

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 09.32 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **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** (Scarlett / Archer) *that the apology from T. Scott be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### **2. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 December 2008, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

Cr Archer asked if follow up had been made with Mr T. Scott regarding the process for matters heard in committee. C. Ingle confirmed that he sent an email to Mr Scott and other councillors explaining that the Resource Management Committee (RMC) is delegated certain tasks by Council and enforcement decisions are not included, as they must be made by full Council. C. Ingle stated that he did not hear back from Mr Scott and presumes Mr Scott is happy with the outcome.

Cr Davidson asked if confidential matters in the RMC section of the meeting not relating to enforcement decisions would be discussed at this meeting. C. Ingle confirmed any RMC matters that need to be discussed in committee would occur at the end of the RMC meeting with the two Iwi members included. However he noted this committee seldom goes "in committee" because it mostly deals with policy setting which by its nature is a public process. Cr Birchfield thanked C. Ingle for the email as it cleared the matter up well.

#### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported that decision on the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds has been released. C. Dall advised that no appeals have been received to date. Cr Ewen reported that he attended four tender openings during the reporting period and also another one was done this morning.

Cr Ewen stated that he has fielded various general inquiries from the public regarding transport, 1080 issues and the coal boiler for the new Greymouth swimming pool complex.

**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 appeal period is due to close on 17 February for the Wetlands Variation 1 hearing.

S. Moran provided all present with a print out of the key points for the RMA reforms.  
Regional Land Transport Programme: S. Moran reported that WCRC is currently working with the New Zealand Transport Agency and the District Councils to get the three year programme underway. The next Regional Transport Committee is scheduled for March the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

S. Moran spoke of the three month trial to operate a passenger transport service between Hokitika and Greymouth that is being provided by Cliff Sandrey Transport. S. Moran advised staff have been working with the New Zealand Transport Agency to try to get access to Super Gold Card funding for this service.

Regional Public Transport Plan: S. Moran reported that in order to get Central Government funding for public transport and Total Mobility users Council now needs a Regional Public Transport Plan. Assistance from the New Zealand Transport Agency has been sought to prepare this plan in order to utilise their skills rather than Council having to carry out this task.

S. Moran reported that following the heavy rain event on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December first stage flood warning alarms were triggered on the Grey and Buller rivers.

S. Moran advised that recruitment is underway for a replacement Technical Officer in the Resource Science area following the resignation of Jack Grinstead.

S. Moran reported that water quality at contract recreation sites during December / January was good. There was minor concern in the Orowaiti River area in December but a better result in this area during January.

Cr Ewen stated the passenger transport service is a good outcome with the possibility of the Super Gold Card. Cr Ewen stated that in the past this council has copped flak for not providing these subsidies, this was due to the fact that previously transport providers have not been aware that they are required to register with Council in order to be eligible to provide the transport service.

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

*Carried*

## **5.1.2 DRAFT SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT**

S. Moran spoke to this report; he stated that this proposed NPS has a complicated history. S. Moran advised that WCRC supports the majority of the submission put together by LGNZ but is mindful that the focus is on regions that are water short; therefore some points do not apply to the West Coast.

Cr Scarlett praised S. Moran, L. Saddler and N. Costley on their excellent work and stated that it is a very good submission. Cr Ewen concurred with this and stated that it is forthright and hard-hitting as NPS have big implications with regard to dairying and mining industries.

C. Ingle advised that it is not clear as to what the new Government will do regarding the NPS for Freshwater Management. Prior to the election there were hints that the NPS may get scuppered but C. Ingle stated that it is now before an independent group of decision makers and the new Minister has gone quiet. S. Moran clarified that the NPS is at the Board of Inquiry at the moment, hearings will be held later in the year with recommendations then being put to the Minister. Cr Scarlett asked if the Board hears submissions and would WCRC speak to their submission. S. Moran confirmed that we were not scheduled to present to the Board of Inquiry. Cr Birchfield asked what affect the NPS would have on the mining industry. S. Moran stated that it is dependant on interpretation but for anyone who has an adverse affect the policy could be considered to be too strong. Cr Scarlett stated that there is so much irrelevance to the West Coast and it is very important that we are represented regarding this matter.

**Moved** (Archer / Scarlett) *that Council approve the submission on the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*

*Carried*

## **5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that the consents for the Hokitika Oxidation Ponds were determined and released. Consents for the new landfill proposed in the Butlers area near Ross were also approved. C. Dall reported that some of the smaller landfills in this area would now be able to be closed, which has environmental benefits.

C. Dall reported that the Hearing Committee for the Mokihinui River Hydro Power Scheme carried out a site visit and meeting during January.  
C. Dall reported that submission period has closed for the consent application for a proposed hydro power scheme involving a dam on the Stockton Plateau. The majority of submissions received were in favour of the proposal.  
C. Dall reported that he attended a hearing of the Disputes Tribunal in Greymouth during December. The claim was dismissed in WCRC's favour.  
C. Dall advised that he has prepared an affidavit relating to an application for an Enforcement Order against Council. He is hopeful of this matter being resolved via a teleconference later in the month.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the February 2009 report of the Consents Group be received.*  
*Carried*

C. Ingle circulated copies of the letter written by our Council to the Minister for the Environment regarding Section 284A of The Resource Management Act – Security for Costs relating to Powelliphanta Augustus Incorporated.

Cr Scarlett asked where to from here regarding the Order of Examination of Judgement Debtor regarding the unpaid debt owed to Council by Powelliphanta Augusta Incorporated, in view of the house being empty when the serving of this notice was attempted.

C. Dall stated that the recipients may be University Students who may have been away on holiday. He will now write to the Collections Unit for the Christchurch District Court and ask them to try again, or try a Wellington address.

## **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that monitoring visits during the reporting period revealed relatively good compliance.

C. Dall advised that there was one minor incident at Globe Progress Mine just prior to their Abatement Notice coming into affect but results since Christmas are looking promising.

C. Dall reported that at the time of writing this report the Grey River Dredge was almost resting on the Blackball side of the Grey River. Staff are carrying out site visits to ensure that the riverbed is reinstated.

C. Dall reported that there were two hydrocarbon spills at Solid Energy's Stockton Mine site. He confirmed that Solid Energy acted upon both cases appropriately.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson) *That the December 2008 report of the Compliance Group be received.*  
*Carried*

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.04 am.

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Chairman

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Date