

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOWER WAIHO RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE FRANZ JOSEF COMMUNITY HALL ON 11 OCTOBER 2012, COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.

#### PRESENT

C. Brooks, R. Quaife, L. Richards, T. Bruning, N. Frendrup, K. Frendrup, N. Frendrup (Franz Dairies), P. Halford, R. Richards, A. Pangan

#### IN ATTENDANCE

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

#### APOLOGIES

B. Rietveld

*T. Bruning / P. Halford - Carried*

#### BUSINESS

B. 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."*

*T. Bruning / R. Richards - Carried*

#### MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen advised that it was requested last year that he bring any relevant historic reports that council holds to the next annual meeting. He asked that these reports not be taken away but he would provide copies should anyone want them.

M. Meehan advised that the Bob Hall report on the Waiho River has been circulated. He previously advised that copies would be available at today's meeting and he offered copies to those present.

**Voting:** M. Meehan advised the voting was discussed at last year's meeting. He advised that Council has had a number of discussions on voting. M. Meehan advised that it is important to point out that these meetings are liaison meetings of the rating district and council uses these meetings to get feedback from ratepayers on matters such as works and rate strikes. M. Meehan advised that the annual meetings are run under Council's Standing Orders and this is why a Councillor chairs them. M. Meehan advised that everyone in attendance who is a ratepayer is able to vote and these votes are a recommendation to council and council has discussion on the recommendations and makes the final decision on the recommendations.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Meehan presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2012. He advised that the financial year started off with a deficit balance of -\$5,586.13. The rate strike for the 2011 / 2012 year was \$50,000 and \$27,837.52 worth of expenses were incurred during the financial year. M. Meehan reported that the closing balance is now a credit balance of \$17,610.46 but this is not a lot of money in the account for a rating district of this size.



that the rubbish dump is moved as she feels why should the rating district have to pay for the upgrade. She stated if the rubbish dump wasn't there then there wouldn't be a problem. W. Moen disagreed with this and stated that the rubbish dump is only a very small piece of land. W. Moen stated that this is just a name for the bank as it protects the road along the flats. C. Brooks asked what is the difference in the heights of the cross sections now. W. Moen advised that he does not have this information with him but cross sections are now taken every year. R. Richards asked if there are resource consents in place to raise the stopbank. W. Moen responded that there is not a resource consent in place yet but M. Meehan stated that this would cost approximately \$1000. W. Moen spoke of various rock sources in the area. He stated that at the moment prices from contractors for works are very competitive as there is not a lot of work around. W. Moen stated that it would never be cheaper as it is at the moment. L. Richards stated that she is keen to see this job progress, as she is concerned about the flood risk. Cr Chinn stated that council needs some direction from the meeting as to where to from here. M. Meehan advised that recently some tender prices have come in a lot lower than usual. T. Bruning asked what is the usual method used to fund new works. M. Meehan responded that options are provided to ensure that the good interest rates are obtained. He gave the example of the Punakaiki rating district where they borrowed \$400,000 and paid it off over some years. M. Meehan advised that if the works were agreed to then another meeting would be called to discuss loan options. M. Meehan advised that the linking of the two banks (Rata Knoll) would be a separate job.

***To progress with further work on the proposed Rubbish Dump Stopbank upgrade.***

*R. Richards / L. Richards – Carried*

W. Moen advised that this is a small job to finalise the figures for the linking of the stopbanks and he only needs to get a survey and design done. M. Meehan advised it would be just as easy to present loan options for both jobs. They could be done separately or together and staff would come and present the options to the rating district. M. Meehan advised that he could have these figures in a couple of week's time. T. Bruning stated that the job needs to be done. It was agreed that the upgrade to the Rubbish Dump Stopbank should be commenced as soon as possible. Cr Chinn agreed that there could be money left over from price estimates. Cr Chinn asked to meeting if they want the Rubbish Bank Stopbank upgrade to be tendered out.

***To investigate loan options for both upgrades and to present these to the rating district in December.***

*R. Richards / L. Richards – Carried*

***That further work is undertaken to cost and upgrade the Rubbish Dump Stopbank and to proceed with this work.***

*R/ Richards / T. Bruning – Lost*

T. Bruning, R & L. Richards and P. Halford were in favour of this.

Mr & Mrs Frendrup and L. Frendrup, R. Quaife, C. Brooks were against this motion.

Cr Chinn advised that the voting is 4 / 6 with 6 people being against the decision and therefore the matter will go back to the full council for them to make the final decision. L. Richards stated if the rate strike had of stayed at \$100,000 last year there would have been enough money in the account.

## **RATES 2013 / 2014**

W. Moen advised that with the proposed works and the rate of \$50,000 previously struck for the 2012 / 2013 year the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2012 / 2014 financial year is likely to be \$38,000. He recommends that the rate strike be increased to \$100,000 in view of the proposed works. A speaker stated that council had re-struck the rate to \$50,000 last year, as members of the rating district were unable to afford the \$100,000, he asked what has changed this year. Cr Chinn stated that council feels for the ratepayers and he knows that some people struggle to pay their rates. He stated that council thought that by giving some

relief to the ratepayers last year that this would be helpful. N. Frendrup stated that he couldn't see what has changed to put the rate back up to \$100,000. Cr Chinn stated that if there is money in the account then it cushions the blow for ratepayers. A speaker asked how much money would be needed if all the works were done including the linking of the two stopbanks. W. Moen advised that the ideal situation for this type of rating district would be around \$250,000 in the rating district account. W. Moen stated that he has seen situations in rating districts where the rate strike has been relaxed and then there have been major works required with not enough money in the account to cover the works. He advised that when this happens people have had to write out personal cheques to cover this amount. Cr Chinn stated that Audit NZ question councils if they allow rating district accounts to go into the red. It was noted that there are 22 ratepayers in the rating district. Cr Davidson advised that funds have now been exhausted from the LAPP fund but council now has a catastrophe fund in place.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

*R. Richards / T. Bruning*

Cr Chinn asked for a show of hands. The result was 4 in favour and 6 against. N. Frendrup moved an amended motion that the rate strike be \$50,000. Cr Chinn advised N. Frendrup that council could overturn this decision. R. Quaife seconded the amended motion.

**Moved:** *"That the rate strike for the 2013 / 2014 financial Year is \$50,000 (GST Excl)."*

*N. Frendrup / R. Quaife – Carried*

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

T. Jellyman read out the names of the present committee. Cr Chinn asked if anyone has left the area or if anyone present would like to come onto the committee.

**Moved:** *"That L. Frendrup be elected to the present committee."*

*L. Richards / T. Bruning – Carried*

**Moved:** *"That the present committee be all those present namely:*

*Lee Frendrup*

*Neil Frendrup*

*Lorraine Richards*

*Robin Richards*

*Chris Brooks*

*Richard Molloy*

*Peter Halford*

*Todd Bruning for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

*/ – Carried*

It was noted that some committee members are not present at today's meeting and there was concern as to whether or not they are removed from the committee. Cr Chinn advised that this decision would need to come from the floor but should they have moved away then the committee would be adjusted accordingly. R. Molloy was left on the committee.

**Moved:** *"That Todd Bruning be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

*L. Richards / P. Halford – Carried*

Cr Chinn stated that council values the input from rating district committees, this is a responsible job and it works well when there is a good committee in place. He wished the committee and the spokesperson all the best with their rating district.

It was agreed that a deputy spokesperson would be appointed to cover T. Bruning if he is unavailable.

**Moved:** *"That Robin Richards be elected as the deputy spokesperson for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."*

*P. Halford / T. Bruning – Carried*

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

L. Richards stated that she hopes that everyone realises the danger if the river does break out on lives of those who live south of the river. Cr Chinn agreed with this and stated that L. Richards has lived in this area most of her life and he can remember when the river broke out and went down the main road. R. Richards stated that he feels Civil Defence should be aware of this. Cr Chinn stated that this is always in the minds of the River Engineer and other staff.

R. Richards asked what is happening with the Canavans Knob rating district. W. Moen responded that this rating district is now in abeyance but it has not been disbanded. It was noted that there is approximately \$26,000 in the Canavans Knob rating district account. It was agreed that what would happen with this money would be discussed at next year's annual meeting. W. Moen advised that in previous cases leftover funds have been given back to the ratepayers on a pro rata basis.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.34 am

## **ACTION POINT:**

- M. Meehan to investigate what happens to the funds in the Canavans Knob rating district account.
- M. Meehan to report back to the rating district on loan options for proposed capital works.