

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JULY 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, N. Clementson, T. Archer, S. Challenger, J. Douglas

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), J. Adams (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Ewen / Robb) *that the apology from P. McDonnell be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Clementson / Challenger) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 10 June 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he assisted with a tender opening for works in the Punakaiki rating district. Cr Ewen reported that over the past few days he has received a few calls regarding the Cobden Beach gravel issue which he expects to hear more about in the coming weeks.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that recently the Government has announced amendments to the Freshwater National Policy Statement which was put out in 2011. M. Meehan advised that the main thrust for the amendments is around the national objectives framework which is a framework which sets standards for different parameters that we monitor in waterways. M. Meehan advised that this puts things like E coli into four categories with category D falling below what is known as a national bottom line. M. Meehan advised that if council has waterways which fall below the national bottom lines then these waterways need to be improved. M. Meehan advised that waterways that fall into B and C classes can be discussed with local communities whether or not they accept that or whether they would like to see those waterways improved and how best to go about this. M. Meehan reported that a quick review of sites around the West Coast that council

monitors has been done and it has been found that it is unlikely that any of the sites council monitors fall below the national bottom line for any of the parameters monitored. M. Meehan advised that a more thorough review will be done as part of our State of Environment three yearly report which is due this year. M. Meehan advised that the thrust of the NPS is around improving water quality in catchments. He stated that the objectives and policies in the Land and Water Plan do give effect to what the NPS is talking about. M. Meehan reported that the Ministry has announced \$1.1M worth of funding for activities that support the implementation of the NPS. He advised that council has made a bid for some of this funding towards investigating water allocation in the upper Grey catchment.

M. Meehan reported that MfE has developed a National Monitoring System with some changes to this from previous data that they collect. The changes will hopefully allow MfE to make better decisions around the information that they receive. M. Meehan advised that council will need to make some changes to the way that it provides information also.

M. Meehan advised that a meeting of the Reefton Airshed Committee will be held tonight with the purpose of the meeting being to discuss the current trial that is being done with the two Oeko Tubes that have been installed in Reefton. M. Meehan advised that plans for a public meeting in Reefton will be discussed with the committee tonight and to talk to the community about the committee's recommendations and a way forward from here.

M. Meehan reported that on-site sewage effluent training is being done next week with staff from Buller and Westland District councils.

M. Meehan circulated a document from MfE to the meeting titled "Delivering Freshwater Reform".

Cr Archer asked M. Meehan who responsible for correcting a situation where there is natural contamination from acid drainage or from E coli from birds or animals. M. Meehan responded that there are provisions within the NPS to identify waterways that fall below these standards and they would have to be named in the actual policy statement. He advised that for the parameters that have so far been identified, the rivers that we monitor, there have not been any that fall below the standard. M. Meehan stated that there is not a parameter for pH which would apply in waterways affected by acid rock drainage. M. Meehan advised that the intent of the NPS is to correct water quality issues that are human induced.

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

Carried

5.1.2 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

M. Meehan spoke to this report and reported that up until the 4th of July there have been seven exceedances of the NES for PM₁₀ in the Reefton Airshed. He advised that the highest reading of 79 micrograms/m³ of PM₁₀ occurred on the 14th of June. Cr Birchfield asked M. Meehan if the NES for PM₁₀ levels for Reefton is a lower standard than the world standard. M. Meehan advised that when MfE looked at the NES for air quality in Reefton, they looked at the World Health Organisation's standards for PM₁₀ and that is how they arrived at the NES. C. Ingle advised that it would be difficult to change the actual standard (50 microgram level) but there is some flexibility for government to change the timeframe to allow a bit more time to comply for those communities to be able to comply. M. Meehan advised that of the 29 air sheds about half of these won't be able to comply with the NES timeframes, particularly the air sheds in Central Otago where some of the air sheds had over 60 exceedances of the NES. M. Meehan advised that Christchurch and Auckland also have concerns regarding this. C. Ingle advised that this conversation is being had with Government and the question is, is this realistic for communities and where is the environment / health benefit versus the cost of compliance. Cr Birchfield stated that his concern is that council could be seen to be trying to impose unrealistic standards within too short a timeframe. C. Ingle advised that when Hon Nick Smith was the Minister for the Environment he changed the timeframes to 2016 and 2020. C. Ingle stated that the current Minister for the Environment seems to be focusing mainly on freshwater issues but this is not to say that the NES for air quality will not come up again.

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

Carried

5.1.3 HYDROLOGY AND FLOOD WARNING UPDATE

M. Meehan spoke to this report and stated that the Waiho River went through its alarm three times during the reporting period, and the Hokitika once.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that three consent site visits were made during the reporting period. He advised that 18 non-notified resource consents were granted and eight changes to consent conditions were granted. J. Adams answered various questions from J. Douglas relating to consent variations relating to buffer zones around water bodies for two DoC aerial 1080 operations.

Moved (Archer / Birchfield) *that the July 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 24 site visits were carried out during the reporting period. He advised that nine of these sites visits were compliant and eleven were non-compliant with two sites awaiting sampling results to come back.

J. Adams reported that 12 complaints were received during the reporting period. Three formal warnings were issued and four abatement notices were issued during the reporting period.

J. Douglas asked if the complaint received regarding mining discharges to the CMA in Ross is the same complaint that was supposedly affecting the mussel beds in this area. J. Adams advised that this particular complaint was received during a high rainfall event and the miner in this area has a resource consent which allows him to discharge to gravel and sands on the beach during heavy rain events.

Cr Archer asked for further information regarding the complaint received about the Ngakawau River being orange. J. Adams advised that Solid Energy Ltd have a consent to do work on the Mangatini sump and at this time the water was being diverted to another source and being lime treated. J. Adams stated that inquiries are ongoing but at this stage it is looking as though too much lime was put into the water while the servicing was being done. J. Adams advised that the water itself was not orange but there was orangey sediment over the rocks in the river which is may be from the flocculent used.

Cr Ewen drew attention to the fuel discharge at Rapahoe which was as a result of a traffic accident. He feels this should be recorded as an incident and not a complaint as responses to spills is a core function of council.

Cr Birchfield asked for further information regarding the complaint at Karamea relating to earthworks being done within a wetland. J. Adams advised that a farmer had been doing some humping and hollowing through part of his land and he believed that he was not within the wetland. Cr Birchfield asked if this area was a Schedule 2 wetland. J. Adams confirmed this.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

1. *That the July 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council release the bonds held by Barry Henry Grant Foster for Resource Consent RC12144 and Westside Mining Ltd for Resource Consent RC10012.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.04 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date