

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MARCH 2013, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 12.03 P.M.

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum. C. Ingle asked the Chairman if he would like him to make a response to the MfE representatives following on from their presentation this morning. It was agreed that Council's submission on the new discussion document would be drafted and then circulated to councillors prior to submitting it.

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Birchfield / Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 12 February 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a small amount of flood repair work has been completed in the Wanganui rating district. He advised that tenders were received for work in the Vine Creek and Taramakau rating districts with Westland Contractors Ltd being the successful tenderer for both of these contracts. M. Meehan reported that rock supply totals are back to full in the Whataroa quarry. He advised that work has gone well in the quarries recently but the rock in the Whataroa quarry may be used for future works at Franz Josef.

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

*Carried*

##### **4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and advised that this report is for the seven months to the end of January. He advised that the surplus was \$953,000 which was helped by a very good performance from the investment portfolio over this period. R. Mallinson reported that 65 loans have now been made to

ratepayers under the Warm West Coast scheme. Cr Scarlett asked if this scheme was financially neutral to council, R. Mallinson confirmed this.

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

*Carried*

Cr Archer asked how long Council has been with Westpac. R. Mallinson responded that the start date was the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. Cr Archer stated that he thought Council was going to be getting three month reports from Westpac. R. Mallinson advised that he will follow up on this.

## **5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

C. Ingle provided a verbal report and advised that a drought meeting will be held here on Friday. He advised that this meeting is an initiative led by Federated Farmers. C. Ingle advised that local representatives from Federated Farmers, MAF and the Ministry for Primary Industries will be in attendance and it is up to these people to decide if the region is severe enough to be declared officially as a drought region. C. Ingle advised that M. Meehan and his team will provide the technical decision making in terms of rainfall data and low river levels. C. Ingle advised that the local Federated Farmers members have invited Councillors to attend, particularly those Councillors with farming interests.

C. Ingle reported that the Animal Health Board has advised that they are merging with the NAIT organisation. He advised that he has read through the information on the merger and advised that regional councils collectively still have a position on the shareholder council and will carry on in the new organisation.

C. Ingle advised that the Hawkes Bay Chairman is our representative on this Board at the moment. C. Ingle stated that the new organisation may see itself as having a broader scope that just managing Tb. He advised that he would be keeping an eye on this.

C. Ingle advised that there is an important transport meeting on this Thursday at 11.30 am at the Kingsgate Hotel to discuss the South Island Freight Plan and a review of the Financial Assistance Rates (FAR) which will have financial implications. C. Ingle advised that he would be attending this meeting and he invited Cr Chinn to also attend this meeting.

C. Ingle advised that a Civil Defence Group Controllers forum will be hosted here tomorrow with district council controllers also attending. C. Ingle advised that a civil defence controller from the Nelson / Tasman group would be in attendance to share their recent experiences during flood events. C. Ingle reported that he was advised this morning that the Ministry of Civil Defence officials have now signed off on our claim for the flood event of 2010. C. Ingle advised that the Minister himself still has to sign off on this but the officials involved have given the claim the green light.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the Regional Chief Executives meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. He advised that the water issue that has been on the agenda for the past two years is now taking a back seat to the housing issue.

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

## **6.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)**

Cr Scarlett reported that he attended the Regional Sector Group meeting which was held recently in Wellington. He stated that it is action year for the Government and that next year is quite a long way off in terms of voting. Cr Scarlett stated that the big one is the proposed changes to the RMA. Cr Scarlett advised that the other matter that the Government is keen to progress is affordable housing. He advised that land is pretty free throughout the provincial councils but in Auckland it is a lot different. Cr Scarlett stated that Mayor Brown in Auckland is keen to build up and not out, as the costs associated with infrastructure are huge.

Cr Scarlett stated that Murray Sherwin who is heading the Productivity Report also spoke at the Regional Sector Group meeting and advised that Government Ministers are "grumpy" about the productivity report. Cr Scarlett stated that Mr Sherwin advised that councils are doing pretty well but central government is not doing so well and is not listening. Cr Scarlett advised that Audit NZ also spoke at the meeting and advised that most councils are doing well with rate increases on average 5% over the last ten years.

Cr Scarlett reported that he attended the Zone 5 and 6 meeting in Dunedin and advised that Mr Alexander, CEO of Local Government NZ spoke at this meeting. Mr Alexander is looking at the Queensland association model where councils can go in and look at one council to get the information they are seeking. This requires less consultants and costs a lot less. Cr Scarlett advised the Minister Bill English also spoke at this meeting and advised that Auckland is where it all happens and what Auckland decides has huge impact on

the rest of the country. Cr Scarlett stated that the costs benefit ratio of earthquake strengthening was discussed at the meeting. He stated that in the last 150 years 200 people have been killed in earthquakes but the amount of people who die of medical conditions is far higher. It was felt that the cost benefit of upgrading of buildings to earthquake proof them is marginal. Cr Scarlett added that in terms of building material costs, New Zealand has the highest costs in the world.

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

*Carried*

## **7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.24 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date