treated on a map but made a mistake with the boundary of the land. These coordinates were entered into the GPS system in the helicopter. The helicopter crew followed the coordinates. The Chairman further clarified that this mistake was not the fault of the Animal Health Board or the contractors involved.

Discussion took place regarding the strategies engaged by various protest groups and the handling of this whole process.

C. Ingle advised that the Vector Programme has taken up a lot of his time and time of other managers over the past few months. He has liaised with the Police during this time and supported staff. Strategies have been put in place to protect staff and contractors during this time.

Moved (Ewen / Robb) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that this is the full financial year result. The total deficit is \$406,000. R. Mallinson stated the council has performed well financially given the challenging investment environment over the past year.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.3.1 REFUND OF VARROA RATE

R. Mallinson spoke to this report noting that it is self explanatory as the same group of ratepayers that paid this rate also pays the Tb Pest Management rate. He advised that no group of ratepayers would be disadvantaged by this decision. Cr Archer stated that he would prefer that ratepayers are aware of how this decision is made and suggested an article in the rates newsletter. The Chairman stated that this information is already public, it is in the agenda papers which are placed on the council website.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved (Davidson / Chinn)

That the Varroa rate refund of \$11902 be transferred to the Tb Separate Rate Credit Balance.

Carried

Cr Archer against

4.3.2 TWELVE MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2007 – 30 JUNE 2008

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and took it as read. The Chairman stated that this is a very good report. Cr Archer concurred with his comments and commended everyone involved in preparing the report. C. Ingle stated that in terms of the Vector Management targets we were the best in the country in terms of getting the programme done on time.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that this report be received.*

Carried

LATE ITEM

SETTING OF RATE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN 2008 / 09 ANNUAL PLAN

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *that the late item be accepted.*

Carried

R. Mallinson spoke to this report reminding those present that this matter was discussed at the last council meeting.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb)

That Pursuant to section 23 (3) of the Local Government (Rating) act 2002, Council to set a targeted rate in accordance with sections 16, 17, and 18 on all rateable land in the Lower Waiho Separate Rating Area calculated on the capital value of each rating unit, for the purposes of repaying a loan of \$75000 over a two year period.

Estimated capital value \$9174077

Factor per \$ of Capital Value 0.005028

Calculated yield \$46125 inclusive of GST.

Carried

4.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of various meetings he attended and the Local Government Pre-Conference Tour in the Taupo / Rotorua lakes area. C. Ingle stated this was a very useful tour.

C. Ingle advised that he has just returned from the Regional Chief Executive's and the Chief Executive's Environmental Forum held in Wellington. He spoke of the background of the new CEO for the Ministry for the Environment who has come from a senior position in MAF.

C. Ingle advised that David Smol has been appointed as the new CEO for the Ministry of Economic Development. C. Ingle advised that he has spoken to Mr Smol regarding the coal levy. Cr Davidson asked C. Ingle how other CEO's feel about the coal levy. C. Ingle advised that this is probably more appropriately directed at a political level for the Chairmen and Mayors of these areas. The Chairman advised that the meeting to be held this afternoon with MP Brownlee and Auchinvole would assist this matter.

Moved (Davidson / Ewen)

That the Chief Executive's Report is received.

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that on the 11th of July he spoke the Hon Damien O'Connor regarding levies. He had a meeting with Hon O'Connor and Pat McManus, Mayor of Westport, regarding the Mokinui call in. This was an unsatisfactory meeting.

The Chairman attended the Local Government Conference in Rotorua.

The Mayors and Chairs meeting was held on the 4th of August. EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) were in attendance to discuss their proposal of insulating homes. They are seeking funding for this proposal. It was suggested to them that the Government and DHB's be approached for funding.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer advised that he has been contacted by several residents in the Carters Beach area who have concerns about erosion. Cr Archer stated that this seems to be a similar issue to Granity and Ngakawau. Cr Archer advised the residents that he would raise this matter. He has contacted the CEO of the Buller District Council and would like to start the process of opening dialogue regarding this matter. Cr Davidson stated that he supports this, as it is a coastal marine area issue. The Chairman advised that a letter from the CEO would be appropriate to ask the Buller Council how they would like to proceed.

Cr Archer drew attention to a news article relating to the coal levy and expressed his concern that the headline stated that ratepayers may face a 50% rate rise. C. Ingle confirmed that the press release was written by Cr's Scarlett and Ewen. The losing of the Animal Health Board contract is worth \$1.1M per year to the council balance sheet, which equates to around 55% of our general rate. Therefore if we are not able to fill this gap somewhere else and still had to spend that amount of money then rates would have to go up by that amount. C. Ingle confirmed that it is unlikely that this amount would need to be spent but there will be some impact of the AHB assuming control of the vector management programme.

The meeting closed at 12.50 p.m

.....
Chairman

.....
Date