

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JULY 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.35 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

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 (Davidson / Ewen) *that the apology from A. Robb be accepted.*

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 June 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Archer asked for clarification that the funding mentioned in S. Moran's report is for waste minimisation. S. Moran confirmed this is correct.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that June has been a quiet month. He fielded various telephone calls relating to council's role with imminent aerial operations of 1080. Enquires relating to the marine forum and exclusion zone for the Hector's dolphins have also been dealt with. The Chairman reported that various people have informed him that they feel consultation is not what it could have been for the marine forum matters.

The Chairman advised that viewed the Punakaiki sea protection wall yesterday as he had received a phone call from a concerned resident following the severe weather event last weekend. He stated that there is some small debris on top of the wall but otherwise it is in good order.

Moved (Ewen / Chinn) *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 drew attention to the changes to the transport sector. The Bill is expected to be made law in mid July. This will change the functions the regional council has had in the past and changes the Regional Land Transport Committee to the Regional Transport Committee. The new committee will be smaller. S. Moran advised that the representation is two regional councillors, a councillor from each territorial authority and one person from the NZ Transport Agency. There are also six representatives from economic development, safety and personal security, public health, access and mobility, environmental sustainability and cultural interests. S. Moran advised that the full committee makes decisions on strategy; the local authorities and agency make funding decisions. WCRC will be seeking nominations for the six

representatives in July. S. Moran advised that the committee is required to be in place by the 1st of October.

S. Moran reported that the Walking and Cycling Strategy is progressing well. He is hopeful of a final draft of the strategy in the near future.

S. Moran advised there were no flood events during the reporting period.

S. Moran reported that there were a few higher spikes in air quality recordings in Reefton during June. S. Moran advised that Resource Science staff have been assisting Compliance staff with the potential effects of the major land development at Kawhaka Creek. There has been no sediment spikes attributed to this development recorded to date.

S. Moran reported that there is approximately \$5000 of funding available via the Honda Tree Fund. Applications close on 31 July. S. Moran advised that groups who have previously applied have been notified of this opportunity. An advertisement has been placed in the Messenger.

Two Envirolink Research Grants have been secured. S. Moran advised that one is for natural hazards and the smaller grant will be used to gather information from Crown Research Institutes relating to landslides on the West Coast.

The Chairman passed on his congratulations to staff in securing these grants.

Cr Ewen raised the matter of the Institute of Engineers idea of GPS's being used for car users. He voiced his concern with the appropriateness of this legislation for the West Coast in view of the fact that there is no public transport in our region.

Cr Birchfield asked S. Moran if the people of Reefton have been consulted regarding the air quality issue in their town. Cr Archer reported that a meeting has been held with residents and a media release has been circulated via the local Reefton newspaper. S. Moran reported that the Reefton Area School has put together a survey but as yet no feedback has been received. Cr Archer said that the purpose of improving air quality is to make housing warmer and healthier but with less cost. Cr Scarlett drew attention to the National Environmental Standards for air quality and the fact that these are being exceeded. Cr Scarlett spoke of the possibility of funding streams becoming available for improving home energy efficiency. Cr Ewen suggested sending a questionnaire via the WCRC newsletter seeking Reefton resident's opinion on air quality.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that Council receive this report and that Chair and Deputy Chair of the West Coast Regional Council be Council's representatives on the Regional Transport Committee.*

Carried

5.1.2 MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - PROPOSED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR ECOLOGICAL FLOWS AND WATER LEVELS

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised Council that the staff view on this matter is that it is driven toward east coast conditions dry land and is very similar to the water metering NES that WCRC has previously made a submission on. S. Moran advised that if WCRC or applicants are required to do work in order to be granted an application there will be huge costs involved with no real benefit. Cr Scarlett stated that this is a very good submission. It picks up on the theme that is it designed for the east coast and the exemptions outlined in the submission suggested by staff are appropriate for the west coast. T. Scott asked for a practical example, C. Ingle used the example of the Hokitika Kowhitirangi area where we have a lot of ground water takes mostly consented and also permitted activities. People in this area go through the consenting process, these consents are largely granted because of the abundance of water in this area. When WCRC's water plan was written we did not see the need to have zones identified like Ecan do as there is plentiful water falling here. C. Ingle stated that now that the national standard is in place it seems that Ecan model is being used as the default position. C. Ingle added that we don't received complaints of wells drying up in these catchments. C. Ingle advised that this is about an appropriate level of management for the west coast that has an abundance of water. Cr Ewen stated that what is applicable for Canterbury may in fact be over the top for the West Coast.

Moved (Scarlett / Chinn) *that Council approve the draft submission.*

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. Cr Scarlett declared an interest in RC 08077 on page 15. C. Dall reported that the Trust Power hearing has been adjourned, hopefully for the final time. A decision is expected some time in November or December.

C. Dall provided council with an update of costs outstanding from Powelliphanta Augustus Incorporated Society outlining that this council and Buller District Council are both owed a total of \$12,420. C. Dall stated that the likelihood of payment being made is remote. He outlined various options available to pursue this debt. Considerable discussion ensued with Cr's Scarlett and Archer voicing their wishes that this is carried out in a cost effective manner. Cr Scarlett suggested writing to the court stating that we have not received the monies owed. Cr Ewen stated the Ministry for the Environment has provided funds to this group. C. Dall advised that Mfe confirmed to him that they had provided over \$20K for Environmental Court costs to Powelliphanta Augustus Incorporated. Cr Archer supports the concept of writing to the Ministry to express our concern at these organisations receiving funding to fight court proceedings. Cr Archer stated that in his view the security of costs provisions should be reinstated into the RMA. He feels that we should be putting pressure on MfE and the Department of Internal Affairs to get this underway. R. Mallinson advised that the Order for Examination is a simple process with very low costs involved and does not require legal representation. It was agreed that R. Mallinson would apply for an Order for Examination on Council's behalf.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer)

1. *That the July 2008 report of the Consents Group be received.*
2. *That the Council write to the Environment Court informing them that neither West Coast Regional Council or Buller District Council have received any payment of the costs awarded to them in relation to the Powelliphanta Augustus Incorporated Society Court action.*
3. *That West Coast Regional Council write to the Ministry for the Environment to advise that costs have not been paid and request groups no longer receive grants that simply cost ratepayers unnecessarily. Also to request that the Security for Costs be reinstated into the Resource Management Act.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report noting that 62 site visits have been carried out. Dairy farm visits have been undertaken with a small number of non-compliances. 72% of dairy farms visited were compliant. Cr Davidson asked what is the degree of non-compliance from the remaining 28% of dairy farms. C. Dall advised that the degree is recognised by what type of enforcement action is required. Cr Scarlett clarified that if they are mentioned in the report in terms of enforcement action then they are serious but the rest can therefore be considered as minor. C. Dall confirmed this is correct.

C. Dall advised that ongoing work is taking place with the Arahura Bridge Replacement. Council staff are attending a partnering workshop today.

C. Dall reported that there are issues with one of the discharge sampling sites at the Rapahoe Coal Handling Facility. Staff are following up on this matter.

Fewer complaints than usual have been received during the reporting period.

Cr Birchfield advised that he has inspected the site in Greymouth where a complaint regarding the alleged dumping of asbestos was received. He stated this is a tidy site and that Grey District Council is a high user of this site. C. Dall advised that Council has not found any unauthorised material disposed of at this site. He informed Council that this is a consented site and the issues relate to how the site looks. Cr Birchfield reiterated that it is a work in progress and will be a very nice site once work is complete.

Cr Birchfield expressed his interest in the content of a recent course Council Compliance staff attended. C. Dall agreed to obtain the course content for Cr Birchfield's perusal.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson)

RECOMMENDATION

That the July 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.38 am

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Chairman

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Date