

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, T. Archer, A. Birchfield, T. Scott, R. Barber (arrived 10.36)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson) that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 February 2008, be confirmed as correct.

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. PRESENTATION

The Cobden Boardriders and a member of the Cobden community presented a petition to Council requesting that consideration be given to views of the public in relation to the sand mining application on Cobden Beach. This was not a notified consent. The Chairman thanked Mr Harris for his presentation and advised that the appeal process does not close until the 19th of March.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that he visited the Stockton Mine site with Cr's Archer and Chinn recently. He spoke of the considerable effort and expense from Solid Energy in addressing issues relating to water matters and is impressed with the level of commitment from Solid Energy. The Chairman spoke of correspondence from Hon David Carter which he has passed on to fellow Councillors relating to the coal levy issue. The Chairman has been liaising with staff on matters relating to pest plant issues and the Kaniere subdivision. The Chairman attended the Wetlands Variation hearing.

Moved (Davidson / Archer) 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 first two days of the Wetlands Variation hearing have been held. The panel has now adjourned. There is a workshop scheduled for this afternoon on the Coastal Plan Change.

S. Moran reported that C. Ingle and L. Sadler presented at the Draft West Coast Conservation Management Strategy Hearing on the 18th of February.

S. Moran spoke of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater. He advised that this has not yet been notified but input is being sought at this early stage.

S. Moran advised that the New Zealand Planning Institute Conference is being held on the 3rd - 5th of April at Shantytown. A Councillor workshop will be held on the Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Waste Working Group: S. Moran reported that this group is looking at the Visitor Waste Strategy. He advised that a national group is working on consistent policy and the Waste Working Group will have input to this.

C. Ingle reported that the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement has been notified by the Department of Conservation. He advised that WCRC would make submissions using case studies of the Punakaiki seawall and the Okuru seawall processes, which are both matters that the Minister of Conservation had to sign off on. This made for a long and protracted process caused by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, which made these consents restricted coastal activities.

Cr Archer spoke of the huge national issues on controls on freedom campers where everyone wants facilities from them but nobody want to pay for or enforce rules that are in place. He advised that infringement notices are not an option as tourists can leave the country without paying them.

S. Moran advised that the first Regional Land Transport Committee meeting following the Council elections was held on the 18th February. Cr Scarlett chaired this meeting. S. Moran advised that no new large projects have been added to the programme. A Walking and Cycling Strategy Project has been added. S. Moran provided an update on Transit projects advising that the concessions required for Gates of Haast project are currently being sought. The Arahura Bridge contracts have been tendered and engagement will take place over the next week or so. McKendries Corner – this is taking some time to progress but is expected to take place during 2008 / 09.

C. Ingle provided an update on the Sea Change Strategy. He reported that Government has realised the importance of retaining small ports around New Zealand. He advised that the strategy is more directed at North Island Ports. He advised that sea transport is one of the major freight transports for the future for New Zealand.

S. Moran advised that there were no flood events during the reporting period but one minor one occurred on the 1st of March on the Grey River. He advised that the water quality reports on Lake Kaniere are very good; phosphorus is low in the central lake samples. Results for Lake Haupiri are also good. Further monitoring is to be carried out but is dependant on funding available.

Cr Scarlett asked if there is a national baseline on nutrients in lakes. S. Moran advised that there is not a national standard but there is an accepted base line measurement in place.

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

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report stating that it has been a straightforward month in the consents area. He reported that the Minister of Conservation has released her decision on the resource consent applications for the Punakaiki Seawall.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) that the March 2008 report of the Consents Group be received.

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He spoke of staff changes and advised that a good calibre of candidates have applied for vacant positions.

Discussion ensued around notification of incidents with various speakers taking part. Cr Archer spoke of the importance of appropriate investigations being carried out then determination upon the seriousness and effects of the incident. The Chairman spoke of the importance of having a level playing field for everyone.

R. Barber commented that public disclosure by public or private bodies can only do companies good and transparency can only improve issues for companies and the public.

Moved (Robb / Archer) that the March 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.22 am

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Chairman

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Date