

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), S. Moran (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Chinn) that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 December 2007, be confirmed as correct subject to the amendment made below.

Carried

Matters Arising

The Chairman advised that Chris Ingle was present at the December meeting attended by himself, Hon. David Carter, Hon. Chris Auchinvole and Cr's Robb and Birchfield.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that the decision on the Paringa River protection wall hearing has been released subject to conditions. No objections have been received.

He also attended a meeting with Hon. Damien O'Connor, Cr Scarlett and C. Ingle to discuss various local issues.

The Chairman attended the recent tender rounds and advised that no tenders were received for one job for works in South Westland.

Clarification on the reporting back to Council on the Trustee position for Development West Coast was given by The Chairman. He advised that Tony Williams role is to report back to Council's in consultation with the Chief Executive of Development West Coast. This will commence once the Trust settles down and a chair is elected.

The Chairman reported that he has followed up with Council staff on matters relating to the Lake Kanieri subdivision and Blaketown issues.

The Chairman reported that he was invited to speak at the local Rotary meeting.

Moved (Ewen / Davidson) that the Council receive this report.

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

S. Moran spoke to his report. He advised that the staff report regarding Variation 1 to the Land and Riverbed Management Plan – Wetlands is due out today. The hearing is scheduled for the 4th of March with deliberations being held the next day. The Chairman stated that he would be attending along with Cr's Robb and Davidson. Other councillors will advise of their availability at a later date.

S. Moran reported that the consultation period with the key stakeholders regarding the Coastal Plan Change 2 finished on the 4th of February. Issues that were raised during this time are being investigated to see whether any changes are required then approval for public notification will be sought.

The Environment New Zealand Report summary is currently being assessed by staff.

S. Moran advised that the Draft West Coast Conservation Management Strategy Hearing is to be held on the 18th of February at Kingsgate Hotel, S. Moran invited councillors to attend this hearing, as WCRC will be making a presentation.

S. Moran reported that a further funding application has been made via the Sustainable Management Fund for funding for the Waste Education Officer role. A decision is expected next month.

S. Moran advised that a new logo has been approved for use by the CDEM Group. This new logo has been recently used for the correspondence relating to the Fuel Storage Research project. A number of companies and contractors have been contacted regarding this matter with a reasonable amount of success. A voluntary request is to be made via the Rates Newsletter to anyone who has more than 500 litres of fuel stored on their property. Cr Scarlett pointed out that most farms, not only Landcorp farms, will have fuel storage on-farm. Discussion ensued regarding the storage of large amounts of fuel on private land. Cr Archer provided clarification of legal requirements regarding fuel storage. S. Moran stated that the information gathered is to remain confidential.

S. Moran advised that the West Coast Controllers forum is scheduled for the 24th of April.

Hydrology / Flood Warding: S. Moran reported that there were no events during the reporting period.

Water Quality: S. Moran advised that following the groundwater study quality is generally good. The Kokatahi / Kowhitirangi plains area nitrate level is low which is a pleasing result.

S. Moran reported that good results were obtained following the contact recreation sampling rounds. He provided detailed information to T. Scott regarding this matter.

The Chairman stated that he is pleased that WCRC made a submission on the Grey District Council's Community Outcomes Consultation process. He also congratulated staff on the successful funding applications for Fuel Storage investigation and the Envirolink funding grant.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) that Council receive this report.

Carried

5.1.2 TRANSIT NEW ZEALAND'S 2007 / 2008 LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME AND 10 YEAR FINANCIAL FORECAST

S. Moran spoke to this report and took it as read. He updated Council on various matters within this report as the submission was made in March and the response was received in December.

Cr Birchfield spoke of issues regarding landowners at McKendries Corner. He stated that reasonable offers need to be made to landowners in order for progress to be made. S. Moran advised that Transit offers could only be within the parameters of the land valuation.

It was agreed that a letter would be written to Transit to progress this matter.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) that Council receive this report and send a letter to Transit encouraging negotiations be completed for the sale of McKendries Corner properties as these negotiations have been extending for the best part of fourteen months.

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report.

Cr Birchfield declared an interest in RC07200 and RC07240.

C. Dall reported that a new Consents Officer has been appointed. He was previously employed in the Planning and Environmental area over the summer months.

C. Dall reported that the Gates of Haast consent has been granted.

The consent for the replacement of the Arahura Bridge was granted in January. Tenders for the works have been released but are yet to be granted. The Chairman stated that this is good news

for the region. T. Scott asked if there were any plans to upgrade the Taramakau Bridge. S. Moran responded that there are no plans at this stage.

C. Dall reported that the consent hearing for the Paringa River rock protection works has been held and the decision released. The appeal period has ended, no appeals were received.

C. Dall advised that subsequent to writing his report, TrustPower are still in negotiations with CMP Kokiri and the final hearing days are not likely to be until May.

C. Dall reported that a hearing for the consent application lodged by West Sands Company to removal sand from Cobden Beach was held last week with Cr Archer as the Hearing Commissioner. Cr Archer asked C. Dall for a general overview of consents relating to discharge of dairy effluent where it may enter water. C. Dall responded that the implementation of the WCRC monitoring programme a number of years ago identifies discharges that require consents. C. Dall explained that neighbours, Iwi, DoC, Fish and Game might be affected parties in some cases. Guidelines were provided to farmers as part of this process. C. Dall advised that most of the discharges are to land and not water. Cr Scarlett spoke of the university student employed last year to assist with this programme. Cr Scarlett stated that results were satisfactory and farmers whom are compliant are not visited for 2 – 3 years and the programme concentrates on non-compliant farmers. T. Scott commented on affects dairying has on the environment. Cr Scarlett spoke of the positive working relationship dairy farmers have with this council. Cr Davidson concurred with Cr Scarlett regarding the sound monitoring system in place. Cr Chinn agreed with fellow councillors and spoke of the destruction human waste creates.

The Chairman commented on the continuing improvements made by Council in this area.

Cr Robb advised that the results of the groundwater monitoring in the Kokatahi Kowhitirangi area is a good indication that dairy farmers are heading in the right direction as this is one of the most intensive dairying areas on the coast.

C. Dall reported that Meridan Energy have lodged their application for a dam on the Mokinui River. Commissioners will be appointed shortly, C. Dall asked for Councillors to consider being a commissioner. C. Dall advised that there is numerous consents involved and it may be quite a lengthy process which is likely to result in a hearing.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) that the February 2008 report of the Consents Group be received.

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that Michael Meehan has been appointed as the new Compliance Team Leader. This was an internal promotion therefore another compliance officer will be recruited.

C. Dall reported that 34 dairy inspections were carried out during the reporting period. Westroads have resumed their gravel take at Blaketown.

C. Dall reported that a diesel spill occurred at the Oceana Gold mine site. A water cart rolled upstream of the Oriental sediment pond. There was no environmental impact detected.

C. Dall advised a diesel spill occurred at the Stockton mine site. This was contained and no significant affects were detected. Procedures have now been put in place to ensure this doesn't happen again. C. Dall stated that water quality in this area has improved significantly over the past year due to the water quality strategy. C. Ingle advised that Councillors are visiting this site on the 10th of March.

C. Dall reported that an unauthorised discharge occurred at the Terrace Mine. Investigations are underway. A discharge at Spring Creek mine is also being followed up.

C. Dall reported that Oceana Gold has provided its independent review relating to the three year rolling bond for the Globe Progress mine. This has progressively increased with the growth of the operation and the size of the site.

C. Dall spoke of a dispute between a landowner and a miner relating to the rehabilitation of a mine site. He confirmed that Council staff are satisfied with the level of rehabilitation and will allow for the bond to be released. Cr Scarlett asked if this is the end of the matter and could the landowner appeal. C. Dall confirmed that differences have been worked through and he is satisfied with the progress made. Cr Birchfield stated that it is good that council can make this call as sometimes agreement is difficult.

Cr Birchfield raised the matter relating to a complaint received in the Haast area and if this necessitated a visit. C. Dall reported that the site has not yet been visited but it would be tagged

onto another job. Discussion ensued regarding the process of charging out of complaints with C. Dall providing information on this matter.

The Chairman spoke of the monitoring involved with Solid Energy mining sites including Seven Mile and Spring Creek. He stated that some of the double monitoring could perhaps be dispensed with as the integrity of the water monitoring is no longer in question. He stated that the Seven Mile River is the cleanest he has ever seen it in his years of residing at Rapahoe. He stated that he has no problem with the integrity of Solid Energy's monitoring. He advised that baseline studies could be made at Pike River as it would be timely to shift some resources to this area. C. Dall confirmed that rationalising of monitoring has taken place with regard to Solid Energy.

Moved (Scarlett / Chinn)

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the February 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. That the Council approves the release of the bonds for Resource Consents RC05197, RC095080, RC06119 and RC94077.*

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Davidson asked if confirmation had been received regarding the discovery of Didymo in the Arahura River. S. Moran advised that Bio Security NZ have confirmed this.

The meeting closed at 11.42 am

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Chairman

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Date