

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COAL CREEK RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2013, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT

B. Jones, F & M. Riordan, S. McGeady, W. Brennan, A. Inman, M. McGeady, P. Kerridge, A. Beck, J. Fitzpatrick

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

I. Cummings (Councillor), A. Birchfield, A. Robb (Councillors).

M. Meehan, W. Moen, P. Birchfield, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

O. Norton, M. Sutherland and P. Pretorius (GDC - Council meeting tonight)

BUSINESS

Cr Birchfield opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

He introduced himself and the Council staff.

Moved: *"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 8 October 2012, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."*

B. Jones / F. Riordan - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

A. Inman disputed that rate strike for 2012 / 13. He feels that the rate strike was not \$10,000. M. Meehan confirmed that the \$10,000 recommended rate strike is correct. It was noted that the proposed rate strike was \$15,000. A. Inman moved an amended rate strike of \$12,000 but this motion was lost. Cr Birchfield advised the meeting that if council is not happy with the rate strike they have the ability to increase it. T. Jellyman checked the notes from last year's meeting and confirmed that the rate strike for the 2013 / 2014 year was \$10,000.

It is noted the Coal Creek rating district recommended a \$10,000 rate strike for the 2013 / 14 year. At the December 2013 council meeting council elected to strike a rate of \$15,000 for the 2013 / 14 year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Meehan presented the financial statements for the financial period ending 30 June 2013. He stated that the major cost during the year was the contract to construct partial stopbank upgrade at a cost of \$135,284.60 in total. M. Meehan reported that the closing balance was just under \$19,000. M. Meehan stated that the stopbank upgrade was in response to the December 2010 flood event that affected the entire West Coast region. M. Meehan advised that following this flood event the regional council engineering team put together an application to the Ministry of Civil Defence for assistance to offset some of the costs for repairing floodwalls, and raising stop banks in various rating districts. He advised that the Coal Creek rating district was granted just under \$70,000 and

will be added to the financial statement. This amount will bring the financial statement up to just under \$90,000. This money went into the rating district account over the weekend.

WORKS REPORT

B. Jones stated that the cost of dismantling the fence and reinstating the fence should not have been charged to the rating district as S. McGeady did this work and did not charge the rating district. S. McGeady also provided gravel for this work. W. Moen stated that the dismantling and reinstating of the fence was not included in the contract price. W. Moen stated that he would get back to S. McGeady regarding this. Discussion took place on the rehabilitation of the farm access road. B. Jones stated that the \$1,700 charged for this work was pretty excessive for what was actually done which was to give access to the paddock area once the job was completed. B. Jones stated that this was the actual farm race and not an access road for the stopbank upgrade. A. Inman agreed with B. Jones and feels that S. McGeady should be reimbursed for this work. S. McGeady stated that he provided 500 metres of gravel at no charge but the contractor charged \$14.19 per metre for the gravel.

M. Meehan reported that \$77,879.60 worth of works were carried out during the reporting period.

W. Moen advised that he carried out an inspection in August 2013 and no maintenance works were identified but he advised that \$10,000 be allowed for unforeseen maintenance.

RATES 2014/ 2015

M. Meehan advised that each rating district has a target balance for the "prudent reserve" for their rating district account. He advised that the Coal Creek rating district target balance is \$150,000 as this amount should cover any works required following a major flood event. M. Meehan advised that now that the rating district account has close to \$90,000 in its account it is now well on the way to the target balance. M. Meehan recommends a maintenance rate strike of \$15,000 for the coming financial year. He advised that once the target balance is reached then a maintenance rate would be all that is required in order to keep the account at around \$150,000. Cr Birchfield invited the meeting to discuss the rate strike. B. Jones stated that it is unfair that the West Coast Rugby Football League Club gets a rate rebate; he feels that this portion of the rate strike is made up by the rest of the ratepayers in the Coal Creek rating district. B. Jones stated that it is a West Coast sports ground and not Coal Creek, he feels this should come out of the general rate. B. Jones stated that based on a rate strike of \$10,000 it costs him an extra \$186 for the sports ground. Cr Birchfield asked if sports grounds are given a discount. W. Moen confirmed that this is correct. It was agreed that the rate strike would be \$15,000 for the 2014 / 2015 financial year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

T. Jellyman read out the names of the current committee and the current Spokesperson. It was agreed that the status quo would remain.

Moved: *"That the present committee remains the same for the 2013 / 2014 financial year:*

O. Norton

F. Riordan

A. Beck

B. Jones

be the committee for the 2012 / 2013 financial year."

P. Kerridge / A. Beck – Carried

Moved: *"That S. McGeady be re - elected as the spokesperson for the 2013 / 2014 financial year."*

P. Kerridge / A. Beck – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

M. Meehan handed out copies of the latest erosion line, upstream from the stopbank. He stated that this information was requested at last year's meeting. M. Meehan advised that the GPS information reveals that there has been approximately 15 metres of erosion during the year. He advised that monitoring will continue. P. Birchfield confirmed that flood damage during the year has been a contributing factor. M. Meehan advised that this area will be re-GPS'd after flood events and on a regular basis. M. Meehan advised that the Kaniere rating district has a similar issue with erosion and they have drawn a line and should the erosion get to this line, the rating district will instruct council to build a wall to protect this area. M. Meehan stated that Graeme Smart from NIWA has advised that the river may change its channel and stop eroding into this area. M. Meehan advised the Grey District Council and NZTA will be kept informed as they will be affected should this erosion continue. A. Inman asked if it was thought that the bank would hold up in a big flood. S. McGeady said there is no way this would hold up and stated that during a big flood he would not be staying in a house in the Coal Creek area. S. McGeady feels that the area is not far away from needing some large rock placed to protect this area. W. Moen stated that he has been advising the rating district for a number of years now that sooner or later this area will need to have rock work done. He stated that this would be a very expensive job and would almost be beyond the realms of the rating district to be able to afford to do the work required. F. Beck asked if there is anything that could be done now to stop the erosion. W. Moen said that spur groynes could help considerably but he is unsure if they would actually stop the erosion. He stated that spur groynes would deflect the flow of floodwaters from the bank. W. Moen stated that a few years ago is priced this work and it would have cost around \$60,000 - \$80,000 but he feels now it would be closer to \$100,000. It was noted that the removal of the gravel island opposite this area could relieve pressure in this area. W. Brennan stated that there is a consent in place to remove this gravel but nobody seems to want it at the moment. M. Meehan suggested that a meeting is arranged with Grey District Council and NZTA to see when they would be prepared to take action to protect the road. M. Meehan stated that it would be good to have a plan of attack in place for when the rating district feels that the time has come to do some work in this area. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged to progress this matter. M. Meehan stated that the rating district would benefit by involving these other parties at an early stage rather than waiting until the works have become urgent. S. McGeady stated that he is the only member of the rating district who does not live in the coal creek rating district. He stated that those with houses in this area need to consider having a serious look at this. S. McGeady stated that he has already lost a lot of land in this area. B. Jones stated that ten years ago, when this proposal was first talked about, he was by far the major ratepayer in this area, he agreed at the time to the works but the smaller ratepayers would not agree to pay in. B. Jones stated that now it is going to cost him a lot more. S. McGeady stated that when the \$12,000 worth of rock was placed in the creek he wanted it to go into groynes as the river had hardly started to cut in at this stage. He advised that at the time he offered to match whatever the rating district put in but the rating district turned this offer down. S. McGeady stated that he was asked last year how much how much money he was prepared to put in to protect this area. He stated that he now has no land left to protect so therefore he is not prepared to pay for this. Cr Birchfield stated that it would be good to see this progress and to see if outside funding can be obtained.

A. Inman asked if there has been any progress with regard to the spraying of the willows in Coal Creek. M. Meehan advised that he contacted DoC regarding this and they advised him that they do not have any budget for this as they are concentrating on the work they are doing on Cobden Island. M. Meehan offered to raise this matter with DoC once again.

Action Points:

- M. Meehan to investigate the rates rebate paid to the West Coast Rugby League Club.
- W. Moen to report back to S. McGeady regarding the reinstatement of the fence, the price charged for the 22 posts and wire and the 500 metres of gravel.

- W. Moen to report back to S. McGeady regarding the rehabilitation of the farm access road.
- M. Meehan to arrange a site visit with Grey District Council and NZTA to discuss the potential works in this area.
- M. Meehan contact DoC regarding the spraying of willows in Coal Creek.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.