

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JUNE 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), 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), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk),
The Media

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that the apologies from R. Scarlett and R. Barber be accepted.*

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Chinn) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 May 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

The Chairman advised that he met with Wayne Mapp and MP Auchinvole at his place of work and not at the Solid Energy Rescue Helicopter demonstration.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he attended tender openings for works in the Karamea area. He attended a hearing with Cr Scarlett and a ministerial appointee regarding the oxidation ponds at Hokitika. He advised that this has been adjourned while further information is provided by parties to the hearing.

The Chairman along with some councillors met with the Board from Solid Energy. He attended the public meeting held for submissions for the Annual Plan process.

The Chairman tabled correspondence received from DoC regarding the Wetlands variation. This will be discussed with staff and the department over the coming months.

The Chairman advised that he has accepted an invitation to appear in a documentary regarding the mines inspectorate, though not in his role as Council Deputy Chairman. He stated that this would foster positive relationships in this area.

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

Carried

T. Scott asked what is the delay with the Wetlands variation. S. Moran advised that DoC have put in two approaches. Cr Ewen wrote to DoC asking them which approach they were looking at, a meeting then took place with DoC and council staff. S. Moran shared further information with T. Scott relating to timeframes. Cr Archer clarified timeframes required with T. Scott.

5. REPORTS

5.1. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

S. Moran spoke to his report. S. Moran advised that there were in fact 14 submissions received for the Coastal Plan Change. Staff are currently preparing a summary of submissions which will be followed by notification for further submissions.

S. Moran reported that one year's funding has been obtained. Minor amendments have been made to the focus of service with input from the district councils. S. Moran advised that if the Waste Minimisation Bill goes through, a new waste levy would impact on the cost of waste disposal at landfills.

Civil Defence: S. Moran advised that following the latest CEG meeting all four councils have indicated that they are keen to participate in another civil defence exercise. This will be held in September or October 2009.

S. Moran reported that the ministry is to carry out a capability assessment for the West Coast. This will see how we compare with other CDEM groups around the country and where the work we do sits on the national scale. The result will be reported to council.

S. Moran advised that the Pandemic Roadshow is to visit the West Coast. This is a joint venture between Community & Public Health, DHB and CDEM. S. Moran advised that this is to get information and preparedness out to the community regarding pandemic outbreaks and other outbreaks of communicable diseases in general and not just bird flu.

S. Moran advised that the Get Ready Get Thru publication is to be put into the Messenger again shortly.

S. Moran reported that the Engineering Lifelines Group met on the 12th of May. This group has been one of the main drivers on the fuel study. Cr Birchfield stated that care needs to be taken with the amount of information released to the public in terms of locations of fuel storage locations in view of the cost of fuel.

S. Moran spoke of the meeting with GHD that he and C. Ingle attended. This relates to a study for Route Security on State Highway 6 that is being carried out on Transits behalf. Known areas that are prone to ongoing hazards and land slipping away or subject to known flooding were highlighted. T. Scott stated he is interested to hear what the options for the road around Bruce Bay are.

S. Moran reported that there have been three exceedences of the NES for PM₁₀ since the 27th of May. Cr Chinn asked what is the feeling of Reefton residents if the deadline for air quality of 2013 is not met. S. Moran advised that information has been circulated to the community via the Clarion. Staff are working with the community and various research schemes on this matter. Cr Archer spoke of the importance of working closely with the community and supporting the concept of the people being warm as well as working toward clean air. Cr Ewen stated that government has to come up with some subsidies for this purpose.

S. Moran advised that the State of Environment report which was due to be reported to this meeting is not available due to a delay from the external agency who have had staff resourcing issues. This has delayed analysis but will be available for the September meeting.

The work carried out by NIWA on tributaries around Lake Brunner is now available. The data relating to phosphorus and nitrogen relates to land use. S. Moran stated that the benefit of this work would show how the lake deals with the inputs coming in from the tributaries and what happens before it flows down the Arnold River.

Moved (Davidson / Birchfield) *that Council receive this report.*

Carried

5.1.2 FUEL STORAGE ON THE WEST COAST

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised that through the West Coast Engineering Lifelines Group and CEG fuel storage on the West Coast has come up as a high priority. S. Moran advised that funding has been obtained from the Earthquake Commission and MCDEM to progress research in this area. An 81% response rate from the survey was achieved. S. Moran spoke of the need to start discussing this matter with the local services stations and fuel providers. Cr Ewen advised that too much emphasis should not be put on the alpine fault as Murchison and Inangahua earthquakes were on smaller fault lines.

Considerable discussion ensued on transportation options for fuel. Cr Ewen reiterated Cr Birchfield's comments regarding the security of fuel storage sites in view of the price of this commodity. Cr Archer applauded the authors and those that contributed to developing this strategy. He stated that this is timely and highlights the vulnerability we have in this area.

Cr Archer advised of the need for a procedure or policy on distribution control. Cr Davidson concurred with Cr Archer and stated that this report is a basis for WCRC to develop further. S. Moran spoke of work being done at a national level with fuel companies and also individual projects in Canterbury.

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. He advised that three commissioners have been appointed to hear the applications for Meridian Energy's consent application which will take place in August. C. Dall is expecting this hearing to take four weeks and would be in at least two parts. T. Scott asked how is the selection process for the appointment of commissioners is arrived at. C. Dall advised that this is a two part process with the first being who should be on the hearing panel, then the appointment of the committee. This task of appointing the commissioners is delegated to the Chairman of the Resource Management Committee and the Chairman of the Council. This is based on staff recommendation, the complexity of the application, key issues and parties who have technical expertise or skills or knowledge in a particular area. C. Dall gave the example of the Mokihinui hearing where engineering and ecological issues were involved.

T. Scott asked what consideration is given to tangata whenua in being represented on the hearing panel. C. Dall advised that when looking for commissioners the submissions that are being lodged need to be looked at to see if there is any conflict of interest. He gave the example of Cr Scarlett being unable to be a council representative on the hearing panel due to his relationship with Westland Milk Products as they have lodged a submission. He advised that it is unwise to appoint someone to a hearing panel that has made a submission in case they are challenged at the hearing and may need to stand down. This could cause the size of the committee to be reduced.

Cr Ewen advised that in the past council has been criticised for not having local involvement. He stated that this council is one of the few in the country that has all councillors as hearing commissioners qualified or endeavouring to be so. T. Scott spoke of cultural expertise that can be brought to these panels. Cr Chinn stated that we are all one people and asked if Mr Scott is doubting the ability of the commissioners that have been appointed. T. Scott confirmed he is not doubting this but stated that there is a treaty stating that we are two people. C. Dall advised that he used the same model for selection as for the Trust Power hearing. Cr Birchfield reiterated that it is important that the best possible candidates are selected. The Chairman advised that we endeavour to participate and are an accommodating council for all parties. He stated that decisions made on this appointment panel are the right ones in view of the likelihood of it being quite a controversial hearing. The Chairman stated he has complete confidence in the hearing panel that has been appointed. T. Scott stated that as Iwi representatives they would be putting the pressure on for more Iwi members who are qualified to sit on these panels.

C. Dall advised that both Crs Ewen and Scarlett sat on the hearing panel for the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds. There hearing has been adjourned in order for further information to be gathered from the Westland District Council on water quality.

Moved (Davidson / Chinn) *that the June 2008 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report stating that there have been no specific issues. Staff attended a Partnering Workshop in relation to the Arahura Bridge replacement project. This is a proactive measure by OnTrack to include wide ranging parties who are affected by the proposal.

A further non-compliance has been received from Globe Progress Mine. This was above the consent limit and is being followed up.

C. Dall stated that given that the Pike River mine is getting to the stage of expecting coal, monitoring of the site has been increased.

C. Dall advised that it has been a fairly quiet month for complaints.

Cr Davidson asked of the possibility of council visiting the Pike River site. C. Dall recommended that a visit later in the year after coal has been won would be sensible. C. Ingle spoke of the recent visit he received from Pike River's new Relationship Manager inviting himself and councillors to visit the mine site.

Cr Birchfield commented on the recent abatement notice issued in the Jacks Road for illegal discharge of dust to air. He stated that he feels Grey District Council has made a bad decision in allowing residents into this area as it has been an industrial area for over 20 years. Cr Birchfield added that WCRC can expect more complaints in relation to this matter. Cr Chinn stated that the

farming community is experiencing similar issues with lifestyler's complaining about silage smell etc. This results from subdivisions being opened up in farming or industrial areas. He asked where does the regional council stand in these instances. C. Dall advised that if the consent is publicly notified then the regional council has the opportunity to make a submission but otherwise WCRC can only make a submission if identified as an affected party. Cr Archer advised that the key to the issue is to ensure that there is a buy in or an interest at the development of the plan stage.

Moved (Davidson / Birchfield)

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That the June 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the Council approves the release of the bond for Resource Consents RC06041 and RC07194.*

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.35 am

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Chairman

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Date