

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2014 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

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 (Archer / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 December 2013, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he fielded a couple of ratepayer enquiries relating to beach mining and the availability of profiles. Cr Ewen reported that he and the Chairman attended that Regional Land Transport Committee meeting on the 21st of January. Cr Ewen advised that he would be attending the West Coast Wilderness Cycleway Forum this afternoon in Hokitika.

Cr Ewen reported that a DoC officer has contacted him suggesting that Council and DoC jointly put together an environmental award as part of the next Leading Light Awards. Cr Ewen stated that he has spoken to C. Ingle and the Chairman about the potential for this award and he will keep Council up date with progress.

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 there was an error in the calculations for the feedback forms regarding the Regional Policy Statement. 232 and not 300 feedback forms were received. There is a real mix of responses from ratepayers, big industry, environmental groups and

power companies. He advised that a report will be brought to the March or April meeting with a summary of responses received.

M. Meehan reported that the Environment Court issued directions following the expert conferencing in November in relation to Paul Elwell-Sutton's appeal on the Land and Water Plan. M. Meehan advised that the Court required Council to submit an affidavit addressing the development of Rule 11 in the Land and Water Plan. This rule covers grazing within riparian margins and this is what Mr Elwell-Sutton appealed on. M. Meehan advised the issues arose during the expert witness conferencing around interpretation and application of Rule 11. He advised that submission on this are due this Friday. M. Meehan advised that it is likely that this will proceed to a hearing on April 28th.

M. Meehan reported that 74 visits to landowners of Schedule 1 & 2 have now been done. He advised that 36 of these will require boundary adjustments to account for inaccuracies with land that has been developed pre-notification of the Plan. M. Meehan advised that the Wetlands Co-ordinator has been working with an Ecologist from DoC. M. Meehan advised that the variation to the Plan is scheduled for April this year and there is now about 40 boundary adjustments that DoC are in agreement with. M. Meehan reported that the Wetlands Co-ordinator is also working through about 11 land exchanges with DoC and a potential purchase by the Nature Heritage Fund on behalf of a Schedule 2 wetland landowner. M. Meehan reported that the Wetlands Co-ordinator is working with another landowner who has received funding (\$60,000) from the Biodiversity Fund to do planting and to construct a walkway around the foreshore of Lake Poerua.

M. Meehan reported that the lab trial for the OekoTube for the Reefton Airshed was held in the New Year. M. Meehan explained the trial to councillors and advised that trial looks quite positive and the next step in the process is for the results to be sent to Emily Wilton, Air Quality Consultant, and she will write a report which will be taken to the Reefton Airshed Committee and they will report back to Council. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors regarding the lab trial for the OekoTube.

M. Meehan reported that the Waiho and Hokitika Rivers went through their peak levels during a heavy rain event during January.

Cr Robb asked M. Meehan how big the land areas are that are involved with land swaps. M. Meehan advised that there is a mix in size but typically they are in South Westland. Extensive discussion took place on this matter with M. Meehan giving detailed information to the meeting.

Cr Archer stated that he was disappointed with the response to the Regional Policy Statement in view of the amount of work put into this.

Cr Ewen stated that 232 feedback forms is still a good result as over the years he has seen times when there have been very few submissions returned. Cr Robb stated that he attended a number of the roadshows and events for the Regional Policy Statement and he noted that when talking with people he got a feel for what people wanted. Cr Robb stated this was a very positive exercise and he did not come across anyone that said council was on the wrong track. Cr Robb commented on the great effort staff made on this and he feels that the greater community now has a much stronger awareness of council's role. M. Meehan advised that once the Regional Policy Statement is notified there might be further submissions received then.

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

Carried

5.1.2 SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT 2011

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that the MfE has notified some amendments to the NPS for Freshwater Management 2011 with the main changes affecting this council being the requirement to classify all water bodies into catchment based Freshwater Management Units (FMU). They are also requiring council to identify values for each FMU including mandatory iwi, ecosystem and human health values. M. Meehan advised that there will be a requirement to set an objective for each of those to meet the identified values based on standards for attributes. He stated that a monitoring plan to measure progress towards achieving the objectives is also required and a water quality and quantity accounting system for takes and discharges in FMU's is another requirement. M. Meehan advised that council has two years to set this system up. M. Meehan advised that the main point's council has made to its submission is that council would like to see some leeway to account for the West Coast given the plentiful rain supply in South Westland. M. Meehan advised that the main thrust on the amendments are directed at areas like Canterbury, Waikato and Southland where there are genuine water quality issues. M. Meehan advised that one of the main concerns for this council is the setting up of the water accounting system as we are not entirely

sure of what this would entail and it may mean a significant cost to the ratepayer. M. Meehan advised that he is seeking more guidance from MfE on this matter. M. Meehan advised that the main purpose of data collection for water quantity for this council is for flood warning. M. Meehan advised that some of the monitoring sites are NIWA sites and this council uses them for flood warning monitoring. Discussion took place. M. Meehan advised that the amendments require a planning approach that is similar to what council has been doing in the Lake Brunner catchment and this is not a new idea. M. Meehan is mindful that a lot of money could be spent in areas where there is no pressure on waterways. C. Ingle advised that MfE is helping us out with the accounting requirements which must be implemented in two years' time.

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

Carried

5.1.3 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that there was heavy rain prior to the sampling done in the Buller catchment during January. M. Meehan advised that work is continuing on the investigation of potential contamination sources in the Marrs Beach and Shingle Beach sites.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.4 OIL SPILL EXERCISE WESTPORT 28 JANUARY 2014

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that two exercises are run each year with one practical and one desktop exercise. M. Meehan reported that the exercise went well with the focus being on recovery options if there was a spill near a Tier 1 site which was the Holcim site which was used. M. Meehan advised that over the past few exercises the team involved has learnt a lot and this team is functioning very well. M. Meehan advised that Mr Mick Courtneil from Maritime NZ held a workshop with staff the day prior to the exercise. He was very positive about the work that the West Coast team did for the Rena recovery. Mr Courtneil stated that the West Coast staff were well respected during the Rena recovery and were called back over and over. This team had a lot of success around Papamoa Beach and some of the difficult sites where the VCS staff used their experience with communities in negotiating and dealing with difficult situations. M. Meehan advised the Maritime NZ have now asked for some of this team to join the National Response Team as they have special skills in aerial reconnaissance and the work they do in the bush and data collection.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.5 CIVIL DEFENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that a CEG meeting was held on the 5th of December. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) met on the 9th of December. He stated that Mayor Tony Kokshoorn was re-elected as Chairman of the Group. C. Ingle advised that he has been working with the Mayors and Chairs forum to develop a new Heads of Agreement. He advised that the Heads of Agreement was agreed on at yesterday's Mayors and Chairs Forum, it sets out a regional approach to civil defence rather than a district by district approach. C. Ingle advised that the South Island Emergency Management Conference is being hosted at Shantytown in July.

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

Carried

5.1.6 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that Regional Transport Committee (RTC) met on the 21st of January. He stated that this was the first meeting since the triennial election and therefore the committee is all new except for one member.

C. Ingle explained R Funding to the meeting. He stated that R Funding was put in place some time ago and is about to come to an end in April 2015. C. Ingle advised that there is still \$6.5M which must be spent before the end of April 2015 otherwise this funding is lost. C. Ingle stated that the region needs to decide what to spend this money on, projects like Mingha Bluff and the Taramakau Bridge need to be considered. C. Ingle stated that our role is to influence NZTA's decision and it is important that there is agreement within the region to decide what this money is spent on. C. Ingle advised that the next step with R Funding is what happens after 2015 as there is a 5c per litre tax for petrol brought in this region which is supposed to be spent in this region. C. Ingle advised that this council along with Taranaki Regional Council and other provincial regional councils want to make sure that this carries on. C. Ingle stated it is important that this carries on otherwise all the taxes collected will go on Auckland projects as this is where the congestion is and the provinces could start to be starved of government roading funding. C. Ingle advised that the Chairs of the regional transport committees up and down the country are pushing for this funding to carry on. Cr Robb stated that this was discussed at the Regional Sector Group meeting where it was felt that this is the fairest way forward.

C. Ingle reported that NZTA is reviewing the Financial Assistance Rates (FAR). He advised that this is an issue for all councils with there being high consequences for the district councils as the largest part of their budgets is spent on roading maintenance. C. Ingle advised that if district councils have their subsidies cut then this will mean a rates rise. He stated that there should not be a significant funding cut for regional councils but it is important that the district councils are supported on this matter. A submission will be made on this. Cr Robb stated that this was discussed at the Regional Sector Group meeting. Cr Robb stated that roading needs to be maintained in the regions as this is where the export generated wealth comes from and this drives the economy. Cr Archer stated that he supports the combined approach and our submission in support of Taranaki's case. Cr Archer stated that it is dreadful to think of the funding cuts that will impact on ratepayers and he feels that it is high time that councils got together and pushed this matter at ministerial level. Cr Robb advised that all councils in our region are behind this and are very strong in the view that any representation made it is delivered as one voice. Cr Ewen stated that a collective voice is the best approach and the RTC and Mayors and Chairs will do this. Cr Robb stated that he will ensure he brings this matter up at the Regional Sector Group meeting on Thursday and Friday. Cr Archer stated that he would be keen to see the figures on how much money is received by government and how much is actually spent on roading. C. Ingle stated that he could get these figures from LGNZ.

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

Carried

5.1.7 REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that this is a formality and the appointments need to be ratified by Council. J. Douglas stated that the runanga advised her that they would like her to be the iwi representative on this committee. N. Costley advised that amendments were made to the Act last year, the constitution membership of the committee was changed and now there are only funding members on the committee. J. Douglas requested a copy of the Act.

Moved (Birchfield / Clementson) *That the Council ratify the appointments to the Regional Transport Committee.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that two consent site visits carried out during the reporting period. 31 non-notified consents were granted, six changes to consent conditions and one notified resource consent granted for the reporting period.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that the February 2014 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 177 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. Of these 49 were non-compliant with 12 sets of samples being analysed, 11 of these passed but one was non-compliant and therefore there were 15 out of 177 sites non-compliant. J. Adams reported that there were 24 incidents during the reporting period with 12 of these being unsubstantiated. J. Adams reported that 24 formal warnings were issued but this was due to the non-removal of whitebait stands at the end of the season. He advised that six infringement notices were issued and nine abatement notices were issued. J. Adams reported that 11 work programmes for mining were received and three bonds were received during the reporting period. Cr Challenger asked J. Adams what is the follow up for the gold miner at Blue Spur who has now gone into liquidation, but there are still complaints that he is discharging sediment laden water. J. Adams responded that the last complainant stated that the miner was still mining but he wasn't. There had been a slip and this was causing the discharge. J. Adams stated that council has a bond that states that the miner must remediate the site but he has six months to do this, which is until the end of March. J. Adams stated there are ongoing issues with this miner but a careful eye is being kept on this.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *That the February 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.42 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date