

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 APRIL 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.333 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *that the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Davidson / Cummings) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 March 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

M. Meehan tabled a graph illustrating the longterm water quality E Coli trends in the Buller River sites at Marrs Beach and Shingle Beach. M. Meehan reported there have been some improvements at the Shingle Beach site but not at the Marrs Beach site. Cr Archer thanked M. Meehan for providing this additional report.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Chinn reported that he chaired a meeting of the Whataroa rating district on the 14th of March. He reported that this meeting was called to gauge interest from the rating district to ascertain whether or not the rating district would be extended further downstream from the current boundary of 1.5kms downstream of the bridge. Cr Chinn reported that this option was put to the vote and the majority decided not to extend the rating district. Cr Chinn advised that the mover of the motion was Mr Keith Kelly, who farms right next to the Whataroa River and Mr Des Routhan seconded the motion. Cr Chinn confirmed that the vote revealed an overwhelming majority not in favour of extending the rating district. Cr Archer asked for management views on whether or not there are any potential ramifications if the rating district is not extended. M. Meehan responded that landowners who have flood protection structures on their properties would continue to maintain these structures themselves. M. Meehan stated that one of the reasons why the rating district decided not to extend further downstream is that they are fearful that the rating district will become unaffordable. Cr Chinn stated that four river frontage farmers were against extending the rating district. M. Meehan advised that now that Council knows that the rating district only wants to maintain the area 1.5kms from the bridge, Mr Bob Reid would be asked to review the rating classifications to check the rating arrangements are fair for all ratepayers.

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

Carried

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 tender for Coastal Plan Review for the identification of areas of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Outstanding Natural Character has been awarded to Brown NZ Ltd. M. Meehan advised that a meeting is being held with Brown NZ Ltd, the district councils and this council on the 20th of April to scope the project and work through timeframes.

M. Meehan reported that staff have provided input to Westland District Council's District Plan change. He advised that main changes are as a result of work done on the Alpine Fault Avoidance Zone.

M. Meehan advised that several small Envirolink grant projects are currently underway with some projects relating to gold mining and projects in the Lake Brunner catchment.

Cr Archer asked what is the timeline for the Coastal Plan Review. M. Meehan advised that a good indication of the timeline would be to hand following the meeting on the 20th of April. He stated that desktop analysis and costs will be discussed at this meeting.

Cr Archer asked M. Meehan if the concept of the Westland District Council's Proposed Plan Change is that council is proposing to provide some sort of restriction on development in close proximity to the alpine fault line. M. Meehan confirmed this is correct and that Westland District Council is looking at making development a prohibited activity within the alpine fault avoidance zone.

Cr Birchfield asked M. Meehan what are the costs involved for the Coastal Plan Review and is this budgeted for. M. Meehan responded that the tender was for \$84,000 and there is money set aside in the budget for the Regional Council's share of this work. Cr Birchfield asked if this money came from government or ratepayers. M. Meehan confirmed that the work is ratepayer funded. Cr Birchfield stated he does not approve of this project and feels that it is will be another restriction on development, just like the wetlands matter. M. Meehan advised that this process does need to go ahead as it is part of the statutory requirements of the Coastal Plan Review.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING RESULTS 2011 – 12

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that some samples taken during November and December period, which exceeded the moderate to high risk threshold, were associated with moderate to heavy rainfalls. M. Meehan advised that the rest of the results are looking pretty good.

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

Carried

5.1.3 CIVIL DEFENCE & REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He reported that he and M. Meehan attended the Controllers Forum which was hosted by this council. C. Ingle reported that Mr Douglas Marshall, a Local Controller for the Selwyn District attended this forum and spoke of his experiences with both of the Christchurch earthquakes. C. Ingle advised that four staff from the Ministry of Civil Defence also attended and took people through different scenarios. C. Ingle advised that a few minor issues were identified, which need to be resolved for Civil Defence on the West Coast.

C. Ingle reported that a copy of council's submission on the Draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Programme is attached to his report. C. Ingle advised that the main point of our submission is that the Mingha Bluff to Rough Creek upgrade has been deferred in the Canterbury programme and this council would like this deferral to be reversed. Cr Scarlett stated that he would present the submission in person.

Moved (Scarlett / Davidson)

- 1. That this report be received.*
- 2. That Council adopts the submission on the draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Programme 2012 / 15.*

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to his report advising that a high number of consents have been granted over the past month. He advised that many of these resource consents relate to roading infrastructure and a number of these consents are retrospective and relate to flooding events.

C. Dall reported that he attended the hearing for applications for declarations sought in relation to the consents lodged by Buller Coal Ltd and Solid Energy NZ Ltd for the proposed Escarpment and Mt William North coalmines. C. Dall reported that this hearing is in relation to effects of burning coal on climate change. He stated that this is a significant question that has been put to the Environment Court. He is hopeful of an answer in a month's time and stated that Buller Coal Ltd, Solid Energy NZ, Buller District Council and this council support the declarations. C. Dall stated that these consents relate to mining coal and not burning coal. Discussion took place on this. C. Dall advised that central government has made it clear that this is international, and not a regional matter, which is also our view. He advised that this is not the view of the parties opposing this. Cr Archer advised that the opponents are saying that because the coal is being taken out (mined) then it is going to be burnt and therefore discharges need to be taken into account. Cr Scarlett stated that this coal might not be burnt in New Zealand. Cr Archer stated that one of the concerns is that the Resource Management Act does not extend outside the territorial boundaries of New Zealand.

Moved (Scarlett / Cummings) *that the April 2012 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report advising that it has been a fairly typical month in this area. C. Dall reported that it is pleasing to see that over the past couple of months there has again been a good compliance rate in relation to dairy shed inspections.

C. Dall reported that the normal amount of complaints were received during the reporting period. C. Dall reported that the sentencing hearing for Council's prosecution against Mr Barry Foster for an unauthorised discharge of sediment from a mining operation was held on the 26th of March and Mr Foster was fined \$34,000. C. Dall reported that a significant part of the Court findings was that consent holders who are allowing others to operate under their consents still have responsibility to ensure that that operators are aware of the site and the constraints of the consent to ensure that the operator complies with the consent conditions.

C. Dall reported that Council staff are still continuing to support the Rena operation in Tauranga.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *That the April 2012 report for the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.08 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date