

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2013 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.33 A.M.

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (Chairman), A. Robb, A. Birchfield, P. McDonnell, S. Challenger, N. Clementson, T. Archer, 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

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 11 November 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he has fielded a couple of public enquiries which he passed onto staff. He attended the opening of the West Coast Wilderness Trail at Kumara. Cr Ewen reported that he attended the Greymouth Roadshow for the Regional Policy Statement, he stated this was well received. Cr Ewen attended the West Coast Economic Summit held at Shantytown on the 6th of December. He passed on his thanks to staff for arranging this and stated that it was a fruitful exercise. Cr Ewen stated that the collective voice of the West Coast was a theme that came through from a lot of the speakers in attendance.

Moved (Ewen / 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 the Regional Policy Statement roadshows have been launched and are progressing well.

M. Meehan reported that expert conferencing for the Land and Water Plan was held on the 26th and 27th of November. This was directed by the court and a joint statement has been submitted to the Environment Court with directions awaited.

M. Meehan reported that the Reefton Airshed Committee met on the 25th of November. He advised that the trial for the Oeko Tube is scheduled for the 6th and 7th of January, in Nelson.

M. Meehan reported that the \$200,000 worth of funding received from the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Fund is now being distributed amongst the farmers and community group in this catchment. He advised that the Lake Brunner Catchment Landcare Group was allocated \$20,000 and they held their first planting day over the weekend. M. Meehan reported that a further round of funding applications from farmers will be allocated in January 2014.

M. Meehan reported that staff are working on a monitoring strategy for the Grey River catchment, particularly around the Mai Mai area. He advised that this work is part of the State of Environment monitoring.

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

Carried

5.1.2 REPORT INTO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT 2011

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that the main changes that the Government is proposing are that they want councils to establish water quality and quantity accounting system. M. Meehan advised that staff are currently in discussions with MfE regarding the accounting system. M. Meehan stated that he attended a meeting regarding this in Wellington last week and he was assured that MfE will provide assistance and that it is not as involved as we originally thought. He advised that more information is expected this week. Cr Robb advised that this matter was discussed at the recent Regional Sector Group meeting that he and C. Ingle attended last week. Cr Robb stated that MfE is seeking a joint submission from councils. Cr McDonnell asked what council's submission would contain. C. Ingle responded that none of the rivers on the West Coast are under the national bottom line but there could be a cost implication for our region due to the setting up of the water quality and quantity accounting system. Further discussion ensued. M. Meehan advised that at the meeting in Wellington, all regional councils were in attendance and every council stated that it was business as usual for everything that is being proposed. He stated that more details relating to the accounting details are being sought.

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

Carried

5.1.3 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised the new councillors that this report will be brought to the council meeting each month over the summer. He explained this report in detail for the benefit of the new councillors. M. Meehan advised that there are 17 bathing beach sites around the coast which are sampled twice a month over the summer. M. Meehan advised that following on from last year, the two Buller sites, Shingle Beach and Marrs Beach, have had follow up work to ascertain exactly what is causing the higher E. coli results. M. Meehan stated that in order to be able to do tracing tests to see if the readings are coming from bovine, bird or human, the results need to be very high and these are not high enough. He stated a further report on this area will be done in the New Year. Cr Archer stated that for the last six years there has been continually non satisfactory results. Cr Archer stated that it was thought that the new Waste Water Treatment system for Westport might have improved these results but to date this has not been the case.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 16 non-notified consents were granted during the reporting period and two changes of consent conditions granted. J. Adams confirmed that the Fox River area in his report is the Fox River near Punakaiki.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the December 2013 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 68 site visits were carried out. He advised 52 were compliant and 14 were non-compliant. J. Adams advised that further visits have been made to the sites that are non-compliant and only three remain non-compliant. He stated that one of these sites was carrying out remedial work but this was ruined by heavy rainfall and therefore an extension has been given. J. Adams advised that the two other farms were non-compliant due to storage issues. He stated that these farms have been given extra time to sort this issues out as the environmental impact is low. J. Adams advised that 171 dairy farms are yet to be inspected this dairy season. J. Adams advised that the four alluvial gold mining sites that are non-compliant were inspected as a result of a complaint. He stated that these four operations were issued with infringement notices. Cr Clementson asked if the discharge to a waterway in Reefton is the dump. J. Adams confirmed this and advised that work is now being done on the plan for the protection works in this area. J. Adams answered various questions from councillors regarding complaints. J. Adams advised that he is yet to remove the abatement notice for the Reefton dump but advised that 99% of the rubbish that went down the river has now been removed.

Moved (Robb / Clementson) *That the December 2013 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

Cr Ewen wished everyone present a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date