

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2008, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.10 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES:**

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that the apology from B. Chinn be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no presentation.

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Robb) that the minutes of the Council Meeting 14 October 2008 be confirmed as correct but with the amendment to the typographical error where Cr Archer rather than Cr Robb is recorded as seconding a motion.

*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. He advised that G. Hilton has now commenced employment in the quarries, whitebait and gravel areas, and his primary focus is health and safety within the quarry area.

S. Moran reported that all rating district annual meetings have now been completed. Cr Ewen asked if the comments made by the Grey Mayor regarding Kiwi Quarry were a surprise that this council was not aware of. The Chairman confirmed that this was a surprise to him.

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

*Carried*

#### **4.2 VECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGER'S REPORT**

C. Pullen spoke to this report stating that it has been a productively busy month. He reported that all ground work is progressing well. C. Pullen advised that the last remaining contracts for the second round of the vector programme have been awarded with five out of six contracts going to local contractors.

C. Pullen reported that completed operations are on schedule with operations either started or at 50% completion mark. Monitoring is also going well. C. Pullen reported that since submitting this

report two possums were picked up on the King's Domain track, just off Mount Street that have been confirmed as Tb positive. C. Pullen has informed the Medical Officer of Health of this finding, as he is concerned with the close proximity to town. Both possums have gross lesions which have now been cultured to ascertain what strain of Tb this is. The Chairman asked if this is a problem for Public Health. C. Pullen advised that Public Health were notified.

C. Pullen reported that the amount of possums being caught in Karamea is now levelling out. Contractors in this area have sent in an interim completion date and monitoring will soon start.

C. Pullen reported that the West Coast team recently hosted a 1080 workshop. He thanked Cr Scarlett for chairing the workshop. C. Pullen spoke of the positive feedback he has since received regarding the workshop.

Cr Ewen asked if more samples have been carried out in the Kings Domain area to see if there are more Tb positive possums in this area or if this area is a hot spot. C. Pullen confirmed that this area has been checked again. Cr Ewen stated that this is a popular area for the public to take their dogs and that he has seen goats in this area also.

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

*Carried*

### **4.3 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report noting that it is the three month financial report. He stated that the investment returns continue to be disappointing.

R. Mallinson reported that the VCS Business has finished the winter aerial contracts and that is why both revenue and expenditure exceeded budget. R. Mallinson reported that as of 31 October there would be \$1.3M in the Westpac Money Market Deposit Account.

Cr Archer asked what is the likely impact on rates in view of the portfolio value at the start of the period compared to the reduced value at the end of the period. R. Mallinson advised there have been withdrawals made of just over \$80,000 in accordance with the annual plan but it is still too early to tell what the likely outcome will be. R. Mallinson drew attention to the very good financial result from the VCS Business Unit and stated that there is no pressure on equity at the moment.

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

*Carried*

#### **4.3.1 SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2009**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. Cr Birchfield requested that the November meeting for 2009 be moved to Monday 9 November.

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen) *that Council adopt the Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2009 with the 9<sup>th</sup> of November being the amended date for the November Meetings.*

*Carried*

#### **4.3.2 ADOPTION OF AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2008**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report noting that the draft report submitted to the September Council meeting showed a deficit of \$597,000. The only change to result following the audit is the accrual of additional audit costs of \$3,100 regarding changes to the International Reporting Standards.

R. Mallinson drew Councillors attention to the Chairman's Review comments and advised that Mr John Mackey, our Audit Director, will be available at the December Council meeting for a private meeting with Councillors in accordance with Council's Risk Management Policy.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield)

*That Council adopt the audited Annual Report for the Year to 30 June 2008 in accordance with section 98 of the Local Government Act.*

*Carried*

**5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of the various Rating District Annual Meetings that he attended. C. Ingle advised that he attended a training course on media skills with other council staff and managers. He met twice with DoC staff regarding the Wetlands Variation. C. Ingle reported that he attended the Animal Health Board meeting with the Chairman. He stated this was a good day and focused on looking back over the programme and looking forward. C. Ingle advised that he met with the Animal Health Board to discuss the secondment of staff. AHB wish to continue the current arrangements in terms of seconding staff for a further two year period and are negotiating a separate lease agreement for the end of the building. C. Ingle stated that we are currently a little bit behind with the LTCCP but the catch up for this is well under way. He advised that the budgeting work will now be complete in early January rather than the end of December.

**Moved** (Davidson / Birchfield) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

*Carried*

**4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)**

The Chairman reported that he chaired the two rating district meetings of 17 October in the Karamea area. He also chaired the Animal Health Board 1080 Workshop. He stated this was an overview of the year and was a very successful workshop with good outcomes. The Chairman spoke of the seminar he attended regarding the setting up a wood chip industry. He reported that other councils were invited but the workshop was not very well represented. He advised that this is a renewable industry that could be developed on the West Coast. It is well advanced in Europe and has no carbon footprint. He advised that cost wise it is comparable to coal. The Chairman reported that Westland High School is putting in a boiler and converting it to woodchip. He stated that in Canterbury various industries are also converting to woodchip. He reported that it was a very interesting seminar; he feels it has a future on the West Coast, wood chip can be burnt wet or dry. The Chairman stated that wood chip is being sold for \$20 per tonne in Christchurch whereas export coal is now around \$200 – \$300 per tonne. Cr Archer asked if there is proposals to use wood chip in the residential market. The Chairman confirmed that this is possible and water heating boilers are being investigated for importation. The Chairman attended the Zone 5 Local Government meeting in Christchurch, where Broadband issues in the North and South Island were discussed at length. A New Zealand Transport update was also provided at this meeting.

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

*Carried*

**5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date