

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 MAY 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, 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

Moved (Clementson / McDonnell) *that the apology from Cr Challenger be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Clementson / Robb) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 8 April 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he is currently working through his re-certification for the "Making Good Decisions" programme for RMA decision makers. Cr Ewen advised that he attended some tender openings for rating district works during the month. He also attended a financial workshop at Grey District Council with Crs Clementson and Robb.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that a small trial of the Oeko Tube device is being run in Reefton this winter. M. Meehan advised that a device has been fitted to two chimneys in Reefton, one that only burns coal and one that burns coal and wood. He stated that a lot more will be learnt about the device this winter and the trial will ascertain how much cleaning of the chimney is required, how much soot builds up there is and what else could be required prior to fitting the

devices to more chimneys. M. Meehan reported that a draft of the Air Plan will be coming to council in August, at a workshop.

M. Meehan reported that the \$200,000 from the Ministry for the Environment Fund is now being spent in the Lake Brunner catchment to assist with the improvement of water quality. Planting at four community sites is being done by farmers, Moana community, ANZ bank staff and over 3000 plants have been planted. Council staff are working with farmers in this area to ensure that the funding for fencing and planting that they applied for is spent this year.

M. Meehan reported that staff have almost completed the Section 32 report on the Coast Plan review. He advised that a workshop with councillors will be held in August to work through the proposed changes in this plan. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors regarding the Reefton Airshed. Discussion took place on the importance of ensuring chimneys have been swept prior to installation of the OekoTube and the difference between burning wood versus coal. M. Meehan stated that the OekoTube is a very basic device and it is just a matter of making sure maintenance is done prior to installation.

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

Carried

5.1.2 LAND AND WATER PLAN

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that the one remaining appeal on the Land and Water Plan from Mr Elwell-Sutton, has now been withdrawn by Mr Elwell-Sutton. M. Meehan advised that a difference of opinion between DoC and council staff relating to riparian margins has now been resolved. Mr Elwell-Sutton was asked by the Court to start producing a case to back up his appeal, he sought legal advice and following on from this, Mr Elwell-Sutton asked to withdraw his appeal. M. Meehan advised that the plan can now be made operative and the three plans (Land and Riverbed Plan, Water Management and Discharge Plan, and the Discharge to Land Plan) are no longer required. Cr Birchfield stated that he feels this Plan is related to wetlands. He stated that the wetlands court decision was not council's decision, but the result of DoC identifying the wetland areas and the court imposing the wetlands on our plan. Cr Birchfield stated he is voting against this recommendation due to the wetlands matter.

C. Ingle explained the process once the Land and Water Plan becomes operative. He stated that having one plan means that it is now a one stop shop for resource management and this makes things simpler for applicants. C. Ingle stated that it is great to see that we have finally got to this stage with our resource management documents. Cr Birchfield stated that wetland owners will not be happy with this. C. Ingle advised that the new plan change will allow for those areas mapped as wetlands that are not wet being removed from the plan.

Moved (Archer / Robb)

1. *That Council receives this Report; and*
2. *That Council publicly notify the operative status of the Land and Water Plan as per Clause 20 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991; and*
3. *That Council withdraws the Land and Riverbed Management Plan, the Water Management Plan and the Discharge to Land Plan under Clause 8D of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

*Against
Cr Birchfield
Carried*

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that two site visits were carried out and 22 non-notified resource consents were received during the reporting period. He stated that there were six changes to consent conditions and one limited notified consent was received during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that the limited notified consent is in relation to disturbance in the bed of Docherty Creek which relates to work being done at Strongman Mine to extend the mine.

Cr Archer asked J. Adams if the three consents for Avery Brothers Ltd are for the same water body. J. Adams advised that these consents are for gravel extraction in the same area. He stated that this river has large areas of dry riverbed.

Cr Ewen asked J. Adams what is the nature of the increase in storage facility for Fossickers Tailings Storage Facility. J. Adams advised that this consent is for the tailings to be increased in height to 42 metres. J. Adams stated that this increase will enable mining to carry on for another year.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer)

That the May 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 although it looks as though there were a high number of non-compliances this is due to technical non-compliances in the Lake Brunner catchment. He stated that farms in the Lake Brunner area are in the process of getting work done to gain compliance now that the new rules are in place. J. Adams advised that most of the work will be done over the dairy off season. He advised that farmers are being given time to get this work done as there is a significant amount of cost involved in meeting the new rules. J. Adams reported that 13 gold mines were inspected with one being found non-compliant. Six coal mines were inspected and they were all compliant. J. Adams advised that staff have been unable to find out who diverted the Greenstone River at Kumara. He stated that there is currently a lot of machinery in this area at the moment and after speaking to a miner in the area, he put the river back at no cost to Council.

J. Adams reported that two infringement notices were issued during the reporting period. J. Adams advised that council has only received one bond during the reporting period and not three as stated in his report. Cr Ewen drew attention to bond number RC12240 and stated that this is a transfer of bond. Cr Robb asked J. Adams if he is happy with the progress being made in the Lake Brunner catchment with farmers getting their consents in to accommodate the new Land and Water Plan rules. J. Adams responded that last week he met with farmers, Federated Farmers, Dairy NZ, Westland Milk Products and council staff and a lot of issues have now been clarified with everyone now working together and moving forward. J. Adams advised that a number of farms in this catchment are already consented and have done the work required with other farmers being given extra time to do what is required. J. Adams stated that the farming community are keen to work to improve the water quality in their catchment and they acknowledge why the new rules have been brought into place.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield)

1. *That the May 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

2. *That Council release the bonds held for Resource Consent RC12240 (Leslie Smith) and for Resource Consent RC10112 (Maruia Mining).*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.02 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date