

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2013 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

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 (Davidson / Birchfield) *that the apologies from I. Cummings and F. Tumahai be accepted.*
Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 14 May 2013, be confirmed as correct.*
Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Birchfield asked if landowners affected by the wetlands appeal have been written to yet. M. Meehan responded that the letter has not yet gone out. He offered to update Councillors on the appeal.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Chinn reported that he attended the Annual Plan hearing on the 28th of May. Cr Chinn reported that he is still receiving enquiries from wetland landowners. He felt that a letter should go out explaining the rules and urging those affected to get in touch with the Wetlands Co-ordinator, Hamish Fairbairn.

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 and advised that there have now been four exceedences of the NES for air quality for PM₁₀ in Reefton so far this winter. M. Meehan reported that a meeting of the Reefton Airshed Committee (RAC) was held on the 13th of May and there is a further meeting scheduled for tomorrow. M. Meehan reported that the feasibility of the two technologies, the down draught burner and the tube that goes on top of the chimney will be discussed further at

this meeting. M. Meehan advised that staff are investigating funding options with MfE to get a project trial underway for Reefton. M. Meehan stated that the RAC still wants to focus on educational articles in the Reefton Clarion and residents are being encouraged to enter into the Warm West Coast loan scheme.

M. Meehan reported that the MfE is seeking feedback on the minor changes to the Marine Pollution Regulations. He advised that staff have looked at these minor changes and the changes will be considered as part of the Coastal Plan Review.

M. Meehan reported that since writing his report there has been an update on the Land & Water Plan. The only appellant left, Mr Elwell-Sutton, was to have his evidence compiled by the 10th of June; the Court is yet to respond to Mr Elwell-Sutton. M. Meehan stated that Mr Elwell-Sutton has not done what the Judge directed him to do and has instead filed a personal statement. C. Ingle advised that Mr Elwell-Sutton has not provided any expert witnesses as instructed by the Judge so it is uncertain as to what the Court will about this.

Cr Archer asked M. Meehan if he has a view on the reaction from MfE on the potential trial for air quality in Reefton. M. Meehan responded that he and C. Ingle have had discussions with MfE and there are now figures available on what the trial will cost. M. Meehan advised that it is hoped that MfE will provide some funding for the trial and the manufacturer of the OekoTube is happy to supply some tubes so long as it is a robust experiment. M. Meehan is hoping to get Envirolink to fund the analysis. C. Ingle advised that he is proposed that a trial of 300 homes is undertaken. He stated that this is a bold attempt but there was reluctance from the Ministry in case the trial does not work. C. Ingle stated that he has now suggested that three houses are trialled and if these three are successful then the trial can be stepped up. Cr Scarlett asked if the company has conducted trials on coal burners in New Zealand before. M. Meehan advised that they have done some work with coal but not enough as yet. M. Meehan advised that some research is being done on wood burners in Canterbury and he is hoping that MfE will be prepared to do research on coal burners in Reefton. Cr Davidson asked how much each unit is. M. Meehan advised that each unit is \$3000. C. Ingle advised that the costs for three houses might be \$10,000 but the running of the experiment itself would around \$20,000 then there would be the cost of analysis and the write up which council may be able to absorb. C. Ingle advised that he and M. Meehan are keen for the trial to take place this winter. M. Meehan advised that he will be looking into the cost sharing arrangements.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 REGIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSES

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this report relate to the two fishing vessels that sunk in the region recently. M. Meehan advised that the Honeydew 2 caught fire near Knights Point, South Westland on the 12th of April. He advised that all four crew were rescued. The responders involved with the rescue advised that due to the rough sea conditions at the time the diesel broke up very quickly. M. Meehan advised that equipment held my council for maritime oil spills would not have been able to be deployed due to the rugged coastline in this area.

M. Meehan reported that the sinking of the Lady Anna on the 16th of April resulted in a fatality. He advised that one of the three crew on board at the time drowned in the Grey River while the vessel was attempting to cross the bar. This quickly became a salvage operation which the Grey District Council's port staff dealt with. M. Meehan reported that he observed the sheen of diesel on the water on the morning of the sinking but this broke up very quickly due to the rough seas and high winds at the time. M. Meehan advised that once the boat was pulled out of the water the fuel tank was missing but it washed up onto Cobden Beach some weeks later. M. Meehan advised that the environmental effects from both incidents were very minimal due to the rough sea conditions at the time. He stated that no further action would be taken.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

J. Adams spoke to this report. He advised that during the reporting period four consent site visits were made, 18 non-notified resource consents were granted, and three changes to consents conditions granted. J. Adams reported that one limited notified consent was received. J. Adams

reported that the notified consent for the Bathurst Mine appeal is back in Court tomorrow. J. Adams reported that all public enquiries were responded to within the correct timeframes included two LGOIMA requests. Cr Birchfield asked who the two LGOIMA requests were from. J. Adams responded that one was from the Green Party and related to district council waste and dump sites. The second was from the Greymouth Evening Star.

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

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report advising that 110 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. J. Adams advised that 86 were compliant and 23 were non-compliant with enforcement action being taken in five cases. J. Adams advised that most of the non-compliance was very minor. J. Adams reported that every dairy farm was inspected this dairy season along with every mine site. J. Adams noted that this has never been achieved before. He advised that two infringement notices were issued for stock in waterways in the Lake Brunner catchment. One infringement notice was issued to a farm in Springs Junction for pugging of riparian margin.

J. Adams reported that on-going enquiries are being made in relation to complaints made during the month. J. Adams reported that 12 mining programmes have been received.

J. Adams reported that due to the low rainfall so far this year there has been a significant reduction in gravel deposits around the area. He advised that he has stopped gravel extraction in a number of areas for this reason.

Cr Archer asked J. Adams if all conditions have been met in relation to the bonds that council is releasing. J. Adams confirmed this.

Cr Robb asked J. Adams if council is getting better uptake of compliance in relation to the dairy farm inspections. J. Adams stated that by inspecting each farm this season it has given staff an overall measure of exactly where compliance is at. J. Adams said that there has been a lot of improvement and those farms that have needed extra work done have now been able to be revisited within the same season. Cr Robb asked J. Adams if he is happy with the responses from the farms that needed to work hard to gain compliance. J. Adams stated that 99% of those visited are doing what has been asked of them.

Moved (Robb / Archer)

1. That the June 2013 report of the Compliance Group be received.

2. That Council release the bonds held for RC03199 (Fahey, P), RC08052 (Phoenix Mining Ltd), RC11001 (Phoenix Mining Ltd), RC12123 (Bonar Farms Ltd), RC12144 (Barry Foster), RC12152 (Mill Creek Mining Ltd), RC12152 (Greid Mining Ltd), RC12164 (West Coast Contracting Ltd).

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.02 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date