

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *that the apologies from F. Tumahai and T. Archer be accepted.*

*Carried*

C. Ingle advised that C. Dall is unable to attend today's meetings as he is at the Environment Court in Christchurch.

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

There was no public forum.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 September 2011, be confirmed as correct with the added correction as stated below.*

*Carried*

Cr Birchfield drew attention to his comment on page four of the minutes where it states that small hydro dams are a permitted activity in the Grey District Plan. Cr Birchfield advised that he said schemes, not dams, as many schemes do not have dams.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

There was no Chairman's report.

#### **5. REPORTS**

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

##### **5.1.1 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to his report advising that the outcome of the Environment Court case relating to the provisions for wetlands are expected soon given the court proceedings conclude today. Once decision is handed they will be incorporated into the Plan. M. Meehan advised that a letter has been set to submitters advising them of the delay due to the court case and it is likely that hearings for the Land and Water Plan will be held in April / May 2012. He stated that this is a quieter time for year for farmers to attend the hearings.

M. Meehan reported that staff are continuing to work on the submission for Environmental Reporting discussion document that the Ministry for the Environment has put out. He is hopeful that the submission will be circulated to Councillors for their comments this week.

M. Meehan reported that the Freedom Camping Act 2011 came into force prior to the Rugby World Cup. He advised that this new Act allows local territorial authorities and the Department of Conservation to take regulatory action against people who are breaching this law by issuing infringement notices and instant fines.

M. Meehan reported that there have been two more alarms triggered on the Waiho River during the reporting period. M. Meehan stated that medium to large amounts of rain result in the Waiho being the first river to go through its alarms. He stated there has been a further alarm on this river today.

M. Meehan drew attention to the NIWA report relating to the Callery River, which is attached to his report. He stated that as a result of the information contained in this report Council has not installed any monitoring equipment at the site because the timeframe between the dam failure and the water reaching the bridge would not allow for any warning. M. Meehan advised that the NIWA report advises that the effects are a lot more minor than initially thought.

M. Meehan reported that the final results for air quality in Reefton are now to hand. He advised that in earlier years slight variations have been recorded but MfE have now put out some guidance for exceedences and this Council now reports the same way as every other council in the country.

Cr Robb asked if there is a trigger for evacuation in the Franz Josef catchment. M. Meehan advised that the Westland District Council has an evacuation plan in place for the Franz Josef and the south side area and this council advises Westland District Council on what is required. C. Ingle advised that the role of this council is floodwarning and we do not take this as far as the civil defence decision to evacuate, which is the responsibility of the district council. C. Ingle also advised that the diagram on page 21 of the agenda shows some old information, and the stopbank has since been upgraded and council is now more comfortable knowing that this stopbank would not overtop since the upgrade. T. Scott asked M. Meehan if anything has been done to protect the southern stopbanks should the dam fail. M. Meehan responded that there are different scenarios if the dam should burst, it could be gradual or a sudden burst. He advised that the information we have from NIWA advises that there should not be too much concern regarding rising of water but it should be kept a careful eye on. M. Meehan advised that other authorities such as NZTA and DoC have been alerted to this matter. M. Meehan stated that Council's River Engineer has looked at this area and he is comfortable with it and the information currently to hand advises that it is only a 0.6M rise. M. Meehan stated that there is anecdotal information from the 1990's that this has occurred before and it amounted to nothing and it was a similar sized lake. Cr Scarlett stated that to his knowledge there has never been a dam burst on the West Coast. He advised that there were concerns for the Buller River during the 1967 Inangahua earthquake and the dam formed at that time gradually degraded.

Cr Davidson commented on the new Freedom Camping Bylaw which allows camping anywhere in the West Coast district as long as there is not a sign saying no camping.

**Moved** (Cummings / Scarlett) *that this report is received.*

*Carried*

## **5.1.2 CIVIL DEFENCE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising the new Civil Defence and Emergency Management computer system (EMIS) has now gone live. He advised that a staff member from this council and one from Grey District Council have attended the training for this new system. C. Ingle advised that the new system is based on an Internet system and the theory is if everyone is using the same information on the Internet then there is no need for replication with writing situation reports.

C. Ingle advised that a positive response has been received from Z Energy relating to fuel storage on the West Coast. He stated that Z Energy believe that there is sufficient contingency in place to bring fuel into the region from several sources and several road routes but they are relying on road transport. C. Ingle advised that Z Energy have offered to have further discussions on how emergency fuel storage could be developed. C. Ingle stated that costs are high in this area and therefore council would need to discuss this prior to taking the matter further. C. Ingle advised that it is difficult to gauge how much fuel would be needed to store and it would depend on the type of event. Discussion ensued on the options for getting fuel to the West Coast during an emergency event.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

### 5.1.3 WORKING TOGETHER AGREEMENT – ANNUAL REPORT 2011

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that this report is Council's annual assessment of where the Working Together Agreement has taken both Council and Westland Milk Products. C. Ingle advised that the agreement has been in place for five years and is essentially our own Fonterra Accord. C. Ingle stated that this agreement is working very well and particularly over the last 12 months where huge improvements have been made towards environmental goals within the dairy sector. C. Ingle drew attention to the bullet points in the report and stated that the partnership approach is working extremely well.

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

*Carried*

## 5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

### 5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in C. Dall's absence advising that C. Dall had been asked by the Environment Court to attend the hearing for the appeals on the variation regarding Wetlands as he is the person that would be charged with implementing the Plan provisions.

C. Ingle asked to take the report as read and offered to answer any questions from Council. Cr Chinn asked if Mr G. Tripe, who has lodged a resource consent application to disturb the bed of the Waiho River associated with construction of a gravel bund and formation of diversion channels, lives in Franz Josef. M. Meehan advised that Mr Tripe is both a resident and a ratepayer in the Lower Waiho rating district. M. Meehan advised that these are small scale river works. T. Scott asked why is RC10217 a non-notified resource consent. C. Ingle advised that he would ask C. Dall to email T. Scott with the rationale behind that decision.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Birchfield) *that the October 2011 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### 5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in C. Dall's absence. He advised that the source of stormwater discharge into the Hokitika River has been identified. C. Ingle reported that council staff in conjunction with staff from Westland District Council found that this discharge relates to a stone carving operation in Hokitika. C. Ingle advised that steps have been taken to avoid further discharges and this matter has now been resolved. C. Ingle advised that although there were a lot of complaints during the reporting period most were easily resolved.

Cr Scarlett drew attention to the infringement notice for earthworks causing dirty water at Reefton and a similar complaint for a waterway discharge relating to coal mining. Cr Scarlett asked why was a gold mining operation issued with an infringement notice where water was involved. Cr Scarlett asked why is an abatement notice issued and then an infringement notice. C. Ingle offered to follow this up with C. Dall and get back to Cr Scarlett as he is unsure of the background to these cases. Cr Birchfield is concerned at the number of complaints coming through and is worried that we are becoming a nation of whingers.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Birchfield) *that the October 2011 report for the Compliance Group be received.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.56 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date