

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 APRIL 2013 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

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

There was no public forum

#### **3. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 March 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Chinn reported that he attended the NZTA South Island Freight Plan meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and the Budget Workshop for Councillors on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

Cr Chinn reported that he has fielded further telephone calls from concerned landowners who have been affected by the wetlands decisions.

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer)

*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 he and Cr Archer attended a meeting of the Reefton Airshed Committee (RAC) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. M. Meehan stated that Dr Rene Haerberli of Envirosolve Ltd attended this meeting and presented on new technology that has been developed and used in Switzerland which reduces PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from domestic chimneys. M.

Meehan advised the trials have been undertaken in towns in Switzerland with good results being obtained. M. Meehan advised that the RAC is very interested in this development and are in communication with Envirosolve. M. Meehan stated that the device consists of a cap on the chimney and a rod that goes down into the inside of the chimney. The rod has a small electric charge through it which attracts the particles and PM<sub>10</sub> to the rod. M. Meehan advised that the maintenance involved is a normal yearly sweep of the chimney ensuring that the device has been switched off prior to sweeping the chimney. M. Meehan advised that the cost of the device is around \$3,000 but the price would come down should they be imported in bulk numbers. M. Meehan reported that the RAC is going to receive a presentation at its next meeting from Mr Roger Best who had developed a down draft burner through his work with Ecan. M. Meehan reported that the RAC is promoting the Warm West Coast homes initiative via the local newspaper and is doing a lot of work outside of its meetings which is very encouraging.

M. Meehan reported that a copy of Council's submission on Improving our Resource Management System: Discussion Document" is attached to his report and was sent out to councillors prior to today's meeting.

M. Meehan reported that the first Drought Committee meeting was held here on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. A subsequent meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, following this meeting the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy, declared a drought for the Buller and Grey districts. M. Meehan advised that the declaration provides funding for the West Coast Rural Support to assist those farmers in need with budgeting and counselling services. M. Meehan advised that the Minister visited the region and met with the drought committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. He visited farms and is aware of the problems farmers are facing with feed coming into winter.

Cr Davidson asked M. Meehan if there is a large build up in chimneys that have been fitted with the new device. M. Meehan responded that based on normal use there is no more build up than usual. M. Meehan stated that Dr Haerberli has used the device in his home town near Mt Ruapehu and it has worked well. There is also a whole town in Switzerland that has used this new technology. M. Meehan stated that one trial has been done on coal but most trials have been done on wood burners. Cr Archer stated that the results of the coal trial show similar results to the wood trial. Cr Archer said that it is a little too early to say how this will work for Reefton but the RAC is quite excited about the prospect of this new technology. Cr Archer stated that there could be a possibility of government funding to use Reefton as a trial should this trial become a success but this is still in its infancy and needs more work yet. M. Meehan advised that there is good information on Envirosolve's website with a video showing how the device works.

Cr Archer drew attention to the section of the submission to MfE on joint / district plan where appeals on joint regional / district plans are limited to where the council would need to make sure that the hearing panel clearly understood the West Coast context. C. Ingle advised that his understanding of proposals put out by MfE is that councillors would no longer be the hearings panel for plans and that MfE is suggesting having independent people brought in. C. Ingle stated that he is concerned about this and that is why when Mr Guy Beatson, from MfE was here he was asked if councillors would be allowed to be on this panel. C. Ingle advised that Mr Beatson said "yes" but he has since emailed C. Ingle and advised him the councillors could not be the majority of the hearing panel. Cr Archer stated that it can be concerning if there are too many panel members from out of the district. C. Ingle stated that on policy matters, his view has always been that the elected members should primarily be the people who are forming the policy because they are elected to do so and have the mandate from the people. Cr Robb stated that decisions on submissions to a plan still have to go through a hearing but if there are councillors who have commissioner status they can now only be a minority on a hearing panel.

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

*Carried*

## **LATE ITEM**

### **BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE**

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer) *that the late item be accepted.*

M. Meehan advised that this report includes the March sampling round and completes the year's sampling. He reported that overall results are good.

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

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 CIVIL DEFENCE & REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that the training on the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) is continuing. He stated that the new software is provided by the Ministry and will be tested during the civil defence exercise in May.

C. Ingle reported that the West Coast Controllers Forum hosted Mr Jim Frater, Controller for the Nelson Tasman CDEM group. He stated that Mr Frater spoke about the Nelson floods event in 2011 and how the civil defence response was handled during this event.

C. Ingle reported that he and the Chairman attended a meeting with NZTA staff and their South Island manager about the freight study. He advised that the Financial Assistance Rate Review (FAR) was also discussed at this meeting. C. Ingle advised that there is another meeting on Thursday which will include a wider group of people. C. Ingle advised that NZTA want to take a principle based approach and to look at the principles that sit behind how the FAR is set. C. Ingle advised that there is a huge risk for this region that this will be used as a reason to cut back the amount of funding coming from the government. C. Ingle stated that he is very concerned that if FAR is determined by population then this will impact on maintenance of roads. C. Ingle stated that his approach is to look at the exports this region produces rather than the population that we support. C. Ingle advised that he is working with NZTA staff to work through the best way to ensure that the West Coast gets a fair deal. Cr Archer stated that NZTA continually reduces the percentage of funding for local purpose roads. Cr Chinn stated that he feels that the West Coast is getting a good hearing at the national meetings.

C. Ingle reported that R Funding expires in 2015. He stated that without the availability of R funds in the future then the West Coast would not get as much work done on roads and state highways, including cycling projects, as we have over the last few years. This is because West Coast projects do not rank as highly as those in Canterbury or Auckland where there are large populations. C. Ingle advised that Taranaki and other provincial areas have banded together to try and get the R funding continued so that money can still be spent in the smaller regions. Cr Davidson feels we have a good case. Cr Scarlett stated that the money is being reallocated and he feels it needs to stay as it is.

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

*Carried*

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

J. Adams spoke to this report. He reported that 18 non-notified consents were processed, eight variations of consents were processed. J. Adams reported that there was one limited notified consent application relating to Roundhill Farms. J. Adams reported that the Environment Court released its initial decision regarding the Escarpment Mine consent on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. He advised that the court has indicated that the consent will be granted, all parties have until the 16<sup>th</sup> of April to reply to the court's decision.

Cr Birchfield commented on Westroads resource consent for gravel extraction and stated that this is a lot disturbance around riverbeds. J. Adams responded that this consent relates to the two yearly renewal of their consent to take gravel at multiple sites around the West Coast region.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Archer) *That the April 2013 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

**5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report advising that 70 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. He stated that 60 of the visits were dairy inspections. J. Adams reported that 14 complaints were received during the reporting period with enforcement action being taken relating to one of the complaints. J. Adams reported that seven infringement notices were issued during the reporting period, one abatement notice and three work programmes for mining were processed during the reporting period.

Cr Davidson stated that the term "dairy shed inspections" is misleading as it is the entire farm that is inspected. It was agreed that under the activities section of the compliance report, "dairy shed inspections" would be changed to "dairy farm inspection".

**Moved** (Davidson Birchfield) *that dairy shed inspections would be changed to dairy farm inspections.*

*Carried*

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson)

1. *That the April 2013 report for the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held for Resource Consent RC09084 (Peter Morrison).*

*Carried*

**6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.07 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date