

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

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 (Archer / Robb) *that the apology from B. Chinn be accepted.*

Carried

2. MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 14 October 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

R. Barber asked about the trials for West Sand Company on Cobden Beach and what constitutes summer months. C. Dall advised that a timeframe is specified in the consent. The summer months are excluded, as this is when the Kahuna Board riders have their training and hold events.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he has completed assignments set for the Hearing Commissioners Recertification Programme and he is now awaiting the outcome.

The Chairman reported that he attended the Wanganui Rating District meeting at Hari Hari which he stated was a very productive meeting.

The Chairman advised that he was invited to speak at the local Probus Meeting. He also followed up on various phone calls relating to vector matters.

The Chairman advised that the data awaited following the hearing for the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds hearing is now to hand. A telephone conference will be held this afternoon with the other Hearing Commissioner, a decision on this is imminent.

Moved (Ewen / Scarlett) *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 are working on a draft submission for the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, this will be tabled at the December meeting. S. Moran reported that the hearing for the Wetlands Variation 1 would reconvene on the 27th of November. S. Moran advised that work is progressing well on the Regional Policy Statement and Plans. S. Moran reported that a meeting has been held regarding the Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy with submissions closing on 12 December. He advised that 150 submissions have been received to date. S. Moran reported that the Karamea River went through its flood alarm level on the 7th of October.

S. Moran advised that Dr Bill Vant visited recently to peer review the Lake Brunner monitoring programme. Dr Vant has a wealth of knowledge in this area and was of great value. S. Moran reported that Dr Vant's visit was sponsored by Environment Waikato. S. Moran advised that WCRC staff are now carrying out lake monitoring work that was previously done by contractors as we now have the equipment required for this. Cr Scarlett asked S. Moran what was Dr Vant's view how our monitoring is carried out. S. Moran advised that we are on the right track and it was confirmation that some elements of our monitoring could now be parked without compromising results.

R. Barber thanked S. Moran for the update from Dr Vant's visit and asked for a summary to be sent to tangata whenua in relation to the ongoing monitoring in this area.

S. Moran advised that a lot of the information requested is contained in the State of Environment Report. He advised that J. Horrox is currently working on a follow up to this report.

The Chairman advised that the date set for the Pike River Mine opening clashes with the Wetlands Variation hearing.

Moved (Davidson / Scarlett) *that the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION

S. Moran spoke to this report noting that there is potentially a significant cost to ratepayers to implement the changes required in the timeframes outlined. He stated that individual plan changes to meet the requirements of the policy do not take into account the costs to local government. Cr Scarlett asked if we discuss our responses to National Policy Statements with other councils in order to put forward a common view. S. Moran confirmed that some responses are circulated via email and through various Local Government channels and on occasions he liaises with colleagues from other councils.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

That the submission on the Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation is approved.

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that the hearing for Meridan Energy Limited's consent applications for their proposed Mokihinui Hydroelectricity Power Scheme was adjourned on the 23rd of October. Meridian is currently working on its Right of Reply, which the Hearing Committee will consider in due course.

C. Dall reported that he lodged the application for Order of Examination of Judgement Debtor regarding the unpaid debt owed to Council by Powelliphanta Augusta Incorporated. The Chairman asked C. Dall if Buller District Council engaged with our Council on this matter. C. Dall confirmed that originally they did and he had intended to provide a copy of the application to Buller District Council for their information in case they wished to join in proceedings. Cr Scarlett stated that he is interested in finding out if the trustees are personally liable for the debt. C. Dall confirmed that they are not personally liable. The Chairman stated that if there are proposed changes to the RMA then perhaps we could consider making a submission seeking cost recovery to councils. Cr Archer asked if the resolution from a previous meeting suggesting that we write to the Minister requesting that they rescind the amendment to the RMA for security of costs had been done and if there has been a response. C. Dall confirmed that he has not yet done this as he is waiting for the outcome of the application for Order of Examination of Judgement Debtor. Cr Archer stated he understands this move if changes are expected. Cr Scarlett expressed his surprise that this matter was not followed up although he does understand the reasons for this stance.

Moved (Scarlett / Archer) *that the November 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 86 site visits were made during the reporting period with the outcomes satisfactory in most cases. C. Dall reported that the month was busy in regard to monitoring dairy effluent discharges and this will continue.
C. Dall reported that follow up action was taken in relation to the discharge into the Hokitika River from Westland Milk Products and an appropriate outcome is expected.
C. Dall reported that results from the ongoing monitoring of Globe Progress Mine reveal that two out of three results were compliant. He advised that during the reporting period the company's self monitoring results did not reveal any non-compliance.
C. Dall reported that further action is required in relation to the Stockton Mine. This was as a result of maintenance work being done a settling pond where the pond wall was compromised which resulted in the discharge of sediment laden material to the Waimangaroa River.
C. Dall reported there was a non-compliant discharge at the Rapahoe Coal Handling Facility that staff have followed up on.
C. Dall stated that the number of complaints during the month was fairly typical for the time of year. He drew council's attention to the various enforcement actions taken for the month.
C. Dall stated that mining matters were quiet in terms of bond releases and approvals during the reporting period.

One minute's silence was observed in respect of Armistice Day

Cr Robb asked how often Globe Progress Mine are monitoring. C. Dall confirmed that frequent monitoring is taking place but he is not sure if it is every day.
The Chairman spoke of subsidence monitoring at Spring Creek mine where they take their markers off trees on the ridge above the mine. In view of the gales on 30 July a lot of these trees have fallen, Cr Ewen queried if the subsidence marker should be on the ground. C. Dall spoke of logistical problems because of vegetative cover and if there is a fixed marker in the ground it becomes difficult to survey visually.

Cr Birchfield expressed his concern with the six contraventions of an Abatement Notice at Cockabulla Creek. The offender has been billed for \$4,500, \$750 for each offence. Cr Birchfield stated that this non-compliance is getting expensive. His concern is that council is arriving on mine sites after heavy rain when non-compliance is happening. It was agreed this would be discussed further in committee.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson)

- 1. *That the November 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. *That the Council releases the bond held for Resource Consent RC99015.*

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.08 am.

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Chairman

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Date