

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **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** (Davidson / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8 September 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

T. Scott asked if there is any consideration being given to the risk factor rating for tsunamis in view of recent events. Cr Ewen stated tsunami risk is a national concern and that we will be made aware if the risk level increases from 13.

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

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the "Great Shake" alpine fault scenario held at Kingsgate Hotel, which was hosted by scientists from GNS.

Cr Ewen reported that he visited Council early on the morning of 18 September in order to declare the Civil Defence Emergency for Exercise Ru Whenua. Cr Ewen stated that Exercise Ru Whenua went well with relatively few hitches and was well attended.

Cr Ewen advised that he dealt with several tenders during the reporting period, these were mainly for river works in South Westland.

Cr Ewen visited Wellington with Cr Scarlett and C. Ingle. He also attended the first of the rating district annual meetings yesterday at Inchbonnie, Taramakau, Grey Valley and Coal Creek.

**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 advising that mediation for Wetlands Variation 1 was held recently with nothing being resolved at this stage. A further hearing is expected to take place in mid December.

S. Moran stated that he was very pleased with how Exercise Ru Whenua went although there were minor issues highlighted. S. Moran advised that this is the intention of an exercise and it is a good opportunity to sort these out prior to the real event. He stated there was good participation from staff and outside agencies involved.

S. Moran reported that West Coast Shake Out also went well. He stated that the number of people who signed up for this was fantastic.

S. Moran reported that following the Samoan tsunami there was as much of an effect on the West Coast as on the East Coast, this was due to where it was generated. S. Moran advised WCRC was in discussions with MCDEM at the time and the local Civil Defence Controllers, a media statement was coordinated with the Territorial Authorities with the information available. S. Moran advised that a 0.6 wave was recorded at Jacksons Bay and 0.35 at Charleston. S. Moran reported that following the Vanuatu earthquake there was no tsunami recorded on the West Coast and late in the day MCDEM issued a warning advising to watch out for strong currents.

S. Moran reported that the Regional Land Transport Strategy is being reviewed and goals are to be made more measurable.

S. Moran reported that resource science staff are working on contact recreation matters relating to the Arahura mussel beds. He advised that funding has been secured from Envirolink to follow up on analysis work that was carried out approximately five years ago. Cr Archer asked if we know what the source of the contaminant is regarding the water quality in the Arahura River. S. Moran reported that the source is unclear and follow up work is currently being undertaken to ascertain whether there is still an issue.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 COASTAL HAZARD INFORMATION PAMPHLET**

S. Moran spoke to this report stating that the background to this matter is that over the past few years coastal erosion has been an issue for communities. He advised that C. Ingle secured funding in order for the Coastal Hazard Information Pamphlet to be put together by Doug Ramsay from NIWA. S. Moran advised that this flags the issue for those considering purchasing or building close to the coast. Cr Davidson stated that protection works would need to be in place before a building permit is issued. S. Moran responded that a coastal hazard assessment would normally be done as part of the building process and this information is for those who are considering buying or already have property that is close to the beach that is eroding now or has the potential to erode. Cr Archer stated that he applauds the concept, it is a great initiative and he notes the availability in the proposal to talk to real estate companies but he feels that they are in the business of selling real estate. Cr Archer drew attention to the text in the pamphlet that speaks of being able to relocate property, he would like it amended to buildings or assets on properties as property boundaries are fixed.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that Council receive this report.*

*Carried*

## **5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to his report advising that the Environment Court has released its decision on TrustPower's application to strike out Mr Groome's appeal with the majority of the Court declining therefore Mr Groome's appeal is still live. C. Dall advised that another round of mediation may be necessary and if required this would take place early next year due to TrustPower's other commitments.

**Moved** (Archer / Scarlett) *that the October 2009 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

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

C. Dall reported that 81 site visits were made during the reporting period. Routine inspections of dairy effluent systems are currently being carried out. C. Dall reported that a spill of approximately 4,000 litres of timber treatment chemical was reported at IPL Gladstone. C. Dall advised that a large

amount of the chemical was collected in a sump and was able to be recovered and put back into storage, no drains or water bodies were near the spill.

C. Dall reported that a fault was reported at the Westport Waste Water Treatment Plant. Follow up monitoring has revealed no significant adverse affects to the environment and results from testing in the Buller River are within compliance limits.

C. Dall reported that results from monitoring of Solid Energy's consents and licensing operations have revealed that none of the notifications were particularly significant in terms of environmental effects.

C. Dall reported that work programmes for mining were processed within the 20 day target timeframe during the reporting period. C. Dall advised there is increasing interest in alluvial gold mining at the moment.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Archer)

1. *That the October 2009 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held for RC 06070 and RC 08029.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

### **MINUTES**

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that the confidential minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8 September 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

The meeting closed at 10.58 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date