

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 APRIL 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, Mr J. Foster (for item 5.1.1 only)

#### **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** (Birchfield / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 18 March 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cr Ewen reported that he attended the Regional Transport committee workshop with Cr Robb. Cr Ewen reported that he carried out four tender openings during the reporting period. He attended the ECAN visit along with his fellow councillors last week.

**Moved** (Ewen / Archer)

*Carried*

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

##### **5.1.1 REEFTON AIRSHED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He introduced Mr Jimmy Foster, Chairman of the Reefton Airshed Committee (RAC) to the meeting. M. Meehan gave a background to the meeting of the work done by the RAC since its conception. He stated that the objective is to get the exceedances of PM<sub>10</sub> down to only three exceedances by 2016 and one by 2020. M. Meehan stated that the RAC has been very conscientious and has been hungry for information. He stated that council have tried very hard to assist them at all times and this lead to a lab trial to run the ESP (electrostatic precipitator) technology in Nelson earlier this year. M. Meehan explained the process of the trial and stated that the results were really positive. M. Meehan advised that the RAC's expert, Emily Wilton, then compiled a report modelling the installation of ESP devices on chimneys in Reefton. The committee met with Emily Wilton on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and again on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March to finalise their

recommendations. M. Meehan read out the RAC recommendations to the meeting. Extensive discussion took place, councillors asked questions of both M. Meehan and J. Foster. Cr Ewen passed on his thanks to L. Sadler, Council's Policy Analyst, for the work she has done.

J. Foster addressed the meeting. He stated the RAC has come a long way since the conception of the RAC where they were defensive about being able to burn coal, to thinking about the health risks associated with PM<sub>10</sub>. J. Foster stated that the risk to health has now become paramount to the RAC. He stated that there are two parts to this risk with one being to stop the high levels of PM<sub>10</sub> but to do it in a transitional way that doesn't stop people from having a warm home. J. Foster stated that at the end of the day the World Health Organisation has stated that the air that people are breathing in Reefton is not clean enough.

J. Foster thanked Councillors for listening to him. He thanked council for M. Meehan and L. Sadler's help with the RAC. Cr Archer thanked J. Foster for his work with the RAC and stated that he has stayed focussed on the issue. Cr Archer acknowledged the input from the RAC who worked on this and stated that without their input the report would not be in front of Council today. He also thanked staff for their work. F. Tumahai concurred with Cr Archer and stated that this was driven by council staff and stated that the process was very well done. He is very supportive of the whole thing. Cr Ewen stated that this was a difficult situation and it was great to see that the committee struck a very good balance especially in view of the debate being poisoned right at the outset by the media coverage at the start of this project. Cr Robb passed on the full Council's congratulations to the RAC especially the four members of the community that put the time and effort into this project. Cr McDonnell stated that it is important that council lobbies Government as it should be government that is forking out the money for this. Cr Clementson noted the cost saving benefit for the Ministry of Health if the air quality in Reefton is significantly improved.

**Moved** (Robb / Archer)

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That Council incorporates the recommendations into the review of the Regional Air Quality Plan.*
3. *That Council thanks the Reefton Airshed Committee for their hard work and dedication.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 TRANSPORT – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE REVIEW SUBMISSION**

C. Ingle spoke to this report and took it as read. He stated that the putting together of this submission took quite a bit of his time as it needed to sit well with three district councils as the submission is on behalf of the three district councils, the regional council and the West Coast Land Transport Committee.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Challenger) *that the report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.3 BULLER RIVER BEACH WATER QUALITY INVESTIGATION 2014**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that this report is a result of the investigations of water quality at Marrs and Shingle Beach on the Buller River. M. Meehan spoke extensively to this report and stated that information was also drawn from Buller District Council. He advised that some of the results from BDC were not taken on the same day as our sampling was done. M. Meehan stated that the Talley's plant was looked at as well but this plant has not operated since 2004 and there has been no influence on results in this area. He stated that birds were also investigated as high numbers of birds can impact on sampling results. He stated that due to the huge dilution factor in the water it would have to be a significant population of birds to influence the results. M. Meehan advised that river levels and tide directions were also looked at to see if they influence E coli results at both sites. M. Meehan stated that in conclusion, there were not any strong relationships with anything that was looked at. He stated that all the things that were looked at have the potential to influence E coli results at test sites. The only way to pin this down would be to do more targeted sampling, more frequent sampling and get a better picture over time. Cr Clementson stated that Marrs Beach and Shingle Beach have improved since Buller District Council implemented the new sewage scheme. Cr Clementson suggested a mid-stream water sample may help if it is taken from the bridge. Cr McDonnell asked M. Meehan if he is confident that the dairy farms along Bradshaw's Creek are compliant and whether or not this could be a factor. M. Meehan advised that there is no

relationship between E coli results at Bradshaw's Creek, Marrs Beach and Shingle Beach. J. Adams advised that the dairy sheds in this area are compliant but he stated that he can only say that they are compliant on the day that the council visit is carried out. Cr Archer acknowledged the staff input into this report and noted that it is a very full and comprehensive report. Cr Archer stated that it is disappointing that no outcome has been found despite the best efforts to do so. Cr Archer asked M. Meehan if this council receives the monitoring results from Buller District Council. M. Meehan confirmed that WCRC does receive Buller District Council's monitoring results and WCRC also take their own samples. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors. Cr Ewen asked M. Meehan if fishing boats in port could be a factor to potential discharges. M. Meehan stated that storm water is linked to high E coli results in other areas and this is why council focussed on storm water but the other sources could be possible. It was agreed that upstream sampling would assist in ruling out a cause in this area.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson)

1. *That Council receives this report.*
2. *That Council undertakes additional sampling on the Buller River in the 2014 / 15 summer bathing monitoring programme to examine this issue further.*

*Carried*

#### **5.1.4 BATHING BEACH WATER QUALITY SAMPLING UPDATE**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this is the final report for the summer period. He stated that the results that he is most concerned about are the samples taken in February at Hokitika Beach which were not associated with any rainfall. M. Meehan reported that in March a moderate and another high result was received at this location. He advised that four out of ten results in this area were in the high to moderate category. Samples were taken at the Hokitika River mouth as requested at last month's meeting; these results were found to be in the low risk category. M. Meehan advised that he and J. Adams will carry out an investigation similar to what has been done on the Buller River and they will report the results back to council. Cr Archer commented that ten years ago readings were generally higher than they are nowadays and this should be seen as an improvement. M. Meehan stated that further testing will be done in April and if the results are still high then further investigations will be done. It was suggested that visitor numbers in January and in March for the Wildfoods Festival could have contributed to the high readings.

**Moved** (Archer / Clementson) *That Council receives this report.*

*Carried*

#### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that there were 12 non-notified resource consents during the reporting period with five changes to consent conditions. He stated that there was no non-notified resource consents received during the reporting period.

**Moved** (Robb / McDonnell)

*That the April 2014 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

J. Adams advised that a Mr Russell from Inangahua has emailed him and all councillors regarding a flooding problem on his property that he believes is caused by humping and hollowing on his neighbours land. Council staff have investigated the effects of the humping and hollowing and found that this is having no more than a minor effect. J. Adams advised the he has responded to Mr Russell.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Clementson)

*ThatR the Chairman replies to Mr Russell's complaint.*

*Carried*

## 5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that there were 72 site visits carried out during the reporting period. 56 of these were compliant with 12 being non-compliant. J. Adams advised that 37 dairy farms were inspected and 27 were graded as compliant with the other ten being listed as minor non-compliances and they will be re-visited shortly. He advised that of the 13 alluvial gold mine sites inspected only one was found to be non-compliant. Two coal mining consents were inspected and both were found to be compliant.

J. Adams advised that the elevated levels of E coli in Mill Creek were caused by pigs getting too close to the waterway. He stated that the E coli readings were not high enough to cause any major problems. J. Adams advised that the farmer has been spoken to and he has now moved his fence further back in order to keep the animals well away from the creek should there be heavy rainfall that could cause migration of contamination.

J. Adams reported that two infringement notices were issued to the same gold mining operation at Marsden. He reported that one abatement notice was issued in relation to effluent storage capacity for a dairy farm at Taipo.

**Moved** (Archer / Ewen)

1. *That the April 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the bond for RC12126 (Leslie Smith) be released.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date