

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 JULY 2012, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.48 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 12 June 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Moved (Archer / Chinn) *that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting dated 21 June 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that the stopbank upgrade work for the Coal Creek rating district has commenced and will take about a month to complete and will cost \$135,936. M. Meehan reported that 1,520 tonnes of rockwork has been completed in the Vine Creek rating district and 2,000 tonnes of rockwork has been done in the Taramakau rating district. He reported that work has also been undertaken in the Lower Waiho rating district.

M. Meehan drew attention to the photographs of the blasting done in the Kiwi Quarry. He reported that the blast was carried out on the 20th of June and the staff working on the blast ensured that it went to plan and ran smoothly as per the design from the engineers involved. M. Meehan advised that the road was closed during the blast and for some time after while fly rock was cleaned up and the railway line was cleared. M. Meehan reported that a potential risk in the quarry has now been dealt with and staff are working on the pinnacle to eliminate this risk as well.

M. Meehan reported that work is progressing well in other council owned quarries. In the Okuru Quarry an inquiry has been received for a reasonably large amount of rock to protect a subdivision. He advised that access agreements have been arranged with DoC for the retrieval of this rock. Cr Chinn stated that

prices seem to be quite competitive and jobs are being done at reasonable prices. M. Meehan responded that three for four tenders are being received for most jobs and the prices are very competitive which is good for the rating districts.

Cr Cummings stated that he had checked out the Coal Creek floodwall and there did not seem to be any binding clays and no armoring, he asked if this was satisfactory for a floodwall. M. Meehan responded that the floodwall will be compacted down and rock armoring will be put on in the final stage of the contract.

Cr Davidson asked if there is any progress on where to from here with the Waiho River following the publication of Mr Bob Hall's engineering report. M. Meehan responded that the Lower Waiho rating district wishes to simply maintain the existing works that are in place but this matter can be discussed at the annual meeting in October. Cr Cummings stated that there seems to be a lot of dissent in the Lower Waiho rating district at the moment. Cr Cummings asked if the River Engineer (Mr Hall) actually attended the rating district meeting. M. Meehan responded that Mr Hall did not attend the annual meeting but met with some members of the rating district committee, he made an aerial inspection and a ground inspection of the river but did not meet with every member of rating district. M. Meehan advised that Mr Hall's services were engaged in December, after the annual meeting. Cr Davidson asked whether now that the glacier is receding is there a bigger build up of gravel? M. Meehan responded that it is unpredictable what may happen but in the short term there is likely to be more gravel coming down. Cr Archer wondered if there is a market for the gravel that is coming down and if it is of good quality. M. Meehan responded that there are some resource consents for gravel takes in place on the Waiho River but there is very little demand at the moment. Cr Scarlett felt that there would be transport costs involved as it can only be moved by road from this area. Cr Davidson stated that there is a need for a plan for the overall river. M. Meehan responded that council is working with NZTA, Westland District Council and DoC to ensure coordination. He advised that Mr Hall mentions in his report that the Waiho River is heading towards the Tartare River and if this should happen there may be an impact on the downstream properties. C. Ingle advised that the plan at the moment is to monitor the changes in the river and to adapt as the river changes but it is very difficult to have a plan for a river like the Waiho. He stated that the river could stay relatively the same for ten years or it could change quite suddenly. C. Ingle feels that sooner or later the Franz Josef rating district will want to do something about the river upstream of the township but the river will always choose what it wants to do and it is very difficult to have a specific plan for a river such as this. M. Meehan advised that all the agencies that are working on the overall plan for the Waiho River are aware of what the potential impacts could be should the Waiho River meet with the Tartare River with Westland District Council having infrastructure in this area and NZTA being concerned about the state highway infrastructure.

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

Carried

4.1 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that this is for the 11 months until the end of May with the surplus being \$520,000 and the net positive budget variances amount to \$190,000. R. Mallinson commented that the re-roofing of the council building is included in the expenditure under the building maintenance projects. R. Mallinson reported that the Forsyth Barr and Westpac investment portfolios eased back during May and this reflects the ongoing uncertainty in the international equity markets due to the European sovereign debt crisis and this is the major reason for the overall surplus easing back.

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

Carried

4.2.1 INSURANCE RENEWALS FOR 2012 / 13

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that the renewal of council insurances for 2012/13 is in accordance with the Risk Management Policy. He advised that building cover has cost an extra 15% and this is on top of the previous increase last year of 85% but the total cost of insurance cover was less than budgeted though slightly more than last year. R. Mallinson commented that it was very fortunate that Council was able to exit LAPP when it did. Cr Birchfield asked R. Mallinson how much public liability insurance does Council carry? R. Mallinson responded that there is around \$200M worth of cover through Riskpool. Cr Birchfield commented that the premium of \$69,000 seems quite reasonable. R. Mallinson

commented that premium is reasonable but Council has had to pay a series of calls to Riskpool due to weather tight home liabilities incurred by other councils in the past. R. Mallinson stated that it would be very unlikely that the situation of the weather tight homes problems would ever be repeated.

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

Carried

4.2.2 SETTING OF RATES FOR 2012 / 13

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and took it as read.

Moved (Robb / Davidson)

1. *That Council set rates for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 as per the Rates Funding Impact statement contained in pages 96 – 102 of the 2012/22 LTP.*
2. *That as per the 2012 / 22 LTP, there will be two instalments:*
 - *The first instalment will be due on 1 September, with a 10% penalty if not paid by 20 October 2012 as per sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA 2002.*
 - *The second instalment will be due on 1 March 2013, with a 10% penalty if not paid by 20 April 2013 as per sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA 2002.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He stated that he attended the recent Mayors and Chairs Forum, a meeting with Solid Energy Ltd's Board and CEO, the Land and Water Plan hearings and deliberations and the Zone 5 and 6 meeting on the 20th of June. C. Ingle stated that the main item that was discussed at the Zone 5 and 6 meeting was the South Island Strategic Alliance. C. Ingle stated that this is similar to the upper North Island Strategic Alliance where the Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Auckland regions have grouped together as strategic alliance to lobby Government on issues that are of relevance to their super region. C. Ingle advised that the South Island is wanting to emulate the same thing as this will give a little bit more political power and for all councils in the South Island to speak with one voice. C. Ingle stated that there are over 20 councils in the South Island and those in the top of the south are particularly supportive of this project.

C. Ingle advised that the new Individual Development Programme for Staff is really just a review of something that has been in place for a long time. He stated that the new programme is a performance system for staff and the focus is being changed to develop staff and to identify training needs. C. Ingle stated that the new programme is going well so far.

C. Ingle reported that C. Dall, Consents and Compliance Manager, finishes on Friday. C. Ingle advised that Mr Jackie Adams, a local man, has now accepted the position and will commence work on the 23rd of July. C. Ingle advised that Mr Adams was the head of the CIB in Greymouth and has a military and police background from the UK. C. Ingle advised that while Mr Adams is coming up to speed with his new role both he and M. Meehan have delegations to cover the decision-making role. C. Ingle advised that he is currently negotiating support from Otago Regional Council who have senior consents staff who are happy to support us during the transition period.

C. Ingle reported that there were quite a few inquiries last week regarding the Warm West Coast Programme from Reefton people following the mail out to Reefton residents regarding this opportunity. C. Ingle reported that he called in to Reefton and spoke with staff at the Buller District Council Library to explain the Programme. C. Ingle reported that two contracting providers have now signed up and a likely further two providers may also sign up.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *That this report be received.*

Carried

7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

The Chairman reported that he attended the Mayors and Chairs Forum in June and he also attended the Land and Water Plan hearings along with his fellow Councillors. Cr Scarlett also attended the Zone 5 and 6 meeting. Cr Scarlett reported that he attended an RMA writing decisions course which was an interesting course and was well attended by South Island people. He also attended to the usual constituency matters.

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

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

The draft meeting dates for the annual rating district meetings were tabled and confirmed and will be now circulated.

The meeting closed at 11.17 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date