

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
**RED JACKS CREEK RATING DISTRICT**  
**HELD AT NGAHERE FIRE STATION**  
**ON 25 NOVEMBER 2014, COMMENCING AT 4.30PM.**

**PRESENT**

R & S. Norris, R. McLaughlin, C & D. Levy, P. Donaldson, L. Whitcombe, J. Matthews,  
P. Rennie, W. Delany, A. Osborne, S. Partridge

**IN ATTENDANCE**

West Coast Regional Council  
A. Birchfield, P. Ewen, A. Robb (Councillors)  
M. Meehan, P. Birchfield, T. Jellyman (Staff)

**APOLOGIES**

C. Norris, C. Taylor

*R. Norris / S. Partridge - Carried*

**BUSINESS**

Cr Robb 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 9 September 2013, be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting, with the amendments below made."***

*"P. Donaldson stated that he is annoyed that the \$16,000 was spent because of the work done by the bulldozer". And*

*"That council told the meeting that the rate strike would be \$10,000".*

*P. Donaldson / R. Norris - Carried*

P. Donaldson disputed the accuracy of the minutes. He drew attention to the second paragraph on page 2 where it says "he was annoyed that \$16,000 was spent on Foster's left bank when this area is not in the rating district". Mr Donaldson stated that this is not what he meant. He meant why did this work cost so much money to put rock opposite Fosters and that rating district's money was used for this. Mr Donaldson stated that he would be recording today's meeting so that he can be sure of what he actually says. Mr Donaldson stated that what he is annoyed about is the amount of money the rating district has had to spend to rectify the problem that was caused by the bulldozer being in the creek and allowing the creek to scour into the bank. M. Meehan asked if the statement in the minutes where Mr Levy stated that he is annoyed that the rating district has had to pay for works due to the works that OPUS did. Mr Levy agreed with this part of the minutes.

Cr Robb stated that the minutes are snapshot of what is said at the meeting. Mr Donaldson also disagrees with the rate strike. He stated that the minutes say that the rating district approved the increase to the rate strike of \$10,000. Mr Donaldson stated that the rating district was told that the rate strike was going to \$10,000. It was agreed that the minutes would be amended to reflect the rate strike and that the wording would be changed to say that *"council told the meeting that the rate strike would be \$10,000 this year"*.

Mr Levy stated that the meeting was against the rate strike being \$10,000. The rating district did not realise when they left the meeting that this was the case.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

M. Meehan addressed the action points from the previous meeting.

Discuss remediation with GDC and NZTA: M. Meehan advised that P. Birchfield has had discussions with R. Norris regarding the previous offer from GDC of a \$14,000 contribution to the rating district. P. Birchfield advised that if the resource consent is signed off, the rating district will receive \$14,000 from GDC. M. Meehan advised that GDC was looking at an ongoing contribution to the rating district and they requested expanding the rating district to include the works upstream which have already been done. P. Donaldson asked for further information clarification on the resource consent. M. Meehan stated that he would send the resource consent out to the rating district. He advised that the work OPUS did in 2011 was done under emergency works which is allowed for under the RMA but after emergency works are completed OPUS then needed to apply for resource consent. M. Meehan advised that as part of the resource consent process the rating district was deemed to be an affected party so in order for OPUS to progress the resource consent they need to get approval from the affected party, being the rating district. M. Meehan advised that this has been taken to the rating district but in the past the rating district has been reluctant for Council to sign off on the consent on the rating district's behalf. Council is recommending to the rating district that the consent is signed off, as the affected party, work through the conditions of the consent with R. Norris, then receive the \$14,000 from GDC and work on the MOU for the future. M. Meehan advised that the alternative is, should the rating district not want to take this option, is don't sign off on the consent, take it to a hearing, provide evidence as to why the consent should not be granted and then go to a full hearing. Council is currently working on the finer details on the MOU, and this can either be presented to the committee or a meeting of the whole rating district can be called once the MOU is finalised. M. Meehan stated that he is hoping that this can be finalised within the next couple of weeks and he will liaise with R. Norris to finalise this. C. Levy stated that everything was fine in the rating district until this trouble with the bulldozer in the creek came up. C. Levy stated why the rating district should pay because someone mucked the creek up. R. McLaughlin stated a lot of the land in the rating district area belongs to Grey District Council and the rating district has been paying to maintain this land. P. Donaldson stated that he is concerned about all the extra water coming down the creek now. He stated that there has not been a decent flood since the bulldozer has been in the creek and he is worried about this area. Cr Robb stated that Council's role is to administer the rating district and a solution needs to be found so that progress can be made. C. Levy stated that it has cost the rating district \$29,000 to rectify the mistake that someone made. A. Osborne asked what is the problem with the creek now. C. Norris stated that the area where the overflow of water has always gone over the years has been changed. The stopbank was put in 47 years ago and was controlled by spending \$5,000 per year. He stated as long as the overflow was in place to let the water through, and the culvert at the Osborne's and the bridge was also in place there was never a problem. R. Norris stated that now the water has been confined, this is causing problems. Cr Robb asked for an engineering perspective on what has happened in this area. P. Birchfield advised that a report was done by Bob Hall in 2011, R. Norris stated that he accompanied Mr Hall on a visit at this time. P. Birchfield advised that Mr Hall recommended regular surveys to monitor the creek and to keep an eye on gravel movement. P. Birchfield advised that there is a resource consent in place to clean out the creek similar to the work that was done with the bulldozer. P. Birchfield suggested that the bank up the top is lowered to work as an overflow. R. Norris stated that he visited OPUS to discuss what the problem is but they have not

done anything about it. P. Birchfield advised that the build-up of vegetation along the edge of the creek needs to be dealt with. C. Levy stated that the willows do a good job of slowing down the water when there is a flood and this stops the creek from cutting in. C. Levy stated that a lot of people mow their stopbanks and this helps as well. M. Meehan advised that P. Birchfield will work with R. Norris to discuss the consent and discuss the consent conditions with OPUS. The recommendation from P. Birchfield is to adjust the height of the overflow so that it is at a more acceptable level. M. Meehan advised that once the consent is signed off, the money is received from GDC, then the rating district account will be in a much better financial situation then a recommendation can be made to council to reduce the rate, if the ongoing contributions from NZTA and GDC are confirmed. Discussion took place on the culvert on the Osborne property and it was agreed that P. Birchfield would look into this. It was agreed that the rating district would be left as it is but an ongoing contribution from GDC and NZTA would be sought. A speaker stated that the most important thing is that it is an ongoing contribution and not just a one off payment. It was agreed that a meeting of the committee would be arranged prior to the signing off of the MOU. P. Birchfield read out an email from GDC regarding their concerns. GDD is requesting that the rating district supports the current resource consent application, that they do not unreasonably object to any future works that will benefit NZTA and Council upstream of the extended Red Jacks Creek flood scheme rating area, that the rating district agrees to maintain flood protection works within the rating district and as part of these works agrees to ensure vegetation and gravel build up within the rating district is kept to a minimum at all times. GDC also requests that the rating district is extended to include from the State Highway 7 Bridge to below Red Jacks Creek Bridge and agrees that GDC and NZTA become members of the Red Jacks rating district. P. Birchfield stated she has asked for further clarifications on some of these points. M. Meehan advised that he is looking to arrange a meeting in January with the committee, GDC, NZTA to progress the proposal. Cr Ewen stated that just because the works were done as an emergency does not mean that the agencies involved do not have an obligation to address any adverse effects that arise from this emergency work. Cr Ewen stated that this can be up for discussion with NZTA. P. Birchfield circulated the cross section report which was done in 2012.

## **WORKS REPORT**

P. Birchfield presented the detailed works report, which covered the 12-month period; 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. She advised that \$2,630 worth of works were carried out during the reporting period. This includes the spraying of the south side stop bank which was done by R. Norris.

P. Birchfield reported that \$6,000 has been allowed for unforeseen works and \$10,000 for tree and vegetation removal from the stopbanks. P. Birchfield reported that the inspection she undertook in August revealed a lot of well-established trees on stopbanks and along the side of the stopbanks. P. Birchfield advised that these trees do affect the integrity of the stopbank as vegetation increases the risk of bank failure. M. Meehan explained that in Karamea large trees on the stopbank have caused problems and their roots have gone through the stopbank and have allowed water to seep into the stopbank. M. Meehan advised that Council wants to keep stopbanks clear of large trees and shrubs in all rating districts. Extensive discussion took place on willows on stopbanks. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the January meeting.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

M. Meehan presented the financial statements for the period ending 30 June 2014. He advised that at the start of the financial year the account was \$11,672.96 in deficit. M. Meehan advised that the balance in the rating district account at the beginning of

the 2015 / 15 year is likely to be \$1,000 in deficit. Cr Robb stated it will be good to get an outcome and a contribution from GDC for the rating district. C. Levy feels that the rating district now is close to having a remedy for its past problems. M. Meehan advised council made an application to the Ministry of Civil Defence on behalf of the rating district following the 2010 flood event. M. Meehan advised that the Red Jacks rating district was granted just under \$15,000. It was noted that with this money and the expected \$14,000 from GDC this is close to the \$29,000 that has been talked about. M. Meehan stated that this fund should build back up to a healthy balance which is the ideal situation.

### **RATES 2015 / 2016**

M. Meehan advised that the recommended that the rate strike is \$10,000. M. Meehan stated that it hoped that the rate strike can be cut back down to \$5,000 once the MOU has been signed.

### **JANUARY MEETING**

Discussion took place on the time of day for the January meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would be held at 6.30pm in this venue. The MOU will be circulated a week prior to the January meeting. M. Meehan stated that the MOU will be checked and any concerns will be dealt with prior to the meeting.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Moved:** ***"That R. Norris be re-elected as the spokesperson for the 2014/ 2015 financial year and all present make up the committee of the Rating District for this year".***

*P. Donaldson / R. McLaughlin – Carried*

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

S. Partridge asked if anyone from the rating district was consulted prior to the work commencing with the bulldozer. S. Partridge stated that he would not like to see this happen again. He feels that R. Norris is a key person in the rating district and he should be consulted with prior to any work being done. M. Meehan agreed with this and stated that the MOU outlines the process for future works. He stated that no matter who is doing the works, the parties must all consult with each other prior to any work commencing.

M. Meehan advised that Council has updated the rating district's Asset Management Plan. He stated that all the maps have been updated and the assets of the rating district have been mapped out. He handed out copies to those present.

A speaker asked if the minutes could be circulated earlier rather than waiting until the annual meeting. M. Meehan advised that the minutes will be on the council website after the February Council meeting.

P. Birchfield stated that some of the maps are quite old, not very clear and could be out of date. She asked that if anyone sees anything that is not correct to let her know and she will make any necessary changes.

C. Levy stated that he feels good progress has been made at today's meeting. P. Donaldson agreed with this. Cr Robb advised that Council is here for the good of the rating district and the assets within the rating district have to be protected. Cr Robb stated that council will do its best to resolve the issues that the rating district has with the works that were done. R. Norris stated that he has been involved with the Red Jacks Creek for 47 years and the only way progress can be made is by working together.

A speaker stated that there is no map of the area below the bridge. M. Meehan asked if there are any assets in this area as only the groynes and stopbanks are captured in the maps. It was noted that there are some groynes in this area. It was agreed that P. Birchfield would inspect this area.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.52 pm.

Action Points:

- Send out a copy of the MOU to all present at today's meeting a week prior to the meeting.
- P. Birchfield to inspect the area below the bridge.