

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRANZ JOSEF RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE St John'S ROOMS, FRANZ JOSEF ON 11 OCTOBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 8.30 AM.

PRESENT

G. Molloy, T. Skinner, L. Tarplett, G. Gibb, T. Gibb, D. Ferguson, P. York, W. Costello (DoC), M. Welgus (Scenic Circle Hotel)

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
B. Chinn, (Councillor), D. Davidson, (Councillor)
M. Meehan, P. Birchfield, W. Moen, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

K. Hartshorne

T. Gibb / G. Gibb - Carried

BUSINESS

Cr Chinn 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 October 2011, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

G. Molloy / B. Chinn - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Meehan presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2012. The opening balance for the year was \$287,827.57 and the closing balance is \$203,313.20. He reported that \$178,988.51 of expenses were accrued during the reporting period.

Moved: *"That the financial report for the 2011 / 2012 year be adopted".*

T. Gibb / P. York - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

WORKS REPORT

W. Moen presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. He reported that \$178,988.51 worth of works was carried during the reporting period. W. Moen advised that as a result of the inspection carried out on the 10th of July 2012 \$223,500 worth of works were identified for the 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 period. He stated that the projected works need to be discussed as the Bob Hall report recommends that this work is carried out fairly quickly as the river is now very close to the town. W. Moen advised that one of the top priorities in Mr Hall's view is that there is a danger of the Waiho River breaking through and coming over the top of the bank and coming through the town. W. Moen advised that this

area has been surveyed and this has revealed that a 2 metre wide stopbank would cut off potential flooding from the Waiho River. W. Moen advised that he has liaised with NZTA to ascertain what their plans are for this area including the bridge approach. He stated that the stopbank would be about 50 metres inland from the existing riverbank and roughly parallel to the riverbank and it would be 300 metres long. It would be fully rocked and could be raised further if needed be. W. Moen advised that the cost would be approximately \$223,000 but it could be done cheaper if it is tendered out. W. Moen advised that the rock would be about \$30 per tonne. A speaker asked where would the rock come from. P. Birchfield advised that there are three options for rock sources, which are the Tartare River, Waiho River or the base of the Fox hills. She stated that there is resource consent for the removal of rock from the Waiho River, she is unsure if there is resource consent for the removal of rock from the Tartare. P. Birchfield advised that she is yet to approach the landowner at Fox hills but there is good granite in this area. W. Moen stated that the rock needs to be off good quality, as the wall needs to be built to last. P. York asked how much is NZTA likely to contribute. W. Moen advised that he is unsure at this stage but NZTA are adopting a wait and see attitude to see what happens with the river but they are able to raise the bridge by another two metres. G. Molloy stated that he feels that Mr Hall's suggestion that the river is going to "go" in five to ten years is bullsh*** and he doubts that this would happen and he thinks that putting the new bank in the proposed Bush Block is premature. W. Moen advised that NZTA have assured him that they will maintain the spurs in this area. G. Molloy stated that Mr Hall's report from 2000 contains a whole lot of recommendations that have never happened. W. Moen stated the Mr Hall knows West Coast Rivers very well and he has done work here over the past 15 – 20 years. W. Moen stated that Mr Hall is an expert and he advice should not be ignored. M. Meehan advised that W. Costello informed him of a meeting with the Prime Minister, John Key, which occurred a couple days ago. M. Meehan invited W. Costello to brief the meeting on this matter. W. Costello advised that the outcome of the meeting was the Prime Minister's commitment to getting some resources into looking into the risk factors for the Franz Josef township and to use this to determine what the best options are for the town. He advised that DoC would be writing to the Mayor to get the assistance that the Prime Minister has promised. M. Meehan advised that one option would be to put the stopbank upgrade on hold pending the report from the Prime Minister but he does not want to put this potential urgent work on hold if the report is going to take some years to be completed and the threat of the river is still there. M. Meehan advised that once the report is to hand then council needs to work closely with DoC to make an informed decision on where to from here. M. Meehan stated that he respects the experience and the opinion of Mr Hall and he feels that when someone like Mr Hall identifies risks then notice needs to be taken of these risks. M. Meehan stated that at the end of the day the Waiho River is a threat to the Franz Josef township and it needs to be dealt with the best way possible to avoid potential harm to land and potential loss of life. P. York asked how long the works would take from start to finish. W. Moen responded that the job would take around 4 – 6 weeks but the tender process would take 2 –3 weeks prior to work commencing. W. Moen explained in detail how the work would be done. P. York asked who paid for the Hall report. M. Meehan responded that council paid for the report and it did not cost the rating district any money.

W. Moen advised that the proposed works includes \$20,000 for unforeseen works. He stated that all other works seems to be up to scratch. Discussion took place on the likelihood of NZTA funding some of the upgrade. M. Meehan stated that NZTA do no have an open cheque book and they have to account for every penny just like everyone else and they sometimes have a reactionary approach.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Works Report covering the 2011 / 2012 financial year be adopted.*
- 2. That the 2012 / 2013 works proposals be approved subject to the report from the Prime Minister's office becoming available and a meeting is arranged between NZTA and the rating district committee on the options for the North Bank being received.*

G. Molloy / G. Gibb – Carried

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with the rating district committee and the affected parties prior to any work commencing. W. Moen advised that OPUS have advised that they would be maintaining the groynes. M. Meehan advised that this information would be requested in writing.

G. Molloy spoke extensively about matters around the Franz Josef area that he is concerned about including areas that are and are not included in the rating district. M. Meehan advised Mr Molloy to write to council or make a submission on council's Annual Plan if he has concerns.

RATES 2013 / 2014

W. Moen advised the recommended rate strike for this year is \$100,000 (GST Excl). He advised that by the end of the financial year in June 2013 it is likely that there will approximately \$83,000 in the rating district account but if the proposed works don't go ahead then there will be more in the rating district account.

Moved: *"That the recommended rate strike for the 2013 / 2014 financial Year be \$100,000 GST Excl.*

T. Gibb / P. York – Carried

W. Moen advised that he had omitted to speak about the cross sections that were done. He advised that there is a general erosion trend from the outlet of the Callery River, downstream to opposite the old THC Hotel, a general build up (accretion) downstream to the old terminal Moraine (Waiho Loop) and then erosion downstream of the moraine. This equates to an overall depletion of 68,964 cubic metres of gravel over the 13 month period from March 2011 to April 2012. W. Moen stated that this area needs to be watched carefully. It was noted that it was previously recommended that the cross sections are done every year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current members of the rating district committee. G. Molloy nominated Peter York to join the committee. G. Gibb seconded this.

Moved: *"That the present committee, namely:*

Chris Brooks

Kevin Gibson

Chris Roy

Grant Gibbs

Tim Gibb

Kathy Hartshorne

Gavin Molloy

Peter York

be appointed as the committee for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."

G. Molloy / G. Gibb - Carried

G. Molloy stated that he has tried several times to get a meeting of the rating district committee organised and has not been successful.

Moved: *"That G. Gibb be elected as the spokesperson for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

G. Molloy / P. York - Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Chinn stated that council has over 20 rating districts and the rating districts that have a good committee and a good spokesperson work well. Cr Chinn stated that council encourages the rating

districts to have meetings prior to the annual meeting so that everyone is singing from the same sheet. Cr Chinn stated he has confidence in G. Gibb being a good spokesperson. G. Molloy stated that a good strong voice on behalf of the community is important.

There was no other general business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.22 am.