

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.43 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Archer / Davidson) *that the apology from Cr Robb be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

1. MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 4 September 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Chinn reported that he has received phone calls from concerned landowners regarding wetlands on their properties. Cr Chinn stated that one farmer has a farm of 220 acres and the whole 220 acres have been identified as a wetland. Cr Chinn stated that the farmer said to him "never in his wildest dreams did he ever think this could happen in New Zealand, to freehold land without the landowner knowing". Cr Chinn stated that he posted the minutes from last month's council meeting to the landowner. Cr Chinn stated that Arthur Thomson also phoned him about the wetlands on his farm.

Moved (Chinn / Scarlett)

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 Riverbed Plan became operative on the 24th of September. He stated that landowners with Schedule 2 wetlands have been contacted and provided with facts sheets, letters and maps. M. Meehan advised that he has received a lot of phone calls regarding wetlands as there are 270 landowners affected and there are quite a few people upset about the process. M. Meehan advised that there are areas that have been identified that have been developed under

resource consents that are clearly not wetlands anymore. M. Meehan advised that he has visited several sites. There is a lot of work to be done in the next year or so with landowners.

M. Meehan reported that a public meeting is to be held on the 29th of October at 7pm in the Reefton Area School Hall to appoint 3 – 4 people from the Reefton community to represent their community on the Reefton Airshed Committee.

M. Meehan reported that progress is being made on the Coastal Plan Review and once the draft is completed a workshop will be held with Councillors and Iwi to go through this Plan.

M. Meehan reported that the Marine Legislation Bill has recently passed its first reading in Parliament and is now open for submissions. M. Meehan advised that this Bill deals with a lot of issues that came out of the Rena disaster including claims on spills and pollution damage and the clean up afterwards. M. Meehan explained this also addresses navigational safety management of inland waterways. M. Meehan advised that Maritime NZ has always managed water safety in our lakes very well and he is unsure of why a change is being sought. C. Ingle advised that the thrust of the submission will be that we do not want a new function to do navigation safety in our region as Maritime NZ are doing a sterling job and they need to continue with this function.

M. Meehan reported that the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Bill has now passed its third reading and was enacted on the 3rd of September. He stated that staff are considering what changes need to be made, if any, to the Coastal Plan to be consistent with this new Act.

M. Meehan reported that staff submitted on the Proposed Tasman – Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy, looking at cross boundary issues and whether we can work together more closely. M. Meehan reported that the committee of Tasman District Council and Nelson City Councillors have declined the recommendation sought regarding the risk of transference of pest plants, as they believe that there is little risk of this occurring.

M. Meehan reported that staff made a short submission on the Westland District Plan – Managing Fault Rupture Risk in Westland. He stated that the main crux of the submission was pointing out what has been done in the region regarding research on the alpine fault zone and identifying minor errors in the document.

Discussion took place on the likelihood of fault rupture and when this could happen.

Cr Archer asked if there are any issues of substance regarding the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

M. Meehan responded that the main issue is Didymo but he is not aware of any big threats regarding pest plants. C. Ingle stated that pests like Old Man's Beard could come through but the gorge is the conduit and DoC have done a lot of work in this area over the years. C. Ingle stated that Didymo is an algae and once it is there, there is no way of getting rid of it.

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

Carried

5.1.2 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising there was a heavy rainfall event on the 7th and 8th of September which triggered the alarms on the Grey, Buller and Karamea Rivers.

Moved (Tumahai / Scarlett) *that Council receive this report.*

Carried

5.1.3 REEFTON AIR QUALITY WINTER UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this report is a wrap up of Reefton Air Quality data for winter 2012. He advised that there were 27 exceedances of the NES for PM₁₀ in Reefton for the 2012 year and this is the highest on record since monitoring began. M. Meehan advised that maximum and median exceedances have been recorded. He advised that due to the cold winter and the climate conditions in Reefton, this winter was not a good one. M. Meehan advised that the monitoring of air quality in Reefton feeds into what Council is doing for Reefton and the public meeting, which is being held later in the month.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) *that Council receive this report.*

Carried

5.1.4 CIVIL DEFENCE & REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report and stated that the national earthquake drill, Exercise Shakeout was held on the 26th of September. He advised that this was used as a training exercise here at the Regional Council for Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff who took the opportunity to use EMIS, which is the new Emergency, Management Information System software system. C. Ingle advised that he and M. Meehan as the Regional Controllers did not attend the training but went to Westland District Council and Grey District Council to observe how District Council EOC's operate. C. Ingle stated that it was good to be with the district councils to observe the response on the ground. C. Ingle stated that there were some problems with the software as it is not perfect but there is now a trainer being employed to help out with the problems with the software system.

C. Ingle reported that the Land Transport Programme for 2012 – 2015 has been released. He also reported on the Land Transport Amendment Bill and advised that at this stage no submission will be made. Cr Chinn stated that he is disappointed that there is no funding for slow passing lanes. Cr Scarlett agreed with Cr Chinn and he feels that the bureaucrats seem to make the decision on what they think should be funded. Cr Scarlett stated that we had a lot of support to upgrade the Mingha Bluffs area at a regional level but when it got beyond the Regional Transport Committee it was relegated right down even though we were prepared to put money into it. Cr Scarlett feels it is almost disingenuous as we attend meetings, consult locally and then they do their own thing. Cr Scarlett stated that he felt certain that Mingha Bluffs would have gone ahead but it was turned down. Cr Birchfield asked what would the chances of doing this upgrade privately. He stated that the worst part is just passed Arthurs Pass and this is only a short section of earthworks. Cr Scarlett stated if someone came up with the money they would do it. Cr Cummings stated that a lot of money was poured into the Rough River Bridge and why is this. C. Ingle commented that was the main route for heavy transport from Nelson to the Buller area.

Moved (Scarlett / Chinn) *that Council request that the Regional Land Transport Advisory Group investigate whether or not the upgrade to Rough River Bridge is still necessary and could this funding could be used for slow passing lanes and the upgrade of the Mingha Bluffs area of State Highway 73.*

Carried

Cr Archer asked C. Ingle if Buller District Council did not participate in Exercise Shakeout because they weren't asked. C. Ingle responded that they choose not to be involved but they were aware of it.

Moved (Archer / Scarlett) *that Council receive this report.*

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to his report advising that nine consent visits were carried out during the reporting period, 11 non-notified resource consents granted and seven consent variations granted. He reported that all written public enquiries were responded to with the required timeframe. Cr Davidson asked if changes to the consent conditions for the Franz Josef and Fox Glacier oxidation ponds are a regional council function or a district council function. J. Adams that variation covers the maximum amount for discharge each day but depending on tourist numbers there are differences in the volume of the discharge. The change is for the volume of wastewater discharged from the Wastewater Treatment Plan from a total daily volume to an average daily volume.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) *That the October 2012 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report advising that staff started off the round of inspections with the dairy sheds that had problems meeting the standard last year. J. Adams advised that by carrying out the visits at the start of the dairy season this would give farmers time to resolve problems. Cr Scarlett stated that he had received a phone call from the Grey Star asking him if council had directed staff to get tougher on non-compliant dairy farmers. Cr Scarlett stated that responded that this was definitely not the case. J. Adams advised that there has been an issue with Westland District Council's effluent ponds discharge. He stated that the discharge was going to ground but reappearing 60 metres away. As a result of this an Abatement Notice was served in order to get the discharge repaired and this has now been done. C.

Ingle advised that around this time last year there were serious issues with the same matter so this was not the first time there have been problems. J. Adams advised that this is the third formal warning that has been issued in three years.

Moved (Archer / Scarlett)

1. *That the September 2012 report for the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held for Resource Consent RC02020/1 and RC09039*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.21 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date