

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.31 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, T. Archer, A. Birchfield, T. Scott, R. Barber (arrived 10.40)

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

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising relating to the minutes. Cr Davidson raised a question at the March meeting regarding the Waiho Bridge. He stated that around eight years ago concern was raised regarding flooding and earthquakes in the Franz Josef area and the effects on roading. S. Moran advised that he has talked to Transit regarding this and Transit are not looking at moving the road but are considering moving the bank and widening the road. S. Moran advised that survey work and flood analysis work will be done shortly which will give an indication as to where the flood levels are on the existing banks.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he oversaw recent tender openings for river works.

The Chairman and C. Ingle attended a meeting with Hon. Trevor Mallard and Hon. Damien O'Connor to discuss local issues. He attended a LTCCP seminar in Christchurch which he stated was very worthwhile and informative. Representatives from Westland District Council were in attendance.

The Chairman and Cr Davidson attended the open session for Councillors at the New Zealand Planners Institute conference, held at Shantytown. The Chairman met with four Otago University students. They are doing a thesis on Lake Brunner and transport issues that relate to the West Coast.

The Chairman reported that a representative from the local fishing industry contacted him to express his concern regarding the marine reserve proposal. The Chairman spoke of the effect this could have on industry on the west coast including fishing both commercial and recreational, oil prospecting and inshore mining. He expressed his concern that 10% of the country being in this reserve.

Cr Archer stated that he is unsure of the current status of the work that is being carried out regarding marine reserves. S. Moran confirmed that a meeting is being held today. Our representative is ex Cr Denis Shannahan. R. Barber reported that he has just come from this meeting and a recommendation to Ministers will come out of it. He spoke of the importance of community buy in with this matter, as enforcement is difficult.

Moved (Ewen / 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 noting that the Wetlands Hearing has been adjourned and the panel is about to seek further information from DoC. Once a response has been received the hearing will be reconvened.

S. Moran advised that staff are currently working on a submission for the New Zealand Coastal Policy statement and that the closing date for submissions is the 7th of May. One of the largest issues is around restricted coastal activities.

S. Moran reported that the Proposed National Environmental Standard on Environmental Flows has been released. MfE have indicated that the two key effects will be an interim set of limits and provision of a process for appropriate technical methods for evaluating ecological flows. A draft submission will be provided to Councillors.

S. Moran advised that Cr Archer would attend the Southern Region Civil Defence Emergency Management forum in Invercargill on the 17th of April. The West Coast Controllers Forum will be held here on the 24th of April. S. Moran stated that this is an opportunity for controllers to get together to discuss what is happening in the districts and to pick up tips on recent events.

S. Moran advised that a report is being drafted on the Fuel Storage Study. He stated that the response from the survey was good but there was no response at all from the request via the Rates Newsletter.

S. Moran reported that the Road Safety Co-ordinator has resigned. A meeting with representatives from LTNZ and the four local authorities was held last week. This project will continue once a new Co-ordinator is found.

S. Moran advised that the Glacier Walking and Cycling Project was discussed at the recent Regional Land Transport Committee meeting. This has now been given provisional go ahead with R Funding.

S. Moran advised that a response has been received from Transit NZ regarding the progression of works at McKendries Corner. A solution is still awaited.

S. Moran advised that there was one flood event recorded on the Grey River during the reporting period which triggered the first warning.

S. Moran reported that three representatives from West Coast high schools would attend the Sir Peter Blake Youth Environmental Forum.

S. Moran advised that the Campervan Dumpsites pamphlet is being updated with new sites. This will be distributed to operators shortly. T. Scott voiced his concern with toilet units in campervans. He stated he feels they should be locked and only unlocked at dumpsites. Cr Archer spoke of meetings he had attended regarding this matter and advised that this issue is becoming too hard and very expensive to administer. S. Moran advised that this matter is currently being discussed at national level and that Mayor Pugh is on the national group.

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

Carried

5.1.2 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED COASTAL PLAN CHANGE 2

S. Moran spoke to this report noting that it has been previously discussed at a councillor workshop. The Chairman stated that this is a measure that is part of Council's endeavours to be accommodating when needs arise and blockages occur that cause adverse effects. R. Barber asked if additional permissions are required from DoC. S. Moran confirmed that there would not be as these works are minor. R. Barber asked if permission would be needed to cross other people's land, he stated that he feared illegal activities might occur. Cr Scarlett stated that this does not give people permission to cross other people's land. Cr Archer advised that this is no different to any other consent issue by the council but you would need the landowners consent to activate it. Cr Ewen reiterated that this an authorisation but an accommodating measure to alleviate a problem that arises during an emergency situation. T. Scott voiced his concern as to who is likely to make the decision on whether condition 1 has been met. Cr Archer provided an example of an outlet being blocked during massive seas that were compromising pasture which seawater was on. He advised that this rule would enable the landowner to reopen the passage and drain the water before damage to the pasture occurred. All Councillors were in agreement with this. R. Barber

expressed his concern with permitted activities being open to abuse. He confirmed he was happy with the process.

Moved (Archer / Chinn)

That the Council approve the Proposed Coastal Plan Change 2 for public notification, in accordance with Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.

*R. Barber and T. Scott – Against
Carried*

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report stating it was a standard month in the Consents area. He updated Council on the issue of the appeal in relating to the decision to grant West Sand Company Ltd consent for a trial sand removal operation. C. Dall reported that the parties appear willing to mediate a resolution. This will be arranged in the near future.

C. Dall reported that the public notification of consents lodged by Meridan Energy for the proposed Mokinui Hydro Power Scheme has occurred. He advised that the submission period ends on the 23rd of April and a number of submissions have already been received.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) that the April 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 two new Compliance Officers have been appointed. The Blaketown Beach Gravel extraction is approximately 1/3 of the way through its licence which is consistent with being a 1/3 of the way through the year.

C. Dall advised there have been no non compliance issues with the Globe Progress Mine during the reporting period. The good weather has contributed to this.

A discharge relating to the Hokitika Dairy Factory occurred during the reporting period. The company stopped the discharge until the problem was resolved. The discharge did not result in any non-compliance.

C. Dall reported that a number of complaints were received in relation to an odour at Whataroa.

T. Scott asked what this odour is in relation to. C. Dall confirmed that it is from a dairy shed.

The Chairman asked C. Dall for further information regarding a contractor being formally warned in relation to alleged non-compliant gravel extraction. C. Dall advised that the contractor was sent a letter stating that if this continued he would be fined.

Moved (Archer / Davidson) that the April 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