

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 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 (arrived 10.36), D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, T. Scott

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES

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

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 September 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he attended the Zone 5 meeting in Nelson on the 10th of September. He advised that some North Island members have disassociated themselves from Zone organisations. There is concern that these members are still getting the benefits of the advocacy of Local Government New Zealand but not attending meetings.

The Chairman advised that he attended the RMA Recertification Programme for Chairs recently in Christchurch and is now completing course assignments. A number of enquires regarding septic tanks and the proposed Unitary Council issue were dealt with during the reporting period.

Rating District meetings were attended with Crs Robb and Birchfield for the Grey Valley area and at this office.

Moved (Ewen / Davidson) *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 staff have attended the Board of Inquiry hearing for the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in Christchurch recently. The hearing chairman and participants are familiar with the West Coast and intend to travel over here to see the issues for themselves.

S. Moran advised that MfE held a workshop on the 18th of September for Proposed National Environmental Standards for On-Site Wastewater Systems. The draft submission is attached to S. Moran's report.

S. Moran advised that staff are almost through the first draft on the Proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.

S. Moran reported that staff have reviewed the Proposed National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation. He stated that staff believe that it does not succeed in its stated aim. A draft submission will be emailed to councillors prior to the closing date of 31 October.

S. Moran shared the good news of additional funding for pest control obtained from LINZ. The sites that will receive this funding are Otira Valley and Buller Gorge. S. Moran advised that the funding will compliment existing programmes. Cr Scarlett asked how much money was on offer. C. Ingle confirmed that it was approximately \$100,000 nationally and that we did well to get \$15,000 for the West Coast.

S. Moran advised that while the Grey District Council offices are undergoing an upgrade, West Coast Regional Council offices have been made available in case of a civil defence emergency.

S. Moran reported that the National Lifelines Coordinator and staff from MCDEM are now using the Lifelines Fuel Storage Study completed by WCRC as a national model.

S. Moran reported that on the 23rd and 24th of September flood warning alarms were triggered on the Grey, Waiho, Whataroa and Haast Rivers. Some of this rain was snowmelt.

S. Moran advised that there have been no exceedances of air quality during the reporting period and it is unlikely that there will be anymore this year.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson)

RECOMMENDATION

That the report is received.

Carried

5.1.2 DRAFT SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

S. Moran spoke to this report noting that it has been circulated to council. There have been no comments received from Councillors.

Moved (Ewen / Chinn)

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft submission on the Proposed National Environmental Standard for On-site Wastewater Systems is approved.

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report and took it as read. He reported that the hearing for the notified consent for Meridian Energy Ltd's proposed hydroelectricity power scheme on the Mokihinui River is currently running ahead of time at the moment and may be complete by the end of October.

C. Dall reported that the Kahuna Boardriders Club withdrew its appeal against the resource consents granted to West Sand Company for the proposed sand removal trial at Cobden Beach. Trials will take place outside summer months.

Moved (Scarlett / Chinn) *that the October 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 a fairly high proportion of dairy inspections have revealed poor compliance. This was not entirely unexpected, as a number of the sheds targeted were known to have previous problems. Cr Chinn asked Cr Scarlett if we still have Dairy Inspectors. Cr Scarlett confirmed that we do and that they are expected to notify the dairy company if there are serious problems. Cr Chinn asked if the dairy company follow up on these matters. C. Dall stated that the main focus of the dairy inspectors is hygiene relating to the dairy

shed and WCRC focus is on effluent disposal. Cr Scarlett explained that the inspections are rated A, B or C and if they get a C then they are revisited.

C. Dall reported that as a result of two recent milk tanker crashes there has been no serious harm to either the drivers or the environment.

C. Dall reported that since the issue of an Abatement Notice to Globe Progress Mine discharges have been monitored more intensively by Council staff. There was one major non-compliance but overall compliance has improved since the Abatement Notice was issued. Cr Chinn thought that the non-compliance was coming from restoration areas and not the processing plant itself. Cr Chinn stated that under Crown Minerals licence land has to be restored as you go and during winter months there will be discoloured water running off restored ground even if sediment traps are in place. Cr Chinn asked if a plant is closed down, there is no mining and ground is still being restored would abatement notices still be issued. C. Dall stated that enforcement is measured on a case by case basis. Cr Chinn stated that it would be very hard to remain within the consent during heavy rain. C. Dall stated that compliance has been achieved in the past during wet weather and the company has not exhausted all their options as yet. Cr Ewen stated that he has looked at some of the original consent applications for Globe Progress mining, he advised that the applicant did submit some proposed conditions and levels that they believe that they could meet. He stated that they now need to meet the condition to mitigate the adverse effects of this runoff. Cr Birchfield reiterated that he feels allowances need to be made for heavy rainfall. T. Scott suggested that artificial wetlands could be considered for this area. C. Dall stated that this area is not suitable for artificial wetland due to lack of space. Cr Ewen stated that a lot of consent hearings that he has been to has found that outside expertise often underestimates the local environmental weather conditions. Cr Ewen stated that staff are mindful of where councillors are coming from on this matter and that he is hopeful that a balance will be found to improve the situation.

C. Dall reported that it has been a quiet month for Solid Energy consent monitoring with results showing compliance.

C. Dall reported that a slightly higher number of complaints were received during the reporting period. This could be attributed to the warmer weather. Cr Ewen spoke of the spill of coal from a coal wagon at 7 Mile. Cr Ewen stated that this is a rail problem and part of the loading process and is not a Solid Energy problem.

C. Dall reported that most mining programmes were approved during the reporting period.

Moved (Davidson / Chinn)

1. *That the October 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the Council recommends to Crown Minerals that the bond for ML 323108 be released.*

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am.

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Chairman

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Date