

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 APRIL 2011 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

B. Chinn (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, T. Archer, I. Cummings, T. Scott, F. Tumahai

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 1 March 2011, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

Cr Archer asked what plans are proposed to advise the Reefton community of the changes to air quality standards that will see the banning of new domestic open fires from September 2012 unless compliance is achieved. M. Meehan responded that Council will be reviewing its Air Plan in the coming year but anyone building a new house will be advised of the new requirements. C. Ingle stated that the agency that has set this standard in place, which is the Ministry for the Environment, should be advising the community of the new statutory requirements. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed with the Minister for the Environment next month when he visits the West Coast.

Cr Davidson drew attention to Cr Birchfield's comments in the minutes relating to the dangerous section of State Highway 73, around the Mingha Bluffs area. Cr Davidson stated that he thought this area was on a priority list for improvement. C. Ingle advised Council has tried a number of times to have this section of road improved and minor improvements were made a couple of years ago. C. Ingle stated that Cr Cummings raised this matter with the Ecan Commissioners when they visited the West Coast last week. C. Ingle stated that this council made submissions on the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement a few months ago but it comes down to funding and often the NZTA funding goes to the Christchurch motorway projects, as this is where the greatest congestion happens. C. Ingle stated that this section of road is not inside our region therefore we only have a small amount of influence on this matter. Cr Scarlett advised that he spoke to the Commissioner in charge of this portfolio who is keen to meet with our council to progress this ongoing concern.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Chinn reported that it has been a quiet month. He has fielded some inquiries relating to quarries, dairy effluent and the Animal Health Board.

**Moved** (Chinn / Scarlett) *that the Council receive this report.*

*Carried*

## **5. REPORTS**

### **5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

#### **5.1.1 WAIVER OF TIME FOR LODGING FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSED LAND AND WATER PLAN**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that the Friends of Shearer Swamp have made a further late submission on the Proposed Land and Water Plan. M. Meehan advised that Sections 37 and 37A of the RMA tests for the waiving of the timeframe for this submission are met so council can therefore accept this late submission. M. Meehan advised that this late submission does not impact on any submitters or on council in preparing the recommending report.

Cr Archer stated that he is happy to move the recommendation but he feels that it is a little odd that Council is receiving a submission two months after the closure time and he would not like this to become the norm. Cr Archer accepted that no one is adversely affected by this late submission.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that the Council accept the Friends of Shearer Swamp late further submission.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.2 DRAFT REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that the transport strategy was notified on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. C. Ingle reported that 14 submissions have been received and staff are currently preparing a recommending report, which will receive input from the district councils and NZTA. C. Ingle advised that Crs Chinn and Scarlett have been appointed to the Hearing Panel, the hearing is due to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the Council receives this report.*

2. *That the Council accept the late addition to the Department of Conservation submission.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.3 UPDATE ON RECENT CIVIL DEFENCE WORK**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that following the February Christchurch he offered staff from this council to Civil Defence to assist Canterbury. He stated that this event was and still remains a national emergency. C. Ingle advised that Cr Archer also assisted in Canterbury as a Building Inspector. C. Ingle stated he was very impressed with the level of organisation both here and from other civil defence groups around the country. C. Ingle said that the civil defence structure in Christchurch was put together at very short notice and they were willing to change their structure as needed. C. Ingle stated that it was a good opportunity for our staff to assist and to see what it is like in a real event. He feels this will pay dividends if a civil defence event occurs on the West Coast.

C. Ingle reported that there are ongoing problems with flood warning in the Franz Josef catchment, which is causing concern for the Westland District Council Civil Defence Controller. C. Ingle advised that Waiho River gravel bed has risen to the point where the river is in permanent alarm level. The second problem is the concern with potential landslide / dam scenario / flood break in the Callery River that could cause a wall of water to come down and wash across the bridge and into the motels on the other side. C. Ingle advised that because the bed of the Callery River has risen so high there is no longer a warning system in place because the recorder now does not work. C. Ingle clarified that there is recording site on the main stem of the Waiho River Bridge so there is floodwarning in place for a regular flood event. C. Ingle explained how the recording device worked that was in place under the Callery Swingbridge. He advised that other options are being investigated. C. Ingle advised that the Ministry of Civil Defence has

picked up on this matter and they consider the Callery River to be quite a serious risk. Cr Davidson stated that area was being monitored on a daily basis. Cr Archer asked if the graph in the Flood Warning Update report indicating that the current bed level is a metre above the trigger level is correct. It was confirmed that this is correct. C. Ingle advised that this council is not the lead agency in terms of civil defence for this area, Westland District Council is. M. Meehan advised that a worker from DoC checks the Callery River every day and reports back to the Westland District Council each day. C. Ingle stated that this Council's role is to be the flood warning operator and to provide information to Westland District Council who then follow the civil defence plan. Cr Archer asked if there is a known correlation between water levels and downstream impacts for when water gets to a specific height. M. Meehan responded that recent surveys done over the last year show that 1.8 million cubic metres of gravel has been brought down. He stated that the Waiho is a constantly changing river and at the moment gravel is building up at a faster rate than previous years. C. Ingle advised that the Waiho River is difficult to manage and is changing on a monthly basis. He stated that floodwall upgrade the community has approved to go ahead has now had to be resurveyed as previous assumptions as to how high to build the wall need to be relooked at as the river has changed so much. C. Ingle advised that Mr Bob Hall completed a report some years ago, which predicted that the river would burst its banks and migrate south. C. Ingle advised that Mr Hall has now been asked to have a second look at the Waiho River, ten years on from his first report. C. Ingle stated he has been communicating with the Chief Executive of Westland District Council to discuss how best to manage the issue of civil defence in particular, how to relocate the motel. C. Ingle stated that there is a landslide risk in the Callery River, there is now no warning system in place, and if there were people in the motels at the time of a landslide dam failure then there could be loss of life. C. Ingle advised that the camping ground was moved around 10 years ago. Cr Scarlett asked that if the motels were gone, would the Callery River then be allowed to take its own course. T. Scott stated that if the river blew it could go down the main highway. Cr Davidson stated that the initial idea from Mr Hall's report was to let the river meander on the south side. Cr Scarlett asked if that were to happen would it take out farmland. Cr Chinn responded that the river would take out farmland and the main highway. Cr Chinn stated that he has been told that there is over 1000 tonne of gravel going into the Waiho River each day.

**Moved** (Archer / Scarlett) *That the Council receive this report.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.4 FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

M. Meehan stated that he would take this report as read and the Waiho and Callery matters were already discussed in the previous report. He drew attention to the photograph on page 9, which illustrates the changes in the Callery River and why council can no longer provide a warning service for this river. M. Meehan stated that the main issue for staff is with the Waiho River being in alarm mode constantly and staff having to keep in contact with the agencies per the Flood Manual procedures. M. Meehan reported that an alarm was missed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March but measures have been put in place so this does not happen again. M. Meehan reported that a Waiho River Working Group has been set up and consists of our staff and staff from NZTA, DoC and Westland District Council. This group shares information and is working with NZTA to raise the Waiho River Bridge by two metres.

M. Meehan reported that a new rain gauge has been set up on the Garibaldi Range to provide rainfall information in the Karamea catchment. Cr Scarlett expressed his concern that this range gets a lot of snow on it in the winter. M. Meehan agreed to follow up Cr Scarlett's concern with council's Hydrologist. Cr Archer asked M. Meehan how long it would take to interpret the data that will now be able to be gathered from this rain gauge and to correlate the data against actual river flows to assist with predictions. M. Meehan that the new rain gauge is in place to enable staff to advise residents of what is happening in the mid range areas during a heavy rainfall event. The rainfall information does not require to be directly correlated to river flows.

M. Meehan drew attention to the graph in this report that showed the effect of the Japan Tsunami on the tide gauge at Greymouth.

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

*Carried*

## **5.1.5 SURFACE WATER QUALITY UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that this report shows the contact recreation water quality sampling results for the summer period. M. Meehan stated that the last two readings showing a moderate to high risk at Shingle Beach and Marrs Beach should be disregarded. Buller District Council provided these samples for compliance at a time when an overflow from the pump station occurred. They should not have been used for this report.

M. Meehan reported that two staff members are involved with the ongoing aquatic weed survey training, which has been run by DoC. Cr Cummings asked for the results of his query as to whether or not Largarosiphon is in Lake Mapourika. M. Meehan responded that staff have emailed Cr Cummings to inform him that sampling areas in this lake are clear. T. Scott asked how far to the south are lakes monitored for contact recreation water quality. C. Ingle responded that only lakes in populous areas were monitored, as previous monitoring of southern lakes over the years has been clear.

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

*Carried*

## **5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to this report advising that the first consent has been granted for a discharge of phosphorous fertiliser in the Lake Brunner catchment. C. Dall reported that the intention is for this consent to only be used a few times then the consent holder will be changing to slow release Phosphorus fertiliser.

C. Dall reported that agreement has now been reached regarding Solid Energy's appeal against the signoff regarding their notified consent application for the Proposed Stockton Plateau Hydro Power Scheme. C. Dall reported that a draft Consent Order has been filed with the Environment Court for approval. It is hoped that outstanding issues will be resolved and a formal court hearing can be avoided as this will be very costly.

C. Dall reported that a request for information has been received from the Royal Commission regarding the Pike River Mine disaster. He advised that the information sought relates to consents and compliance monitoring requirements for the Pike River Mine since its inception.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *that the April 2011 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

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

C. Dall spoke to this report advising that Westroads Ltd have supplied beach profiles for their licence areas, which includes the Blaketown Beach licence area. C. Dall advised the company would not commence gravel extraction at the Blaketown Beach site until there has been sufficient gravel build up and once this occurs then further surveying will be carried out. Cr Scarlett asked if the agreement in place between council and Westroads Ltd relating to the beach profiles is based on science or consultation with the public. C. Dall responded that the agreement is based on historic survey information and an acceptable baseline which was agreed to in 2005. C. Dall confirmed that the baseline is based on science. Cr Birchfield commented that the serial complainant at Awatuna is again listed in the complaints / incidents report. C. Dall responded that this is one of these situations where sometimes these incidents are sporadic and sometimes by the time council staff get to the site the problem may not be occurring and sometimes it can be difficult to substantiate what is causing the problem.

C. Dall reported that a meeting has been held with Solid Energy Ltd to find a way of avoiding further sediment discharges such the one in Granity Creek in December. C. Dall reported that a more robust way of assessing and approving work programmes is being sought with experts being contracted to do peer reviews of what is proposed by Solid Energy Ltd in terms of sediment control. C. Dall reported that a workshop would be held on the Cypress Mine in May.

Cr Scarlett asked C. Dall why was an abatement notice and infringement notice issued for the same offences but in different areas and why weren't they both the same. C. Dall clarified that an abatement notice is issued when council is seeking the discharger to take some form of action

and this formalises the request and puts a set timeframe on it. An abatement notice does not carry a fine but it could lead to an infringement notice if they fail to meet the abatement notice requirements. C. Dall advised that an infringement notice means that a fine is issued relating to some kind of activity that is unauthorised and may have been a one off and could relate to a break down of equipment or a deficiency in an effluent system.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That the April 2011 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bond held for Resource Consents RC02260, RC03204, RC05181. RC006058.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.24 a.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date