

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 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, T. Archer, S. Challenger, N. Clementson, J. Douglas

**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** (Robb / Archer) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 August 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 maintenance works in the Taramakau rating district. He also answered some queries from whitebaiters relating to the Taramakau River.

**Moved** (Ewen / Robb)

*Carried*

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

**5.1.1 REEFTON AIR QUALITY SUMMARY**

M. Meehan spoke to this report and reported that there have been 17 exceedances of the NES for PM<sub>10</sub> in the Reefton Airshed this year. He advised that the Oeko Tube trial is set to wrap up; the Oeko Tubes will stay in place with the results of the trial due later this month.

M. Meehan tabled a report on Cyclone Ita, the severe weather event that occurred at Easter. C. Ingle advised that a similar report was produced following the December 2010 flood event. He stated that this type of report is a good way of documenting an event of this nature.

M. Meehan advised that council has been successful in being granted \$190,000 from the Ministry for the Environment which will go towards a study into the Grey Valley catchment. This study will look at water allocation, quality and quantity issues. Cr Ewen congratulated staff on getting this funding.

Cr McDonnell stated that he thought August was quite cold, he asked M. Meehan if he was surprised that there were not more exceedances of the NES for PM<sub>10</sub> in Reefton. M. Meehan responded that this depends on the wind movement and inversion layers over the town. He stated that there are a lot of meteorological factors that play into this and it is not just about whether or not it is cold. Cr Ewen noted that number of exceedances from 2006 through until 2014 and stated that when the government brings in the regulation of one exceedance per year it is not going to be realistic. Cr Ewen stated that there will need to be a bit of movement on the one exceedance per year as even with the measures that council is putting in for Reefton it is going to be difficult to achieve.

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

*Carried*

### 5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that three site visits were carried out during the reporting period. He reported that 22 non-notified resource consents were granted and 11 variations to resource consent conditions were processed during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that one limited notified resource consent was granted to Westpower Ltd to disturb the bed of the Taramakau River to construct river protection works.

Cr Challenger queried RC01310-V2 to increase a groundwater take in the Grey Valley catchment. J. Adams advised that this catchment is not over allocated. He stated that although it looks like there has been an increase, there hasn't, as a neighbour had surrendered his consent in this area.

Cr Birchfield stated that he saw a report in the paper that stated that the Grey River is "lifeless". Cr Birchfield asked if council has staff looking into this. J. Adams stated that his staff has been looking into the Grey catchment as he is receiving more and more requests for water takes for irrigation. J. Adams advised that a careful eye is being kept on this to ensure that water is being used correctly. Cr Birchfield disputes the statement that the Grey River is lifeless. He stated that there are plenty of fish going up the river and plenty of people are catching fish on this river.

**Moved** (Archer / Challenger) *that the September 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 37 site visits were made. J. Adams reported that staff have identified the cause for a complaint about the Little Grey River being discoloured. This relates to a machine doing work in the riverbed. J. Adams advised that enforcement action is now being taken. J. Adams reported that further investigation into the discharging of sediment laden water from a gold mining operation in the Hokitika area is being done. He advised that the gold miner has started using flocculent to take to get the water to clear quicker.

Cr Challenger asked if Mr Lindsay Smith has a bond in place for his gold mining operation at Blue Spur. J. Adams advised that there is a bond for this mine site but the bond is with Little Paddock which has gone into liquidation. J. Adams advised that the Liquidators will have first call on this bond. Cr Archer asked J. Adams if he is happy with the remediation done for the bonds that are to be released. J. Adams confirmed that one is a transfer and he is happy with the remediation work for the other bond that is to be released.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

1. *That the September 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council releases the bonds held by John William Nelson Perkins and Glenys Noeline Perkins for Resource Consent RC98005 and Brent Hampton for Resource Consent RC09009.*

*Carried*

## 6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Douglas stated that she was at Hokitika Beach recently and she observed a drone taking photographs. She asked if council commissions drones regularly? M. Meehan responded that council has started using drones in lieu of helicopters to fly over some of our structures. He advised that council wanted to get some good photos of the Hokitika Seawall and to also investigate the cost effectiveness of drones. M. Meehan stated that drones are new technology that has now become

available and is very useful. He stated that J. Adams's staff are also keen to use drones for river works and sites that are difficult to access. J. Adams advised that GPS points are able to be programmed into drones and photographs can then be taken. M. Meehan advised that council does not own any drones. He stated that people who operate drones must comply with the civil aviation laws relating to what drones can do, the heights they can fly to. M. Meehan advised that the purpose of the flights is to take photographs of council structures.

The meeting closed at 10.47 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date