

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2012 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

#### PRESENT:

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

#### 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 / Cummings) *that the apologies from Cr Scarlett and F. Tumahai be accepted.*

*Carried*

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

#### 1. MINUTES

**Moved** (Archer / Cummings) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 9 October 2012, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Chinn reported that he attended rating district meetings along with Cr Davidson in Okuru, Franz Josef, Lower Waiho, Whataroa for the Matanui, Waitangitona and Whataroa meetings and Harihari for the Wanganui rating district meeting. He also attended Raft Creek, Vine Creek, Kowhitirangi, Kaniere and Southside rating district meetings. He stated some interesting questions relating to wetlands were asked at these meetings.

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer)

*Carried*

#### 3. PRESENTATION

##### **West Coast Hydrometric and Climatological State of Environment Report**

S. Beaumont made this presentation. He advised that this report is a Climatological and hydrometric summary using data from seven climate stations, 26 rainfall stations and 20 flow recorder stations. This data covers from 2005 to 2011. S. Beaumont advised that these stations are run by WCRC, NIWA, Metservice, Meridian and TrustPower. He advised that sunshine hours and wind levels are also included in the report. Cr Archer asked if there is any correlation between Reefton's frost days and the air quality readings on these days. S. Beaumont advised that Reefton has a large number of frost days and very low wind which is not helpful for the dispersion of PM<sub>10</sub> levels. He stated there are on average 58 frost days per year in Reefton. S. Beaumont advised that the Cropp River at Woodstock and Tuke River catchment receives between 10 and 11 metres of rainfall per year, which is substantial, and the wettest catchment on the West Coast. He stated at the other end of the spectrum Reefton, Waipuna, Grey, north

of the Grey and Lower Buller catchment areas have a lot less rainfall, approximately 1900 mms per year. He advised that 2005 was very dry in the Buller region. Reefton recorded its wettest year on record in 2007 with 2563mm of rainfall. The Hokitika area had significant 24 hour totals on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. S. Beaumont advised that Karamea, Buller, Inangahua and Hokitika also received significant rainfall at this time with the Hokitika River recorded a 1 in 53 year flood, which was its largest flood on record. S. Beaumont advised that one of the largest floods in the region occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2011 with the Grey River at Dobson recording a 1 in 26 year flood and the Grey River at Waipuna recording a 1 in 173.7 year flood which was the second largest since records began. The Ahaura River recorded a 1 in 268 year flood, which was by far the largest flood on the Ahaura River since records began. S. Beaumont advised that 2005 was the sunniest year in Karamea with 3054 sunshine hours. Hokitika had its sunniest year in 2005 with Franz Josef having its sunniest year in 2007. 2005 was very dry for Buller. S. Beaumont advised that this report contains a lot of tables and graphs but it provides a quick reference for people who want information on a particular catchment. Cr Archer congratulated S. Beaumont and his past and present colleagues on this report. Cr Archer stated that reports such as this are critical for long term planning in our region and it gives a degree of certainty to those people seeking climatic information. Cr Chinn stated that he found the report very interesting. He thanked S. Beaumont for his presentation.

## **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 appeal period for the Land and Water Plan ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October and an update on the appeals received will be brought to the December council meeting. M. Meehan reported that a public meeting was held in Reefton to elect a committee for the Reefton Airshed. He advised this meeting was well attended with Jimmy Foster, Burt Waghorn, Graham Gollan and Simon Gardiner being publicly elected and Dave Hawes (selected by BDC), Cr Archer and F. Tumahai who were previously appointed to this committee by council now making up this committee. M. Meehan advised that the committee is going to meet monthly and the first meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. M. Meehan advised that an Air Quality Scientist (Emily Wilton) attended the first meeting and answered a lot of questions. M. Meehan advised that the committee is very motivated and are arranging for publicity via the Reefton Clarion. M. Meehan advised that Jimmy Foster was elected Chairman of this committee. M. Meehan advised that the committee have asked for a minor change to the Terms of Reference with the wording of the top bullet point on page 13 being changed to "if it is recommended to move away from non-compliant burners residents need to be given time to change their heating systems if there is any capital cost involved". Cr Archer stated that the reason for the recommended change is because the community felt that the way it is written in the second bullet point on page 13 this sentence almost implies that a decision has been made. Cr Archer suggests that this bullet point is preceded by saying "one of the options is to restrict the use of coal burning and if an individual has recently purchased a new multi fuel appliance they should be entitled to use it for a reasonable time". Cr Archer stated that the Terms of Reference were provided by the committee to the community.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

*"That one of the options is to restrict the use of coal burning and if an individual has recently purchased a new multi fuel appliance they should be entitled to use it for a reasonable time".*

*Carried*

M. Meehan advised that WCRC has funding through Envirolink to do further investigations in Reefton, which Emily Wilton will do. He advised that an inventory would be done as the last inventory was done in 2005 and this is now out of date. M. Meehan advised that the committee have said that since 2005 there have been a lot of open fires that are now gone and there has been investment in the housing stock in Reefton. M. Meehan advised that a telephone survey would be arranged. The next meeting of the Reefton Airshed committee is scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. He advised that he would be keeping Councillors informed.

M. Meehan reported that the Ministry for the Environment has published national environmental monitoring results for the Latest National Environmental Indicators. He advised that the key point for this council was that of the 27 airsheds which need to meet the NES in either 2016 or 2020, 22 of these airsheds did not meet the NES in 2011 and 18% of New Zealand's populations live within these airsheds.

M. Meehan reported that MfE are doing new climate change research. He advised that this research will cost around \$7.2M and they are looking at climate proofing New Zealand and updating climate change predictions and improving understanding of the impact of changes.

M. Meehan reported that Council made a written submission on the Marine Legislation Bill and spoke to the Select Committee. He stated that Council's submission was based on the wording that seemed to require all regional councils to have a Harbour Master and to require regional councils to undertake navigation safety role. M. Meehan advised that he understands that amendments will follow, to reflect current practice of regional councils with regard to maritime safety.

Cr Archer commented on the recent public meeting in Reefton to appoint the Airshed committee. He stated that some of the residents he spoke to felt that their was a poor turnout to this meeting in view of the huge impact this matter is going to have on the community. Cr Archer stated that the why there was such a poor turnout was due to the media exposure that had already been given, the outcome was already a foregone conclusion. Cr Archer stated that he takes a great deal of issue with the media and how they portrayed the discussion on air quality in Reefton. Cr Archer stated that the media had decided, arbitrarily, that there was going to be a ban on coal. Cr Archer feels that was pushed by the media at the community and it really got their backs up. Cr Archer stated that he feels this is a lesson to the media on not to jump to conclusions. Cr Archer stated Cr Scarlett did a sterling job of actually portraying to those present at the public meeting that council had never made any decisions other than to identify a whole lot of possible decisions. M. Meehan advised that the community is determined over the next year to work towards their Terms of Reference and to provide a recommendation and report to council in October 2013.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that appeals on this plan were filed in 2005 and they were placed on hold pending the outcome of the appeals in relation to the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan regarding wetlands. M. Meehan advised that these issues have now been resolved with the Land and Riverbed Plan. M. Meehan advised that mediation was not required in the end because the parties agreed to amendments to rule 12.4.3 and this a consequential change to 12.4.6 resolved all the outstanding matters that were under appeal. M. Meehan advised that all parties agreed that those simple changes to take effect on what has come through the court. M. Meehan advised that now that the main appeals have been withdrawn it is recommended that Council now makes the Plan operative and publicly notifies the operative status of the Plan. M. Meehan advised that this amendment relates to wetlands and this is a very minor amendment.

**Moved** (Archer / Cummings)

- 1. That Council receives this Report; and*
- 2. That Council publicly notify the operative status of the Water Management Plan as per clause 20 of the First Schedule of the RMA; and*
- 3. That Council inserts the amendments from the Water Management Plan into the Proposed Land and Water Plan.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 FRESHWATER NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT – IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that the National Policy Statement gave councils direction as to what is needed to be done for freshwater management and also gave councils timeframes to implement the NPS by. He advised that the deadline is 2014 to implement policies in the NPS and if they are not implemented by then, then councils would need to come up with an implementation programme of how the NPS is going to be met and have it fully implemented no later than the end of 2030. M. Meehan advised that C. Ingle reported on this in May and this revealed that the majority of our plans and policies do give effect to the what the NPS is trying to achieve but council need to include a new policy (7.3.8) to allow for the transfer of water consents to give effect to this NPS. This is now included in the Plan. M. Meehan advised that we have still to review the RPS and ensure the NPS is given weight. He advised that the RPS review is on hold pending the outcome of the Phase 2 reforms on the Act and

possible amendments to sections 6 and 7 so these RPS changes may not be made until after the 31 December 2014 deadline.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That Council receives this Report.*
2. *That Council adopt this Report as its implementation programme for the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.4 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that during the reporting period flood alarms were triggered on the Buller, Grey, Hokitika and Waiho Rivers. He stated that the alarm level on the Waiho River has been changed in negotiation with Westland District Council down from 8 metres down to 7 metres as the Waiho River has cut right down again at the bridge.

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

*Carried*

#### **5.1.5 CIVIL DEFENCE & REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that the Welfare Advisory Group and the Lifelines Group met on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October. He reported that the Lifelines Group are drafting a Reconnaissance Plan to provide an aerial reconnaissance immediately following an emergency, this will provide information on what roads and bridges and other lifelines are operational. C. Ingle advised that this plan is being done in conjunction with Civil Defence.

C. Ingle reported that the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) met on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. He advised that the South Island Exercise scheduled for 29 May 2013 was discussed at this meeting. This exercise will be a good test for the new Emergency Management Information System software.

C. Ingle reported that the South Island Freight Plan was presented at the Local Government meeting last week. He stated that this is a good step forward from NZTA, they have mapped out all the different routes in the South Island for where freight comes from and where is it going to and they have included ports as well. C. Ingle advised that they have mapped pinch point areas like Arthurs Pass and Mingha Bluff. He is hoping that this type of exercise will have lead to hopefully getting the bottleneck just outside of our region fixed up. C. Ingle advised that this report revealed that the West Coast has most single lane bridges (48) compared to the second most which is 18 in Canterbury. C. Ingle advised that SISA would like to have the status as partner with NZTA rather than to be just told this is what is going to happen. C. Ingle advised that Mr Harland advised that NZTA's figures indicate that road freight is going to double by 2040 and their projections show coal freight to double from 2.5M tonnes to 5M tonnes. Cr Chinn stated he was surprised at how much funding the West Coast has received.

Cr Archer asked if the South Island Civil Defence exercise is for 12 hours or 24 hours. C. Ingle responded that it is 12 hours long. Cr Archer stated that he feels that because Civil Defence relies on volunteers, a lot of opportunities are lost due to poor planning or insufficient preplanning. Cr Archer stated that during the exercise everything is compressed and it is hard to keep everyone busy and therefore people go away feeling disenfranchised. Cr Archer would like to see a lot more preplanning work go into this next exercise to ensure that everyone gets the best out of it. C. Ingle stated that this is not his experience of exercises held here.

**Moved** (Archer / Cummings) *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 20 non-notified resource consent applications were processed during the reporting period and two limited notified resource consents granted during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that the Buller Coal Ltd Denniston Plateau hearing is due to close on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November in Greymouth. J. Adams advised that the hearing was held in relation to the proposed new

sewage treatment plant at Preston Road, Greymouth on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. He advised that there has been an extension provided to allow for more information to be gathered.

Cr Archer asked if Sullivans Mine is a Solid Energy site. J. Adams responded that Solid Energy has been given a mining licence in relation to Sullivans Mine. Cr Archer advised that Sullivans Mine was not part of the original Denniston application that was decided on. C. Ingle advised that the question that the court is asking for evidence on is should this mining licence be taken into account as part of the existing environment or not. C. Ingle stated that there is no resource consent under the RMA in place yet.

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

*Carried*

## 5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report advising that the reason why only 50% of dairy sheds are compliant is because staff are still inspecting the non-compliant dairy sheds from last dairy season.

J. Adams reported that 14 complaints were received during the reporting period but only five of these were actually substantiated.

J. Adams reported that an Abatement Notice was served in relation to an unauthorised discharge of sewage at Franz Josef. He advised that the Abatement Notice has now been lifted as work has been carried out to repair the treatment plant.

Cr Birchfield commented that the serial complainant at Awatuna appears in the report again. He stated this is another unjustified visit and cost to the ratepayer. J. Adams advised that the status of the complainant has been changed to that of serial complainant as many complaints have been investigated and the bulk of the visits have revealed compliance with consent conditions.

Cr Chinn pointed out that the dairy shed non-compliance statistics are skewed to the worst 10 dairy sheds. Cr Birchfield stated that these figures are just five dairy sheds out of all the dairy sheds on the West Coast. Cr Chinn stated that he hopes these five sheds will be compliant by the end of the season.

J. Adams advised that staff started the dairy shed inspection season with the dairy sheds that were known to be non-compliant, in the hope of having them up to standard by the end of the dairy season.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Cummings)

1. *That the November 2012 report for the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held for Resource Consent RC07102, RC99001 and RC10224.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date