

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.34 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, 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), 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 12 August 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Birchfield asked for an update regarding RC94077. C. Ingle responded that there has been no response to date. C. Ingle stated that the cost of repair to the mine site may be more than what the bond is worth. C. Dall confirmed that the bond is worth \$53,000. Cr Birchfield stated that bonds are very expensive to maintain. C. Dall will provide an update once the landowner is back from overseas.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he attended Development West Coast's Annual Plan function and launch of its new website. He also attended a public health forum on issues relating to regional health. The inaugural Regional Transport Committee meeting was also attended with Cr Scarlett. Inquiries for sewerage concerns in the Taylorville area were fielded along with 1080 enquiries and comments on Council structure. The Chairman advised that he is still pursuing the coal Levy issue. The Chairman advised that he has requested additional information on the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds from the Westland District Council. The Chairman will be attending the Zone 5 meeting in Nelson on Thursday.

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. He advised that we made a submission on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and we will be attending the hearing in Christchurch in two weeks time. The workshop run by MfE for the Proposed National Environmental Standard for On-Site Wastewater Systems that was to be held on the 25 of August will now be held on the 18th of September. He invited councillors to attend if they wish.

S. Moran advised that there will be a call for submissions on the Proposed National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation in a few weeks time.

S. Moran reported that CCS Disability Action have nominated Gloria Hammond as their representative on the Regional Transport Committee. S. Moran advised that he is yet to hear from Runanga as to who is their nominee on this committee. T. Scott stated that they do not agree with the policy as they feel that both Runanga should have a representative. The Chairman reiterated that our hands are tied by the legislation that says only one representative is required. R. Barber stated that a way forward could be to alternate between a wall seat and a table seat and report back to each other. C. Ingle advised that this was suggested by the Ministry with one member attending as an observer. R. Barber informed the Chairman that they would get back to him on this matter prior to the next meeting.

S. Moran reported that the first meeting of the new Regional Transport Committee was held at the end of August. The Deferral of Review for the West Coast Regional Land Transport Strategy is due in 2009. S. Moran advised there is the ability to extend the review period for a further 18 months and in view of the changes to legislation and the planning for the 10 year programme RTC will seek this extension.

Update on State Highway Projects: S. Moran advised that the two projects of most interest are McKendries Corner and Minga Bluff to Rough Creek. Progress is being made with landowners in the McKendries Corner area. S. Moran advised that solutions for the Minga Bluff area would be expensive.

Civil Defence: S. Moran advised that the target operational date for the weather radar is April 2011 and work has been carried out on the best site for the weather radar.

Air Quality: S. Moran reported that there has been one exceedance of the NES for PM10 during the reporting period.

Water Quality: S. Moran reported that WCRC is now undertaking the monitoring work for Lake Brunner that NIWA were previously carrying out. This is for three sites on the Lake and also tributary monitoring that will be cost effective and a good opportunity for professional development for staff. R. Barber asked if the ICM (farms planning project) is still running, as he had been involved with this earlier on. C. Ingle advised that both the CEO of Landcare Trust and Shelley Washington have resigned. He has been in touch with the new CEO but a new employee to cover the West Coast is yet to be appointed.

Cr Birchfield asked what is the hold up with McKendries Corner. S. Moran stated that a solution with both landowners is being sought and progress is being made.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer)

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That the Council consider the nomination for Access and Mobility Interests and appoint Gloria Hammond as the representative on the Regional Transport Committee.*
3. *That the Council seeks an extension of time to review the current Regional Land Transport Strategy.*

Carried

5.1.2 REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised that this report is a requirement under the Land Transport Act 1998. He spoke of critical areas like Minga Bluff and areas that might provide passing opportunities rather than passing lanes. The Chairman commented on the recent RTC meeting noting that it was good to see familiar faces as part of this group. He advised that the he would not like the fuel tax option to become the default mode if there is no money left for something that the West Coast is seeking as there are bigger urban organisations in metropolitan areas that will be ahead of us for financing road issues.

Moved (Scarlett / Robb)

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That Council receive this report.*
2. *That the Council approve the West Coast Regional Land Transport Strategy.*

Carried

5.1.3 SURFACE WATER QUALITY STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

S. Moran spoke to this report stating that there is good news in the report with regard to contact recreation monitoring showing improving water quality with less than 5% of samples in 2008 indicating unsafe swimming conditions.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer)

That the Water Quality State of the Environment Report is received.

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report stating that the most topical issues at the moment relate to the hearing of Meridan Energy Limited's consent application for the Mokihinui River Hydro Power Scheme Proposal. The hearing commenced on 25 August with the first week including a site visit by the Hearing Commissioners. The hearing process is now about one third of the way through.

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

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report noting that a good response has been received regarding dairy effluent discharges with 90% of sites visited during the reporting period being fully compliant.

C. Dall reported that staff carried out preparation work for the current whitebait season.

C. Dall advised that Oceana Gold's Globe Progress Mine site have encountered significant problems with sediment control over recent months. C. Dall tabled a spreadsheet with detailed data showing results of monitoring. C. Dall reported that Oceana Gold have now been issued with an Abatement Notice which they are taking very seriously and are keeping in regular contact with us. Cr Chinn asked if conditions on their consent are too tight for them. C. Dall advised that they have been through a period where they have been able to meet conditions during the drier part of the year but are not coping with their current system due to rainfall events. The Chairman asked if there has been any progress with the flocculant option. C. Dall responded that a key focus at the moment is mitigation measures and since the issue of the Abatement Notice there have been no further exceedances. C. Dall stated that the most significant effect is in Devils Creek and there have been no issues in the Inangahua River. Cr Davidson stated that a level playing field is required, farmers and others are prosecuted therefore improvement is expected. C. Dall advised that a lamella thickener is also being considered. C. Dall will keep council informed on this matter. C. Dall reported that Council's prosecution against Aden Farms Limited is complete with the company being fined \$20,000. Council receives 90% of the monies from the fine.

The Chairman asked if we have some monitoring baselines in place for Pike River Coal. C. Dall confirmed staff have already been monitoring the site. The processing plant is now complete but it will be some months yet before they start winning coal.

Moved (Archer / Scarlett)

That the September 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