

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 MAY 2014, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.03 A.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **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:**

**Moved** (Archer / McDonnell) *that the apology from Cr Challenger be accepted.*

*Carried*

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

There was no public forum.

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

**Moved** (Clementson / Birchfield) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 8 April 2014, 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 tendered works were carried out in Whataroa, Karamea, Nelson Creek and Vine Creek rating districts. M. Meehan reported that he, Cr McDonnell and Council's river engineer met with the Franz Josef rating district committee to discuss a proposed stopbank and the Southside stopbank. He advised that a consultant has been engaged to do modelling work for the investigation into flood protection work for Westport. M. Meehan advised that the consultant is using information from different reports that have been compiled over the years. M. Meehan advised that the modelling work should be completed by early June and estimated costs will then be worked out prior to taking the model to Buller District Council and the community.

Cr McDonnell asked if the costs of the preliminary work being done for Westport becomes ratable or is this a cost to council. M. Meehan responded that some reports were funded through Envirolink, as was done for the Hokitika seawall, but the cross sectional work is paid for with the general rate and this is budgeted for. He stated that if a rating district does come about through this sort of process, the initial costs are not carried through. Cr Archer stated that initially Buller District Council had engaged NIWA to do some investigations. Cr Ewen suggested that a council meeting could be held in Westport as this could be beneficial to both parties should a rating district evolve in the future.

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

*Carried*

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

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that this is the nine month financial report up to the end of March. He advised that the surplus is \$686,000; this amount includes the payout from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management which was received at the end of last year and was related to the 2010 floods. R. Mallinson reported that the surplus has been dragged down by the development at Camelback Quarry. He advised that in excess of \$400,000 has been capitalised with the Camelback development expenditure which will be amortised as that resource of 49,000 tonne of rock is exhausted in future years. R. Mallinson advised the Hokitika seawall costs of \$1.8M have been capitalised now that project has been completed. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio did not produce any significant returns during March but it has now bounced ahead in excess of \$100,000 during April. R. Mallinson stated that submissions on the Draft Annual Plan close on Friday 16 March. Cr Ewen asked how long the 49,000 tonne of rock in Camelback quarry is likely to last for. M. Meehan advised that 40,000 tonnes was used for the Hokitika Seawall and the Arahura Bridge project also used a significant amount of rock. M. Meehan stated that is difficult to estimate but he hopes between 5 – 10 years. R. Mallinson agreed with this and stated that Council needs to recover the costs of the 49,000 tonnes of rock which was measured and verified by Council's Quarry Consultant. M. Meehan stated that at the moment council's rock prices are quite low at \$10 per tonne in most quarries, the Quarry Consultant has advised that Council's price is very, very low and development costs should be factored in to recover costs. M. Meehan advised the Quarry Consultant has been asked for his advice as to how much the price of rock should be increased by. C. Ingle suggested it may be timely to consider raising the price of rock. He stated that council has been in the black for 3 – 4 years and this is a year when Council is going into the red and this is the time when consideration should be made regarding rock pricing. M. Meehan it may be that rock prices stay the same in some quarries but increase in other quarries. Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that a report would be brought to the next council meeting on this matter.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That management prepares a quarry report on the development costs against the recovery costs for all council quarries for the next council meeting.*
2. *That this report be received.*

*Carried*

#### **4.2 NINE MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that this report is usually an eight month review but the extra month now means this report is for nine months which is three quarters of the financial year. C. Ingle advised that the information in this report reflects what was in the current year's Annual Plan and reports on the achievement of targets. He advised most of the annual plan targets were either achieved or in progress and are likely to be achieved by the July deadline. C. Ingle advised that the targets for water quality in Lake Brunner that were not achieved are to be expected as the work in this area has only just started. He stated that more work is still to be done at Marrs Beach and Hokitika Beach to identify contaminant sites. C. Ingle stated that he is pleased that most work is on track. Discussion took place on the consenting process. J. Adams advised that a report has recently been completed by MfE revealed that this council come third out of all regional councils for the number of consents that are being processed. J. Adams advised he is currently short of one full time consents officer at the moment but a close eye is being kept on this. Cr Archer stated that staff should be acknowledged for the good effort that has been made in meeting these performance targets. Cr Robb agreed with this.

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

*Carried*

## 5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cr Robb spoke to his report and noted the various meetings he attended including the meeting with Development West Coast and the Mayors and Chairs forum who discussed regional economic development. He stated that it is pleasing to see all councils working together on this matter. Cr Robb stated that the meeting was also attended by DoC. He advised that DoC are requesting to be kept up to date on what is happening locally with and are now adopting a slightly more commercial approach in some cases. Cr Robb stated that the recent financial governance workshop he attended with Cr Clementson and Cr Ewen was valuable and worthwhile.

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

*Carried*

## 6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

C. Ingle reported that he also attended the meeting with Development West Coast, and the Mayors and Chairs forum. C. Ingle that Civil Defence was activated during the Easter storm event with four regional group conference calls being held during this event. C. Ingle advised that he has just returned from a debrief with other councils and civil defence staff and is now awaiting a report on what improvements could be made for future events. C. Ingle stated that the debrief was very well attended. He advised that civil defence staffing is to be increased and this has been noted in the debriefs as councils are now putting more resources into civil defence. C. Ingle stated that this was a Coast wide event with the region receiving quite a battering.

C. Ingle reported that council has now gained tertiary accreditation for the ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices Programme. C. Ingle stated that Council receives a discount in the ACC levies it has to pay now that we are tertiary qualified. He advised that management has recently undergone health and safety training, and staff are proud of achieving the tertiary level status. He thanked Trish Jellyman for her efforts in coordinating this work.

C. Ingle reported that he attended the Regional Sector Group meeting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. He stated that one of the main topics was a national hazards positions paper that the CEO of Taranaki Regional Council is leading. C. Ingle advised that this is great way to get conversations started around making changes to legislation that will lead on to changes that will work better for the future.

C. Ingle advised that he attended the Chief Executive's Environmental Forum in Wellington last week. He stated that the relationships with the government senior officials are very good at the moment with a very open and collaborative way of doing business.

C. Ingle advised that there are four draft chapters of the Regional Policy Statement being brought to the workshop following today's council meeting. He stated that there is possibly another five chapters to come to next month's workshop. C. Ingle advised that he and the Chairman may take a PowerPoint presentation to each of the district council meetings to start getting the district councils engaged with the Regional Policy Statement work.

C. Ingle advised that three submissions to the Annual Plan have been received to date. Submissions close on Friday.

C. Ingle advised that the Council website has been updated and he encouraged Councillors to view this. Discussion took place on the role of Councillors during a civil defence emergency. C. Ingle gave an overview of how civil defence protocols work during an emergency.

He advised that the new IRIS software for consents has recently been installed. C. Ingle stated that the new IRIS software is cutting edge and some of the biggest regional councils in the country are also running this software.

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

*Carried*

## 6.1 DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that this Plan has been passed by Buller District Council already and is being driven by the Mayors and Chairs Forum. C. Ingle stated that it was noted at the Economic Development Summit that the West Coast wants a brief, action oriented plan that gives guidance as to what is wanted for the future. C. Ingle stated that there has been a lot of talk about the "red carpet not red tape" philosophy, trying to be more welcoming of developers, even though they still have to go through the RMA

and Building Act process and they still need to manage their environmental externalities. C. Ingle stated that this is going to be a live document and the list of actions will be refreshed regularly, and as actions are achieved they will be crossed off and another target will be added. Discussion ensued on whether or not item 5 on page 2 should be amended to clarify that funding is subject to Annual Plan processes, but it was agreed that no further addition to the recommendation is required. Cr Archer stated that he is very happy with this document.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Clementson)

*That the Council adopt the attached Draft Economic Development Plan, on the understanding that the West Coast Mayors and Chairs Forum will arrange for it to be circulated to key industry leaders in the West Coast community in order that their feedback can be obtained and where necessary incorporated into the document.*

*Carried*

## **7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Clementson stated that he would like council to recognise and congratulate Paulette Birchfield on her appointment to the Tai Poutini Conservation Board.

**Moved** (Clementson / Archer) *that Paulette Birchfield be congratulated on her appointment to the Tai Poutini Conservation Board.*

*Carried*

The Chairman stated that Maureen Pugh and Garry Howard have both sent letters to council suggesting that the native trees that were blown over in the severe wind storm, the tail of cyclone Ita, on April the 17<sup>th</sup> are recovered and milled. It is felt that this is an opportunity for our region to have some benefit from a natural occurrence that will have no detrimental effect to the environment. The Chairman stated that both letters request that the trees are processed on the West Coast.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer)

*That council supports the recovery and milling of the native trees that were downed in the Easter storm and that the trees are processed on the West Coast.*

*Carried*

The meeting closed at 11.58 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date