

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
**COAL CREEK RATING DISTRICT**  
**HELD AT THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES**  
**ON 10 OCTOBER 2011, COMMENCING AT 7.05 PM.**

**PRESENT**

B. Jones, G. Wells, F. Riordan, O. Norton, S. McGeady, P. Kerridge, A. Beck

**IN ATTENDANCE**

West Coast Regional Council  
I. Cummings (Councillor), A. Birchfield (Councillor).  
M. Meehan, W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

**APOLOGIES**

A. Robb (Councillor), A. Inman

**BUSINESS**

Cr Cummings opened the meeting and welcomed those present.  
He introduced himself and the Council staff.

**Moved:**        ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 13 September 2010, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

*B. Jones / F. Riordan - Carried*

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2011. He reported that the opening balance as at 1 July 2010 was \$122,363.33 and the closing balance was \$134,209.02. W. Moen stated that it is good reserve is now being built up in the rating district account.

**Moved:**        ***"That the financial report for the 2010 / 2011 year be adopted".***

*P. Kerridge / B. Jones - Carried*

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**WORKS REPORT**

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period. He advised that there were no works carried out during the reporting period. W. Moen suggested that some aerial spraying was done this year, as there was none done last year. He advised that it is important the vehicle access is maintained down the bottom end of the scheme so that a good eye can be kept on what is happening in this area.

W. Moen reported that he carried out an inspection on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and \$29,500 worth of possible works were identified. These works include \$12,000 to raise the top bank by 1.00 metres, \$7,500 for aerial spraying and \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance. W. Moen advised that the

flood in December nearly overtopped the top bank and he therefore suggests that this bank is raised by 1.00 metre. O. Norton stated that this is a low area of the bank. B. Jones asked what would be used to raise the bank; W. Moen stated that compacted gravel or small rock and heavy rubble. O. Norton expressed his concern with work that a contractor is doing down the other end of the scheme, he stated that the area is the size of two football fields and is forcing the water back over the other way back to the east side of the bank. O. Norton is concerned that there are no consent applications for this work. W. Moen confirmed that there are consents in place for gravel takes in this area but he is unsure of the consent conditions relating to the building of a stopbank in this area. W. Moen agreed to arrange for the consent conditions in this area to be checked by council staff. W. Moen stated that what is happening at the top of the river has no bearing at all on the lower end of the scheme. Cr Birchfield agreed with W. Moen and stated that the low point in the stopbank needs to be built up. O. Norton stated that he does not want the bank raised at the low point until the bottom end of the scheme is sorted out. W. Moen warned O. Norton that it is very risky not to raise the bank at the top end, as these are two separate areas that are not linked in any way. W. Moen clarified the areas that the rating district scheme covers is the top section where it is stop banked and down to Beynon's yard where it is rocked and it does not cover the bottom part of riverbed where the gravel is being taken from. W. Moen advised that over the years the rating district has agreed not to worry about the bottom section below Beynon's Beach, as this is not part of the scheme. M. Meehan advised that he will arrange for an inspection of the gravel take area to ensure that this area is compliant with the consent conditions. He stated that the rating district's spokesperson will have the results of the inspection within a week. Cr Birchfield advised that the major issue is the raising of the stopbank at the top of the scheme. Extensive discussion ensued. S. McGeady stated that this top area is a risk to the rest of the scheme. W. Moen stated he has made a recommendation that the top bank is raised by 1.00 metre and it is now up to the meeting to decide what work they want done. Discussion took place on spraying of the stopbank and prices for this work. F. Beck expressed her concern at the price of aerial spraying. She stated that aerial spraying is very expensive and does spray does not need to be applied aerially. F. Beck offered to do this work using her four-wheeler. W. Moen gave an example of the benefits of applying weed spray aerially as the coverage and penetration is far more effective. W. Moen stated that in his experience aerial spraying is the most cost effective way of spraying. W. Moen advised that \$7,500 is only an estimate for this work and the area to be sprayed is approximately 5 –6 kms. M. Meehan advised that staff would be happy to get costings for hand application of this spraying work but quotes will be obtained and the best price will be taken. W. Moen advised that the usual practice is to engage the services of a firm that are doing two or three aerial jobs in the area so that costs are shared and the price is kept down. It was agreed that W. Moen will get three prices for the spraying and liaise with the Spokesperson on where to from here. It was agreed that W. Moen would liaise with S. McGeady regarding the raising of the top bank with S. McGeady providing the gravel for this area. The rating district does not agree to the \$12,000 to raise this top bank.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2010 / 2011 financial year be adopted.***
- 2. That the 2011/ 2012 works proposals be approved.***

*A. Beck / S. McGeady – Carried*

## **RATES 2012/ 2013**

W. Moen advised that with the proposed works now being \$17,500 and not \$29,500 and the previous rate struck for the 2011 / 2012 year being \$7,500 the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2012 / 2013 year is likely to be approximately \$103,000. W. Moen recommends a rate strike of \$10,000. W. Moen advised the meeting that consideration needs to be given to building up the account if they are considering raising the top bank as the longer they avoid

doing these works the more they will cost. W. Moen advised that the time will come when the rating district needs to spend a considerable amount of money on protection works. A. Beck is in favour of the rate strike staying at \$7,500. Discussion took place on the rate strike and future works. G. Wells asked if the groynes would take the pressure of the stop bank. W. Moen advised that they would. G. Wells feels that the rating district would be better off contributing a bit more money and to consider maintaining the groynes. Discussion took place on areas where the river is cutting in. B. Jones stated that everyone knows what is likely to happen with the river but nobody wants to fork out any money and the longer they wait the more it will cost. M. Meehan asked the meeting if they want to consider work on the groynes instead of raising the stopbank. A. Beck stated that land is being chewed out and they should investigate what the cost of the groyne work would be. F. Riordan stated that this might not necessarily be the solution and is aware that it will cost a lot of money. M. Meehan asked the meeting if they want W. Moen to do some work and get a price for some different scenarios to progress works in the rating district. B. Jones feels this would be a waste of time as last time this was considered the price was much cheaper and now it would cost a lot more and the rating district won't want to pay up. Further discussion ensued. B. Jones asked what has happened with the LAPP Fund. M. Meehan explained that council has now put \$0.5M into a contingency fund and each year it will be topped up and basically council will now self-insure. M. Meehan advised that council only made one claim to the LAPP Fund in the past and were contributing just under \$40,000 per year. He advised that after the Canterbury earthquake council's contribution was going to go up to \$125,000 per year.

**Moved:            *"That the rate strike for the 2012 / 2013 financial Year is \$7,500 (GST Excl)."***

*A. Beck / P. Kerridge – Carried*

It was agreed that W. Moen would inspect the proposed groynes area and get back to the meeting with a price for this work. A. Beck asked if repairing the groynes is the only option. W. Moen responded that whole frontage could be rocked but this would be expensive. B. Jones asked what is the point of getting these prices as they could be looking at hundreds of thousands and it is not going to happen and this would be a waste of W. Moen's time. It was noted that Grey District Council and NZTA were approached ten years ago for a financial contribution to works. B. Jones advised that he has information on this matter and he would provide it to W. Moen. M. Meehan advised that they could be approached again if the rating district wishes, as they are involved in other rating districts. Extensive discussion took place on where to from here and what could happen in a serious flood event. Cr Birchfield stated that his impression is that the rating district is not paying enough rates to their account building up and they should be putting rock in every year to keep on top of it. Cr Birchfield feels that the rating district should not be knocking their rate strike back to \$7,500 each year but keeping it at \$10,000 and spending some money to get protection work done.

W. Moen advised that there are two options, one is to look at putting a series of groynes in along the front of S. McGeady's property to stop the river chewing in. The second option would be to make a last stand on the main stopbank and build a massive bank and fully rock it and build it up like a deflector groyne, this would need to be beefed it up so that the river cannot chew in. W. Moen advised that this could be as expensive as putting groynes in at the top.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee and the current Spokesperson.

**Moved:            *"That the present committee carry on for a fourth term, namely:  
O. Norton  
F. Riordan  
A. Beck  
B. Jones  
be the committee for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."***

**Moved:**        *"That S. McGeady be elected as the spokesperson for the 2011 / 2012 financial year."*

*F. Riordan / P. Kerridge - Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Action Points:**

M. Meehan asked the meeting to confirm the actions that they wish to see happen.

- W. Moen to work with S. McGeady to gravel the stopbank.
- W. Moen to obtain three quotes for aerial spraying and to liaise with the Spokesperson on this matter.
- Compliance staff to check on the gravel takes on the Grey River above the bridge and report back to the rating district's spokesperson.
- M. Meehan to write to DoC to see if they would spray the willows in Coal Creek.

M. Meehan asked the meeting if they want W. Moen to prepare a report on the rock groynes. B. Jones said there is no point as he already has this information and he can circulate it to anyone who wants it.

P. Kerridge asked if Coal Creek itself is being looked at. W. Moen responded that Coal Creek has been put in the too hard basket as it is getting overgrown and it holds water up in ponds.

G. Wells advised that years ago it was attempted to establish a rating district for this area and through to Runanga but nobody wanted it. It was suggested that the willows in the creek are sprayed. W. Moen stated that this would be an option but who would pay for it. He wondered if DoC would pay for this spraying. M. Meehan advised that he would write to DoC to see if they can spray these willows.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.