

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10 JULY 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager) (arrived 10.35), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

1. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 June 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Chinn reported that he attended the hearing for the Land and Water Plan over four days in June along with his fellow councillors.

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 the Land and Water Plan hearings were held during the report period with 15 submitters presenting to the hearing panel. M. Meehan advised that the hearing panel undertook deliberations the same week as the hearing and staff are currently halfway through writing up the Decisions Report.

M. Meehan reported that a joint Consent Order has been filed this week in response to the Minute that came back from the Environment Court regarding Variation 1 – Wetlands Management. M. Meehan advised that the Minute addressed minor grammatical changes and he is hopeful that a decision from the Court is not too far away and these decisions can then be incorporated into the Land and Water Plan.

M. Meehan reported that the Ministry of Primary Industries has released its Aquaculture Strategy and Five Year Action Plan. He advised that this talks about working with Regional Councils to ensure planning to identify new growing areas in appropriate places with this being a target of the strategy and action plan. M. Meehan reported that there are targets around research and innovation. He stated that there is no specific mention of research on deep-sea aquaculture which maybe suitable for West Coast coastal waters.

M. Meehan reported that notification has been received from the Department of Conservation under the Marine Reserves Act 1971 to establish five marine reserves on the West Coast. M. Meehan advised that staff have been reviewing this application in detail and it does not seem to differ from what was originally discussed when the late Cr Denis Shannahan was involved in this process.

Moved (Archer / Cummings) *That this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that there was one heavy rainfall event during the reporting period with affected both the Grey and Buller Rivers.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *That Council receive this report.*

Carried

5.1.3 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that since this report was written there have been more exceedences of the National Environment Standard (NES) for PM₁₀ in Reefton. The highest exceedence was 115, and two exceedences in the 90's. M. Meehan stated that the cold, still weather has pushed the readings up. The monitoring equipment has recently been reinstalled and repaired again as it was been intermittently out of action.

M. Meehan advised that due to these exceedences Council has had to place advertisements in the local newspapers, under regulation 16 and 24A of the NES advising that open fires will no longer be allowed to be installed in Reefton. This will come into effect a year after the first breach, on the 17 June 2013. M. Meehan reported that each month Council has to notify the exceedences in the local papers during the winter months. M. Meehan advised that the targets in the Long Term Plan with the Warm West Coast initiatives are timely. C. Ingle suggested that a council workshop be held to discuss the type of approach that needs to be taken with the Air Plan for Reefton.

Cr Archer suggested that in view of today's short agenda it would be good to make a head start on this at the conclusion of today's meeting. Cr Birchfield asked if the advertisement that says "*open fires installed on or after the 17th of June 2013*" will be prohibited, means that existing fires are not affected. M. Meehan confirmed that it is only new open fires installed after 17 June 2013. Cr Birchfield feels that there would not be many people installing open fires anyway. M. Meehan agreed with this.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *That Council receives this report.*

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to his report advising that it has been a typical month with the usual range of resource consents granted during the reporting period. C. Dall reported that the hearing for TrustPower Limited's consent applications for replacement consents for its Kaniere and McKay's Hydro Power Schemes was held in Hokitika. C. Dall reported that the hearing has since been closed and the hearing committee now has 15 working days to release its decision on the consent applications. He stated that the hearing committee is on target for this.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *That the July 2012 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Dall spoke to this report advising that five dairy sheds were inspected during the reporting period, due to it being the tail end of the dairy season. He advised that one of the five dairy sheds was rated as being significantly non-compliant due to a lack of effluent storage. C. Dall reported that overall the statistics for compliance for the entire dairy season are relatively good with 76% of dairy sheds being inspected and 85% of those inspected were compliant. C. Dall stated that this figure stacks up well compared with other regions around the country.

C. Dall reported that he and council staff attended a public meeting on the Cypress Coal Mine Project which was also attended by the Peer Review Panel for the mine project. C. Dall advised that the project is progressing a little slower than anticipated.

C. Dall reported that 12 complaints were received during the reporting period covering a typical range of activities with no formal enforcement action being taken during the reporting period.

C. Dall reported that 10 work programmes for mining were received during the reporting period, which emphasises that despite the global recession, mining is still in a good state on the West Coast. C. Dall advised that he received confirmation this morning that Solid Energy NZ Ltd has secured surety bonds to replace the \$1.1M and \$100,000 cash bonds held for the consents for the Pike River Coal Mine. C. Dall requested that he would like to add these two surety bonds to the bond releases included in his report.

Cr Birchfield stated that it is pleasing to see work programmes being processed so quickly.

Moved (Archer / Davidson)

1. *That the July 2012 report for the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the Council releases the bonds held for Resource Consent RC10061, RC99008/RC10218, RC09047, RC98021 and RC02020.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Archer asked if the Regional Council has undertaken any liaison with the District Councils regarding consents being issued for solid fuel burning appliances, recognising that the district councils are responsible for issuing consents for solid fuel burning appliances. Cr Archer stated it would not be good to see the scenario of a district council issuing a consent for an open air fire and the regional council being engaged in monitoring or enforcement for non-compliance. M. Meehan responded that he has had discussions with Buller District Council and would continue to liaise with them.

The meeting closed at 10.48 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date