

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
KARAMEA RATING DISTRICT
HELD AT THE KARAMEA FIRE STATION
ON 20 NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 1.04 PM.

PRESENT

B. Langford, D. Rhind, H. Macbeth, P. McClintock, W. Alber, B. Jones, B. Lodge, G. Lodge, D. Simkin, C. Partridge, B. Partridge, R. Barton, P. Moynihan, P. Murray, T. Hawley, C. McKay, C. Hellyar, W. Love, K. Blumm, J. Gibbons, J. Lowe.

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council
T. Archer, N. Clementson (Councillors)
C. Ingle (CEO), P. Birchfield, T. Jellyman (Staff)

APOLOGIES

M. Macbeth, R. Sampson, W. Smit

H. Macbeth / P. Moynihan - Carried

BUSINESS

T. Archer 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 19 September 2013, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.***

B. Jones / p. McClintock - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

Action points were updated. This meeting was advertised as requested. More notice was given of the meeting this year. It was noted that the meeting agenda and papers was sent out earlier as well.

Review of rating district classifications: B. Langford advised that the committee looked at this matter. B. Langford advised that there was not enough interest in having the classifications altered to warrant spending this amount of money (\$5,000 - \$10,000). C. Ingle offered to find out what the differentials for the rating classifications are for Mr Macbeth. Cr Archer asked the meeting if they wished this matter to be progressed. C. Ingle advised that there are five classifications. He offered to send hard copies of the classifications, asset management plan, asset register and maps of the rating district to the committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that the financials are looking good with the \$48,345 from the Ministry of Civil Defence now in the account. He stated that this was applied for to repair damage following the December 2010 flood. He reported that the closing balance in the rating district account is \$143,411.45. He explained the expenses incurred during the reporting period.

Moved: ***"That the financial report is received.***

D. Simkin / H. Macbeth - Carried

WORKS REPORT

P. Birchfield spoke to this report. She advised that a total of \$18,097.50 worth of work was carried out during the reporting period. P. Birchfield reported that S. M. Lowe Contracting Ltd removed large trees from a section of the Karamea stopbank at a cost of \$9,360 along with the extension of a spur at a cost of \$6,475.

An inspection was carried out on the 9th of September and \$11,250 worth of works were identified. These works include re grassing the Domain Stopbank and fencing of this stopbank. P. Birchfield suggested that \$10,000 is allowed for removal of further trees on the stopbank and \$10,000 for unforeseen maintenance. The total amount of future works is \$21,500. C. Ingle advised that more vegetation removal could be done. He stated that in view of the account balance more work could be done if requested. Extensive discussion took place regarding vegetation removal.

C. Ingle explained the new Flood Protection Bylaw to the meeting. He stated that the new bylaw was prompted by the experience that has been had in this rating district with the allowing of vegetation to grow on stopbanks, when this shouldn't have been allowed. C. Ingle advised that NIWA's advice is that vegetation on stopbanks ends up damaging the structural integrity of stopbanks. He stated that the new bylaw will give Council more rights to manage a public asset. C. Ingle advised that the floodwalls in Greymouth and around Blaketown are also having vegetation removed.

Cr Archer advised that the bylaw will protect public assets from being compromised as these stopbanks are protection devices for the whole community rather than individual property owners. Cr Archer encouraged those present to make a submission on the new bylaw, he advised that submissions close on the 19th of January 2015.

P. Birchfield advised that there are three main areas where vegetation removal is being considered. They are by the motels, the domain and the area near the bottom end of the scheme, towards the mouth of Karamea River. She stated that main area of concern is the domain area and consideration should be given to working with the motel owners to see what can be done in this area. C. Ingle stated the bigger cost is the removal of the roots once the trees have been cut down as there will be earthworks involved with this. Cr Archer explained to the meeting Graham Smart's previous comments about the importance of removing root ball as well as the tree. Mr Smart has previously advised that during a flood the tree root will attract water and water penetrates along the root line which then compromises the integrity of the stopbank. Extensive discussion took place with various speakers taking part. C. Ingle advised that it may well be a good time to do some extra work in this area in view of there being a healthy balance in the rating district account.

RATES 2015 / 2016

C. Ingle advised that the proposed rate strike is \$50,000 GST Excl. H. Macbeth stated that he would be happy for the rate strike to stay as it and to perhaps spend some money on this extra work. Various other speakers agreed with this.

Discussion took place on protection works on the Oparara River. W. Burt stated that he has spent a considerable amount of money on these structures and to date they are holding up very well. C. Ingle advised that the usual practice is for these types of structures to be included in the asset management plan once they have been in place for three years and if they are to the acceptable standard required by Council. B. Jones stated that the wording in the asset management plan would need to be changed to enable inclusion of the structures in the asset management plan. W. Burt stated that there are two issues, one is the inclusion of new assets in the asset management plan / register and the other is to review the classifications in the rating district to accommodate

this. H. Macbeth stated that there could be ramifications for the rating district and it may be timely to relook at this.

Discussion took place on how to get assets included into the asset management plan. B. Jones stated that there are already systems in place for the inclusion of assets into the asset management plan as long as the assets are up to a certain standard. B. Langford stated that the committee looks at the asset but they then ask the Council Engineer to approve the integrity of the structure. C. Ingle advised that the usual procedure is for the rating district spokesperson and the Council Engineer to do a joint inspection and if they are happy with it then it comes back to this meeting for verification. B. Jones stated that there are four catchments in the rating district, Oparara, Karamea, Granite Creek and Little Wanganui. The only catchment that is included to the sea is the Karamea. Cr Archer stated that there are two slightly different things but with the same outcome, one is the review of the rating classification and the second is whether or not there are any assets in all of the catchments that should be included in the asset management plan. It was agreed that now is a good time to address both matters. C. Ingle advised that if the rating district committee recommends to council that areas like the river mouth works are included in the rating district assets then Council is taking these assets on board as a liability and this is now council's legal responsibility to maintain these assets. B. Langford stated that in the case of the works on W. Burt's property, Mr Burt has spent a lot of money on this and he now wants the works protected. C. Ingle stated that W. Burt is a ratepayer and part of the scheme so he should be entitled to have the works included in the scheme, provided they have been properly constructed. C. Ingle stated that this could be rolled into one job; there are three elements to this, reviewing the fairness of the rating, the checking off of the new assets to be included, and looking at the scope of the way the document is worded. C. Ingle advised that a consultant could do all three of these jobs. It was noted that this may cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. C. Ingle stated it is important to find out where any other structures are that may be included and what standard they are currently at.

Moved: ***"That the Council Engineer works with the committee to identify the structures to be included prior to engaging a Consultant, getting a quote and then to advise the committee of the costs."***

C. McKay / P. Murray - Carried

It was noted that once this information is to hand, a special meeting may need to be arranged.

Moved: ***"That the rate strike for the Karamea Rating District remains at \$50,000 for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."***

P. Moynihan / H. Macbeth - Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cr Archer read out the names of the current committee. R. Barton handed in a letter of resignation and asked that due to work commitments he is not available for re-election to the committee. It was agreed that the status quo would remain with the exception of R. Barton.

Moved: ***"That the present committee be: Paul McClintock, Peter Langford, Darryl Simkin, Brian Jones, Margaret Macbeth, and Bevan Langford be the committee for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."***

H. Macbeth / B. Jones -Carried

Moved: "That the incoming committee appoints a spokesperson for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."

D. Rhind / P. Moynihan -Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Opening of Karamea River mouth: H. Macbeth stated that he is not opposed to the opening of this river mouth. He asked for clarification on why the river mouth was opened, on whose authority was it opened, who was consulted, how much was spent and is it going to be successful and how can you tell if it has been successful. Cr Archer advised that in terms of authority, it is a permitted activity under the Coastal Management Plan. B. Langford stated that a trigger point was the reason why it was opened this time. P. Birchfield advised that she carried out an inspection in August, the river was not up at the time and it was mid tide. B. Langford stated that he knows of at least three letters that were sent to the Regional Council regarding flooding of lower Karamea from residents and these letters were taken into consideration. A speaker spoke of a flood on the 6th of October; he stated he had written one of the letters to the Regional Council regarding this flooding. He stated that W. Moen visited this area after the flood. The speaker stated that the flood water cannot get out of the river mouth because the area is too flat and the water then backs up through Bakers Creek and the estuary. Discussion took place on who decides to open the river mouth. C. Ingle advised that Council's job as mandated by the rating district is to try to stop flooding and if that means opening the river mouth then that is part of maintaining the assets.

Extensive discussion took place with various speakers voicing their concerns and ideas on flooding in the area and the pros and cons of opening river mouths.

It was agreed that whenever the river mouth is to be opened that a notice is put in the Chronicle advising residents of this. B. Langford stated that a careful eye has been kept on this area for about a year now. He stated that he has visited the area numerous times over the past month or so. He stated that prior to opening the river mouth he had to get diggers in place, the river needed to be rising and a falling tide. He stated that there were only two opportunities to open the mouth. He gave details of how and when the river mouth could be opened. He stated that currently the river is flowing out through the mouth.

(Postscript: Two days after this meeting a 5.5m flood successfully helped open the Karamea River mouth in the desired location).

Works in the Little Wanganui area: A speaker asked if the problem in the Kongahu rating district has been completely resolved yet. B. Jones advised that the problem has not been resolved by as far as the committee is concerned. Anything that was going to be done has now been parked indefinitely. A speaker asked what is happening with the willows in the Little Wanganui River. C. Ingle responded that the Kongahu rating district committee did not want to spend money spraying willows and they thought that this committee should do the spraying. He advised that he felt this committee did not want to spray the willows either. Cr Archer reminded the meeting that there was not any support in the Smart report for the spraying of willows as it was felt that there was not going to be any positive impact in the river flow if the willows were sprayed.

Bakers Creek: P. Murray stated that there have been three significant floods in this area in the last two years. P. Murray expressed his concern about the flooding of the main road through the township. His properties have been flooded, he asked if Council has had a look at Bakers Creek and if there are any solutions for this flooding. C. Ingle advised that Graham Smart has looked at this area and stated that this is a function of the overflow. It was noted that a farmer removed a stopbank in this area but the farmer go rid of this

when he was levelling his paddocks and that is why there is more flooding in this area now. C. Ingle stated that this was discussed in Graham Smart's report with one of the action points being ways to get floodwaters in a larger flood out through the main channel. Modelling was looked at for the low flood banks and various other options but there was no silver bullet for this area as there is a lot of water coming down via the overflow. The egress of water out through the estuary is affected by tides. A speaker gave a history of what happens in this area during a heavy rainfall event. B. Jones stated that this is still related to what is happening at the mouth. It was agreed that P. Birchfield would investigate this area and look for a solution. It was agreed that P. Birchfield would also look at what is happening with erosion around the Quinlan's Road area and report back to the committee.

T. Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.29 p.m.

Action Points

- Email B. Langford and H. Macbeth the rating differentials.
- Send all documents that are on the council website to the committee members of the rating district (asset management plan, asset register and maps, rating classification map).
- P. Birchfield to review the ten priorities in the Smart Report to see what has been done and what still needs to be done and report back to the committee.
- P. Birchfield to investigate causes of flooding around Bakers Creek area.
- P. Birchfield would also look at what is happening with erosion around the Quinlan's Road area and report back to the committee.