

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MAY 2010 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, 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), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

Cr Ewen led a minute's silence in honour of former Councillor and Deputy Chairman, the late Mr Denis Shannahan.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 April 2010, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

T. Scott advised that there is an error in the minutes that recorded him as being present. He was not present for the April meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he attended a meeting with C. Ingle in Christchurch to meet with Dr Steve Ulrich, the new FRST Envirolink Official. He stated that this was a very fruitful meeting. They also attended a meeting on the same day with Hon Kate Wilkinson, Conservation Minister, to discuss matters relating to Wetlands on the West Coast. Cr Ewen advised that this was quite a lengthy but very worthwhile meeting. Cr Ewen reported that he and Cr Birchfield and Cr Robb attended a workshop of the Greymouth Floodwall Committee. He then followed up matters relating to this meeting with staff. Cr Ewen reported that he assisted with the tender process for works in South Westland and the Nelson Creek area for urgent repair works following a heavy rainfall event. Cr Ewen reported that he attended the reconvening of the Coastal Plan Change hearing. He noted that it was pleasing to get the number of rivers to be unblocked moved up from 19 rivers to 45. He stated that this was a good result and reported that some rivers have been flagged with conditions relating to the opening up of river mouths. Cr Ewen stated that this progress is a credit to staff that dealt with these negotiations.

Cr Ewen reported that he, Cr Robb and Cr Archer met earlier today to progress the Pest Management Strategy. Cr Ewen reported that he received correspondence from the Maruia area, the correspondent would like a survey on 1080 issues. He also received correspondence from a ratepayer regarding an ongoing boundary dispute. Cr Ewen is seeking further information on both matters prior to following up.

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 Environment Minister, Dr Nick Smith, has now announced the new Water Metering Regulations. S. Moran reported that the key thing to come out of this is that there are some exemptions and some flexibility likely to be contained in the regulations which are what this council had pushed for in their submissions. S. Moran stated that this is a big step for the Ministry to have taken, given where they started.

S. Moran reported that work has proceeded on the Coastal Plan Change 2 with the writing up of the decisions from the hearing panel following the reconvening of this hearing, the decisions would be released shortly.

S. Moran reported that one of the key changes for the reform of aquaculture legislation is that applicants can apply under the proposed changes for space outside of the aquaculture management areas. S. Moran advised that the new reforms for aquaculture legislation are unlikely to have a significant impact on this council and it would be business as usual if a consent application came in.

S. Moran reported that the West Coast Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan was reviewed recently. He advised that the CEG had an extraordinary meeting to consider the submissions that were made on the draft. It will now be presented to the Mayors and Chairs Forum for their approval and then onto Hon John Carter, Minister for Civil Defence for his comments prior to coming back to the Group for final adoption.

S. Moran reported that at the recent Engineering Lifelines Group meeting a presentation by Rob Langridge from GNS was included to demonstrate work done on developing a surface rupture avoidance zone for the Alpine Fault. It is hoped that this work will be taken to a wider audience to include the district councils. S. Moran stated that this was a very worthwhile.

S. Moran reported that the Ministry of Civil Defence carried out a test on the National Warning System recently. The group responded to the warning within the required timeframes.

S. Moran advised that Exercise Tangaroa is scheduled for the 20th of October. It will be based on a large Chilean earthquake that will have a significant impact on the West Coast. He advised that all West Coast councils, civil defence groups and emergency services would be participating.

S. Moran reported that staff have completed the autumn sampling round for water quality despite the weather not being the best during this time. S. Moran reported that the Waiho River triggered its alarm levels several times during recent heavy rainfall events. He stated that staff closely monitored this weather event.

C. Archer asked S. Moran if there has been any further development on a national level on physically warning the public of an imminent civil defence event. Cr Archer noted that radios are used but not everyone listens to the radio and in some places sirens are sounded but there are lots of areas that are not covered by sirens especially rural areas. S. Moran responded that there have been ongoing discussions regarding early warnings but there has been nothing in the way of a consistent system as it depends on the systems involved in each different area. Cr Archer asked S. Moran if the West Coast CDEM Group is satisfied that there is reasonable coverage of areas to notify people of region wide civil defence issues. S. Moran responded that the CEG discusses this frequently and have acknowledged that early warning is a concern in view of the widespread areas but it also depends on the type of event and the timeframe available to work in. Cr Archer stated that there was talk some time ago about a national texting link which generated a lot of interest but now seems to have died a natural death. He asked if this is still being considered. S. Moran said that some local authorities have signed up for this service but coverage will get to some but not everyone. Cr Scarlett stated that depending on the type of event the warnings would differ and that timeframes would also depend on the type of event as well. S. Moran stated that there is no foolproof way of providing warnings. Cr Archer stated that the secret is to warn people so that they understand that there is something developing and then the general advice is to listen to your radio station as there are national agreements in place with radio stations. Cr Birchfield stated that everyone has seen on TV what happens when there is an earthquake and a tsunami is sometimes generated, the best thing to do is to get to higher ground. He feels this is commonsense. S. Moran advised that there are standard operating procedures in place for getting information out to the radio networks, fire brigade, ambulance etc. This depends on what the situation is and what the Civil Defence Controller wants done. Cr Ewen stated that when such an event happens it is going to be specific to the location and there will be a commonsense solution to those specific sites.

S. Moran advised that he would take these comments to the CEG members.

Cr Ewen asked if the reference to a "limited set of exemptions" in the new water metering regulations applies to the whole of the West Coast or just parts of the West Coast. S. Moran responded that this relates to non-consumptive water takes and exemptions are for where the allocation status will not result in adverse effects on the water resource. Cr Ewen asked if every consent holder would have to do his or her own individual exemption or can council get an exemption because the region is overwhelmed with water? S. Moran advised that this is something to consider in terms of what extent we go to. C. Ingle advised that we need to wait and see what the final regulations look like, then bring back a draft exemption to Council which council will apply for, which should consent the whole of the coast but it is still too early to say. C. Ingle stated that it is encouraging to see those words ("limited set of exemptions") included.

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

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He stated that the granting of the consents for the Mokihiui River Hydro Power Scheme is the major consent granted during the reporting period. C. Dall advised that at the time of writing this report there have been appeals from three parties received. He reported that since writing this report the Dept of Conservation has also served notice of appeal on the consents. C. Dall stated that there is the appeal in relation to the consents granted by WCRC and Buller District for Hydro Development Ltd's proposed hydro scheme on the Stockton Plateau. He advised that two other parties have joined the appeal by Solid Energy. Cr Ewen asked C. Dall if the consent for Grey District Council to construct river protection works on the bed of Ford Creek is for protection work already in place. C. Dall replied that the consent is to allow for further work and to upgrade what was already in place.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that the May 2010 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that the recent field day for farmers in the Lake Brunner catchment to discuss low rate application effluent management was well attended. C. Dall reported that council staff have inspected the Blaketown Beach site and have advised Westroads Ltd that further beach profiles are required to ascertain whether or not gravel levels have built up sufficiently enough to allow gravel extraction. He stated that that no further gravel extraction will be allowed after 1 June unless the beach profiles have been completed. C. Dall explained the process involved in taking beach profiles to the meeting.

C. Dall advised that OceanaGold reported a minor tailings spill at their Globe Progress Mine, the spill was contained and there was no environmental impact from the incident. C. Dall reported that an Infringement Notice has been issued to Pike River Coal Ltd for the discharge of coal fines to the Big River. C. Dall reported that OnTrack have been carrying out upgrade work on the railway line between Greymouth and Christchurch. OnTrack have been doing day lighting of the tunnel at Kiwi Point. C. Dall reported that NZTA have carried out work on upgrading various bridges in the region. C. Dall advised that 12 complaints were received during the reporting period which is slightly below normal.

C. Dall reported that staff recently attended an oil spill response exercise at the Blaketown Lagoon. Cr Birchfield asked if the complaint at Hou Hou Creek was another false complaint. C. Dall responded that the creek was discoloured. Cr Davidson stated that he goes over Hou Hou Creek most days and it has been discoloured at times. Cr Davidson feels this is a genuine complaint. C. Dall spoke of the difficulties in ascertaining the cause of discoloration, as sometimes the source is different to previous complaints. C. Dall stated in this case there is also a backwater effect towards the highway caused by the high tide and this can cause ponding.

Moved (Archer / Scarlett) *that the May 2010 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.04 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date