

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 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), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), S. Moran (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk),
The Media

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PRESENTATION

Mr John Wood from West Coast Commercial Gold Miner's Association Inc addressed the meeting. He spoke of enforcement matters relating to gold mining.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 November 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

T. Scott expressed his concern that the matter that Cr Birchfield wished to discuss in committee was not discussed in committee as part of the Resource Management Committee meeting. This was discussed in committee at the Council meeting. T. Scott felt that he and R. Barber were excluded from these proceedings. T. Scott felt that the matter should have been heard by this committee in committee. T. Scott stated that the matter discussed in committee had been in the newspaper prior to the meeting. Cr Ewen agreed to follow this matter up with the Chief Executive.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the decision following the hearing for the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds is in the process of being drafted and may be released by Christmas.

The Chairman reported that the Wetlands Hearing Variation was reconvened on the 27th of November. This was attended by Crs Scarlett, Davidson and Archer and Iwi Representative Mr Terry Scott. The Chairman advised that the desired outcome on some of the issues of contention was achieved. A copy of the Variation was supplied to all Councillors and Iwi Representatives present.

The Chairman reported that he gave an opening address at the Hydrology and Metrology Society National Conference hosted at Shantytown on the 18th of November. He stated that the conference was well received and a very successful event for all concerned.

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 the decision report for Wetlands Variation 1 hearing is being circulated, it is hoped that the decision will be released on Friday.

S. Moran advised that further work with Local Government New Zealand has been done on the Proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. A staff policy has also been drafted. S. Moran informed Council that this is due on the 23rd of January and will be circulated via email for councillors to consider.

S. Moran reported that the Ministry of Civil Defence recently carried out a Capability and Capacity Assessment. He advised that the outcomes were reasonably good and on par with what they expected. He stated that a paper is currently being circulated around the Coordinating Executive Group, this will then go to the CDEM Group (Mayors and Chair) for their consideration.

Civil Defence: S. Moran spoke of the Local Government Subsidy review, he stated that currently WCRC receives a very small amount of funding from MCDEM. It is proposed that the fund will become a contestable fund which may allow for the opportunity to obtain further funding for civil defence work. T. Scott asked what is contestable funding based on. S. Moran advised that the criteria is yet to be set but the awaited paper will contain this information. S. Moran reported that a Tsunami risk assessment was discussed, he advised that the message is that if you feel an earthquake and are near the coastline, get to higher ground.

S. Moran reported that C. Ingle and W. Moen undertook Controller Training in November. S. Moran spoke of the civil defence training session for all staff on the 25th of November. This was tailored for our needs and was very useful.

Transport: S. Moran advised that the Regional Transport Advisory Group have met and have agreed on the drafting of a Terms of Reference. This will go to the Regional Transport Committee for ratification.

S. Moran reported that work is progressing on the funding programmes, a draft was submitted on the 14th of November.

Hydrology / Flood Warning: S. Moran reported that there have been two recent events. One relatively minor one on the 1st of November which triggered alarms on the Grey River and Karamea River.

S. Moran advised that the second event on the 24th and 25th of November was more significant with 590mm of rain recorded in 24hours in the Cropp Basin. S. Moran advised that the Duty Officers monitored this event and there were no issues to report.

S. Moran spoke to the contact recreation report noting that it is the first round of results for the summer months. He reported that Buller and Orowaiti Rivers had moderate to high readings.

Cr Archer if there has been any work done on finding source of the higher pollution at Marrs Beach. S. Moran advised that the November reading may be a one – off anomaly. Last year's results in this area were better than previous years.

Cr Archer noted that clear result at Shingle Beach which is opposite Marrs Beach. Cr Archer wondered if the water coming into the Marrs Beach area is not mixing and going to the other side of the river.

Cr Archer asked if the result in the Picnic Area at the Orowaiti Lagoon is likely to improve in view of the implementation for the connection of the reticulated sewerage system in this area. S. Moran confirmed that this is the expectation. Cr Davidson feels that the source of contamination in the Marrs Beach should be found. C. Ingle stated that staff look for a trend in these circumstances but usually would wait for two or three readings prior to investigating to see if there is an identifiable source.

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

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He stated that the key matter during the reporting period is the release of the decision on the notified consent for the Proposed Arnold Valley Hydro Power Scheme.

C. Dall stated that three appeals on the decision to grant all the consents sought have been received. This includes one from TrustPower Ltd on conditions imposed. C. Dall stated he is hopeful that a lot of the matters can be dealt with through mediation. C. Dall revealed that the other appellants are Gordon Graham, Paul Miles and a possible fourth party is yet to be advised.

C. Dall advised that appeal period is closed but slightly later appeals are usually granted waiver by the Court.

C. Dall reported that the consent for Meridian Energy Ltd's Proposed Mokihinui River Hydro Scheme is still in the process of being heard. The Hearing Committee has received the Right of Reply from Meridian Energy Ltd and they are considering what further action to take.

C. Dall reported that the decision on Council's consent application to heighten the Greymouth Floodwall has been granted for a 35 year term. C. Dall advised that the no appeals have been received and the appeal period closes today.

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

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report noting that over 70 site visits were made with generally a good level of compliance. However, he stated that there were a number of complaints found to be related to non-compliant activities.

C. Dall reported that during the reporting period water monitoring results at Globe Progress Mine did not reveal any non-compliance. He advised that since writing this report further sampling done by the company revealed non-compliance on the 26th of November. This was nine above the limit, it was noted that this result was preceded by a 120mm of rain over a 48 hour period. C. Dall reported that OceanaGold sought and obtained a further extension of their Abatement Notice as problems with the supplier of the flocculation plant have been encountered.

C. Dall reported that the recent power outage in Hokitika caused problems for processing and picking up of milk at Westland Milk Products Dairy Factory. C. Dall advised that he is not aware of any significant problems arising from the power outage. T. Scott asked where is milk discharged to if it needs to be discharged. Cr Scarlett explained that usually it is fed to calves, stored on farm or put through the effluent system on farm. Cr Scarlett advised that a lot of farms have large tank holdings which are used for colostrum storage.

Cr Chinn asked for further information regarding the discharge to water at Stockton Mine Site being exceeded. Cr Chinn asked who sets the trigger. C. Dall explained that the trigger limit is in relation to the historic resource consent for the site which goes back to the late 1980's. C. Dall advised that consent did not have any explicit limits and this trigger limit is mutually agreed with Solid Energy and it is an indicator as to whether or not there are problems at the site. Cr Chinn asked if smaller operators are able to negotiate a trigger limit. C. Dall stated that in this case the trigger limit is in place of a standard whereas a lot of the consents for other mining operations will have a set standard. C. Dall clarified that this is an old consent pre RMA. Cr Scarlett asked if consents subsequent to the RMA have trigger limits. C. Dall advised that new consents can have an explicit standard or a range of explicit standards and they may also include trigger levels which might trigger additional monitoring.

Cr Scarlett asked if any consents have been granted with trigger levels. C. Dall confirmed that some have. Cr Ewen asked if a consent holder could seek a variation to their present standard at any time.

C. Dall confirmed this is correct. Cr Ewen stated that the Stockton licence has caused problems in the past due to the lack of specific conditions. He added that he feels that a lot of the upgrades Solid Energy have done in recent times has not been a result of conditions of their licence but of public conscience. Cr Scarlett asked if the level is triggered then the Council has an ability to make a decision to waive it if it was for heavy rain. Cr Scarlett stated that if the level was triggered through negligence then the Council could take action as necessary.

Cr Ewen stated that he is pleased to see that Globe Progress Mine now has their flocculant plant which this council encouraged. Cr Ewen stated that he hopes that muddied water from gravel extraction in nearby creeks doesn't interfere with what Globe Progress Mine is trying to achieve.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

- 1. That the December 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
- 2. That the Council notifies Crown Minerals that the bonds held for Mining Licences CML 37092 and CML 37148 may be released.*

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.42 am.

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Chairman

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Date