

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2014 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Archer / Robb) *that the apology from F. Tumahai be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / McDonnell) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 May 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that it has been a fairly quiet month. He assisted with the opening of tenders for works in the Punakaiki and South Westland areas. Cr Ewen reported that he attended the luncheon meeting hosted by the Reserve Bank Governor on the 29th of May.

Cr Ewen reported that he has successfully completed the Ministry for the Environment's recertification programme for RMA decision makers.

Moved (Ewen / Clementson)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 LAKE BRUNNER FRESH START TO FRESHWATER CLEAN-UP FUND UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report on M. Meehan's behalf. C. Ingle reported that the \$20,000 funding allocation from MfE for the planting work in the Lake Brunner catchment is now underway. C. Ingle reported that staff along with farmers in this community have been busy planting over 3,000 native plants. C. Ingle advised that this project is tied into the farm plans for this catchment and those farmers who have a farm plan are eligible for funding. It was noted that this is a voluntary project which has received good uptake from the landowners in this area.

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

Carried

5.1.2 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that it is a statutory requirement to report the first exceedance of the NES for air quality in Reefton for the winter. He advised that there has since been a further exceedance of PM₁₀ and it is expected that there will be further exceedances over the winter. C. Ingle advised that the range of exceedances over the past few years has been between seven and 27. C. Ingle reported that the Oeko Tube trial is underway. He advised that the Reefton community could be affected by new rules and costs and it is important that they are consulted with. Cr Archer asked how the community consultation for Reefton would be arranged. Cr Robb stated that the Reefton Airshed Committee has already made a recommendation to council and this recommendation should be taken back to the community. Cr Archer agreed with this approach and suggested that prior to discussing the changes to the Air Plan, that the Reefton Airshed Committee and some community members should be advised of the likely changes. Cr Robb stated that community buy in is very important and the work that the Reefton Airshed Committee has done is very good. Cr Birchfield asked if the Oeko Tubes are proven. C. Ingle responded that the field trial is underway at the moment and that by September there should be a good indication as to how well the Oeko Tube has performed in situ. He stated that it is important that there is confidence around the effectiveness of the Oeko Tube prior to writing a rule for the Air Plan.

Moved (Archer / Robb) *That Council receives this Report.*

Carried

5.1.3 FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He advised that there have been a few small flood events during the reporting period. C. Ingle advised that the problem with the pager delay for the Karamea River flood event is being investigated with the entire flood warning system being reviewed. C. Ingle advised that there is only around one metre of freeboard on the Waiho River and this is why the alarm level is so easily triggered. C. Ingle advised that M. Meehan is meeting with the Director of Civil Defence to work out how to get the motel that is at risk, moved from this area, because should there be a significant flood event, there is a risk of loss of life. Discussion took place on the stopbank in this area. C. Ingle advised that if the motels were moved, then the stopbank could be moved back and this would then give the river more room and reduce the amount of flood warning alarms on the Waiho River. Cr Archer asked if there has been a cause identified in relation to the delayed flood warning alarm on the Karamea River recently. C. Ingle advised that as yet it is uncertain whether this was caused by human error or a technology problem but back up technological changes have been made to avoid a repeat and he is confident that this won't happen again.

Moved (Challenger / McDonnell) *That Council receives this Report.*

Carried

5.1.4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE REVIEW

C. Ingle spoke to this report and advised that council has received a response from NZTA on our submission about the Financial Assistance Rate (FAR) review for transport. C. Ingle stated that he feels that this will not make a huge difference to council in terms of budgeting and finances. C. Ingle advised that the significant issues for our region are whether or not NZTA will treat the Special Purpose Highways as local roads, as this is where the cost will come in for both Buller District and Westland District Councils. He stated that a decision on this is awaited. Cr Archer stated that ratepayers would not fund these roads as they are state highways and the costs involved are exorbitant. C. Ingle stated that the hard decisions that could be bad news for this region have not yet been made. He stated that we are not alone on this and it is not just a West Coast transport funding issue.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *That Council receives this Report.*

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that two consent site visits were undertaken. There were 21 non-notified resource consent applications granted during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that seven changes to consent conditions were granted. J. Adams advised that he attended a teleconference yesterday with Solid Energy NZ Ltd, Forest and Bird and Judge Borthwick. He advised that the parties have come to an agreement in relation to the Mt William North appeal.

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

Carried

5.2.1 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that 68 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. He advised that dairy farm inspections are almost finished for the year but there are a few return inspections required. J. Adams reported that of the 24 dairy sheds inspected this month seven have been graded as compliant. He stated that a number of those that were graded as non-compliant are technical non-compliances within the Lake Brunner catchment related to the changes for permitted activity rules. J. Adams reported that of the seven complaints received during the reporting period most were substantiated. J. Adams advised that two infringement notices were issued during the reporting period and one abatement notice was issued.

J. Adams reported that Westland District Council have requested that regional council compliance staff carry out water quality sampling and inspections on their behalf. He advised this would be considered as a shared service. J. Adams stated that currently Westland District Council has an outside contractor that does their water quality testing on their behalf. J. Adams stated that he is very keen on this idea as it also means that he will get the test results first hand. C. Ingle stated that he has met with management from Westland District Council and they are keen to progress this. C. Ingle advised that this is something that the Taranaki Regional Council has been doing for many years and not only for their district councils but for all the major industries in the region. C. Ingle advised that although this council does not have its own laboratory, we are very efficient and experienced in sample collection and processing. J. Adams advised that any costs will be passed onto Westland District Council and the impact on staff workloads will be absorbed but should there be further interest from other outside agencies then consideration to increasing staff can be given.

Moved (Robb / Clementson)

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

2. *That Council release the bond held for Resource Consent RC93040 (Teronick Mining Ltd).*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Ewen requested that an update on Solid Energy's Ltd bonds in brought to the next meeting. J. Adams advised that their bonds are being renewed fortnightly because the bonds are being held as debt against the company. Cr Ewen asked J. Adams if the ratepayer is exposed to any risk. J. Adams confirmed there is no risk. C. Ingle stated that there is a lot of paperwork involved. It was agreed that an update on the Solid Energy bonds would be brought to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.02 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date