

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
**KONGAHU RATING DISTRICT**  
**HELD AT THE LITTLE WANGANUI HOTEL**  
**ON 20 NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 11.10 AM**

**PRESENT**

C. Hellyar, R. Hedgman, B. Jones, R. Anderson, R. Hedgman, G & F. Volckman

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

L & K. Kees, B. Meek

*R. Anderson / G. Volckman - Carried*

**BUSINESS**

T. Archer opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He introduced himself and the Council staff.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**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.***

*G. Volckman / R. Anderson - Carried*

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes. P. Birchfield provided an update on the control methods and work to date done on Parrots Feather. Garlon spray was applied by helicopter and a good result was obtained. B. Jones stated that although Parrots Feather is still quite widespread it has now thinned out quite a bit in most areas. He stated that initial spray has made a huge difference. C. Ingle advised that Council now has employed a Biosecurity Officer, who is an expert in weed control, who will now take over this area. It was noted that the Biosecurity Officer has already visited this area. C. Ingle advised that Parrots Feather is one of his top priorities. C. Ingle advised that Parrots Feather is already in the Pest Plant Strategy and this is now coming up for review. He stated that Parrots Feather is a landowner responsibility to control but this becomes tricky as Parrots Feather is a waterborne weed and is hard to eradicate. R. Anderson stated that it is hard to believe how rampant this weed has now become. C. Ingle advised that it is important to keep treating it with Garlon. B. Jones stated that Parrots Feather needs to be treated twice a year and needs to be spot sprayed as well as aerial sprayed. Extensive discussion ensued on this matter and strategies on how to eradicate this weed. It was agreed that the whole drain area would be sprayed twice a year with Garlon but Round up would not be used this year. B. Jones stated that it was discussed as to whether or not all on farms drains should be sprayed. C. Ingle advised that all on farm drains would need to be sprayed otherwise the job would never get done. G. Volckman stated that either everything is done by the rating district or the farmer pays for what he is responsible for. C. Ingle confirmed that spraying would be done twice a year; all the side drains would be sprayed. It was agreed that Kevin Anderson (Anderson Helicopters) be contracted for this work.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT 2013 / 2014**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. C. Ingle advised that the opening balance was \$34,843 and the closing balance as of 30 June 2014 was \$27,993.93. C. Ingle stated that the \$4,075 for staff time is quite a significant amount. It was agreed that this would be checked and reported back to the rating district.

## **WORKS REPORT**

P. Birchfield spoke to this report advising that \$10,633 worth of works were done during the 2013 / 2014 financial year. P. Birchfield advised that the Blackwater Outlet was cleaned out but as a result of a recent flood around 2 ½ hectares of land has been washed away. B. Jones advised that this area is not causing too many issues at the moment but the mouth of the Karamea River is currently pushing towards the east and is almost opposite the McBeth's property. B. Jones stated that the mouth of the Otumahana River is about opposite Roumieu's property.

P. Birchfield advised that the resource consent for the top section of the scheme runs out in 2016. C. Ingle advised that council is trying to make it a permitted activity to clean out the whole outlet into the estuary. This is part of the coastal marine area so it is in the Coastal Plan. He advised that the Coastal Plan is being work shopped by Council at the next council meeting. C. Ingle advised that it is hoped this will be notified in the New Year.

A discussion with the spokesperson was held in August 2014 and no additional works were identified. P. Birchfield advised that 2.3 hours of spraying with Garlon and 2.4 hours on other spraying at a cost of \$7,000 has been allowed for. B. Jones stated that a helicopter may not be required for the second round of spraying.

## **PROPOSED NEW CAPITAL WORKS**

Discussion took place on the proposed cut-off bank on L. Kees's property. C. Ingle advised that the design for this changed a few times and the costs came in at twice the amount it was estimated at. C. Ingle stated that Council is no longer sure where the rating district would like to go with this and whether or not it is still an issue. B. Jones advised that he had a discussion with L. Kees last night and in view of the price quoted and some of the design features, this matter is now a dead duck. B. Jones advised that Mr Kees is still supportive of the principle but if it meant it would cost the rating district a lot of money and incur debt then he would not support going ahead with this. C. Ingle advised that should the project be given the go ahead then the rating district would definitely need to borrow money to fund it. G. Volckman stated that this project is on private land and he is concerned whether or not this is sensible for a rating district to consider doing especially if a farm was sold in the future.

C. Ingle advised that currently Council is introducing a bylaw which will give council some control over structures that are on private land. He stated that the main reason for the bylaw is so that people don't plant trees on or near to stopbanks. C. Ingle advised that the bylaw is out for public consultation at the moment with submissions closing after Christmas. Extensive discussion took place. R. Anderson noted that there is already a resource consent in place for this work. He stated that if the work is done without using a culvert by the roadside drain then the costs should be fairly low. B. Jones stated that there was a variation to the consent relating to the size of the culvert. B. Jones asked the meeting if they are happy for L. Kees to be able to use the consent to do this work at his own cost? G. Volckman disagrees with this; he feels that it is a contestable consent as he feels that if the stopbank were built but without a culvert, the waterway is being blocked. Cr Archer stated that the issue really is whether or not the rating district is prepared to transfer the consent to L. Kees.

**Moved:**        ***"That the existing resource consent is transferred to another party".***

*B. Jones / R. Anderson – Carried*

G. Volckman stated that he objects to this as he feels it is going to have an impact on his property. C. Ingle advised that there are no costs involved with this and there should not be any further

costs. He stated that L. Kees will have to pay the costs of having the resource consent transferred (if he wants it) but this is only \$50.00.

### **2015 / 2016 RATE STRIKE**

The recommended rate strike is \$7,600 for the coming financial year. Discussion took place on the rate strike. It was agreed in view of the amount of spraying to be done and the cost of the spray, that the rate strike would be increased to \$10,000. C. Ingle stated that there is still a reserve of \$31,000 in the rating district account.

Discussion took place on what money is likely to be spent over the coming year. B. Jones stated that he does not recall W. Moen phoning him to see if there were any proposed works required. B. Jones stated that he would have emailed members of the rating district to see if they did have any works required had he heard from W. Moen. Discussion took place on the damage done to the road whenever Granite Creek floods over the road.

**Moved:** ***"That the rate strike for the Kongahu Rating District is increased to \$10,000 for the 2015 / 2016 financial year."***

*B. Jones / R. Anderson – Carried*

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND SPOKESPERSON**

It was noted that all ratepayers in the rating district are members of the committee. It was agreed that the status quo would remain.

**Moved:** ***"That the entire rating district are on the rating district committee for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."***

*G. Volckman / R. Anderson - Carried*

**Moved:** ***"That B. Jones re- elected as the spokesperson for the 2014 / 2015 financial year."***

*G. Volckman / R. Anderson – Carried*

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

P. Birchfield advised that the asset management plan has been updated along with maps of the rating district. P. Birchfield asked the meeting to take a look at the maps of the Kongahu Drainage Scheme and to confirm to her that they are correct. It was noted that these maps are now on the Council website. She offered hard copies of the maps to the meeting. Discussion took place. R. Anderson clarified various areas to the meeting and showed P. Birchfield the areas that have changed. She requested that those present advise her of any changes after the meeting and she will make any changes as necessary.

T. Archer thanked the meeting for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.14 pm.

### **Action Points for follow up**

- Check staff time in financial report and report back to rating district.