

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2014 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 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 9 September 2014, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

J. Douglas asked for further clarification regarding Council's use of drones as runanga has concerns around privacy issues. M. Meehan stated that drones are used to take photographs of council owned structures and these structures are generally on public property. C. Ingle stated that council does not regulate the use of aircraft so council has no authority over other people's use of drones.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cr Ewen reported that he only received one phone call during the reporting period. He stated that this was about the difference in time periods allowed for whitebaiting, which is not an issue that this council can assist with.

Moved (Ewen / Archer)

Carried

5. REPORTS

5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He advised that work is continuing with farmers in the Lake Brunner catchment, using the Ministry for the Environment Fresh Start to Freshwater Fund. M. Meehan advised that \$200,000 has been received from them with \$20,000 being allocated to the community group for plantings in this catchment. M. Meehan reported that another planting day will be held on the 18th of October. M. Meehan explained the funding allocation to the meeting. He stated that this project is a significant piece of work in improving the water quality in the Lake

Brunner catchment. M. Meehan stated that Council has been able to source money from central government to assist the farmers in this catchment to meet the new rules. He stated this is a win win situation.

M. Meehan reported that work is continuing with AgResearch, Massey University, Dairy NZ and Westland Milk Products to progress the website that will assist farmers in the Lake Brunner catchment as to the best time to irrigate dairy effluent.

M. Meehan reported that the new Mokihinui River flood warning site has now been installed using the old Meridian site that Niwa formerly operated. M. Meehan advised that the next step is for the Civil Defence Manager and the Buller District Council civil defence staff to talk to the community about putting a community response plan in place.

M. Meehan reported that work has also been done in the Mawheraiti catchment to install a low flow gauging site. He advised that this site will provide a lot of good data to inform consent and planning processes.

Cr Archer passed on his appreciation to M. Meehan for the work done by staff, particularly on the Mokihinui River.

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

Carried

5.1.2 EPS FILTER TRIAL REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to this report and advised that this trial is as the result of the work done for the Reefton Airshed. He stated that the OekoTube filters PM₁₀ particles from chimneys. M. Meehan stated that a four day lab trial was done in Nelson at the beginning of the year. He advised that omissions from the stack were investigated during this trial and from this it was found that the OekoTube removed 90 - 97% of PM₁₀ particles on low burner start up and around 58% overall. M. Meehan reported that the trial involved the installation of one OekoTube on a wood and coal burning fire and one OekoTube on a fire that burns coal only. M. Meehan stated that the trial needed to identify whether or not there was going to be significant maintenance costs, were chimneys going to need to be swept more often, and were there any technical glitches that could be of concern. M. Meehan advised that each month a contractor did a visual check for particle build up on the flue and an assessment of the build-up. M. Meehan reported that this revealed that the devices work as they are designed; there were some very minor glitches at the start, as there was a problem with a magnet on one of the devices. This was repaired quickly. M. Meehan stated that the people that had the OekoTube device on their chimneys were members of the Reefton Airshed committee and were very committed to ensuring that the device works. M. Meehan advised that a lot of confidence has been gained as a result of the trial, the OekoTube was not affected by weather, and they worked well.

M. Meehan stated there was a small difference in how each device collected the particles on the side of the flue between the coal fire and the coal and wood fire with the issue around re-entrainment. M. Meehan drew attention to the photographs in his report of the re-entrainment. M. Meehan stated that the feedback from the two people who had the OekoTubes installed on their chimneys is that the house that was just burning coal, the re-entrainment did not occur as much as on the coal and wood fire. On the coal and wood fire it seemed as though there were more particles on the roof. M. Meehan stated that the particles were quite isolated and it is unknown whether or not these particles would be there if the OekoTube wasn't in place as a control was not done. M. Meehan advised that it was felt that the presence of particles was not alarming and there were no issues to neighbouring properties. M. Meehan stated that the trial has revealed that the OekoTubes work, they work in the field and the next step is to meet with the committee to discuss the results of the trial and then arrange a public meeting. M. Meehan advised that the Reefton Airshed committee will make recommendations back to council.

Cr Ewen invited questions to M. Meehan. Cr Archer stated that this is a very good and comprehensive report that answers questions that council did not have information on prior to the trial. M. Meehan answered various questions from councillors. He stated that the devices are not complicated. Cr Archer stated that council really only has two options; either to do nothing or carry on with this project and to seek a solution. Cr Archer said if council does nothing then commissioners are likely to be appointed to address air quality in Reefton and this could then result in the banning of coal fires. Cr McDonnell asked how long is the lifespan of the OekoTube. M. Meehan advised that the manufacturer can guarantee these for ten years; he has had one on his own chimney for over ten years and has not had a problem with it. M. Meehan stated that the manufacturer would like a guarantee around maintenance. Cr Robb asked if there has been much community feedback on the OekoTube. Cr Archer stated he has only seen one letter to the Editor of

the local paper but he is aware of discussion going on with the existing committee and the community. Cr Archer stated that this is difficult to gauge until there is a public meeting arranged. Cr Ewen stated that if there is migration of particles from the OekoTube then neighbours washing lines would soon reveal this. M. Meehan stated that the clothes line on the property with the coal and wood fire was about 10 metres away and there were no issues. Cr Ewen stated this is a pretty strong indication of how successful they are.

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

Carried

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

J. Adams spoke to this report and advised that one site visit was carried out during the reporting period. He reported that 20 non-notified resource consents were granted and four changes to resource consent conditions were granted during the reporting period.

Moved (Birchfield / Archer) *that the October 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 62 site visits were made during the reporting period. He stated that six of these visits were the result of complaints. J. Adams stated that 36 visits were complainant and 20 visits were non-complainant. J. Adams advised that of the 21 incidents reported enforcement action was taken for six of these with either infringement notices or formal warnings. J. Adams reported that three abatement notices and five infringement notices were issued during the reporting period. J. Adams reported that eight work programmes were submitted during the reporting period.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

1. *That the October 2014 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That Council releases the bonds held by M.C. Ferguson for Resource Consent RC02168, Crescent Creations Ltd for Resource Consent RC09030 and Gold Mining Rimu Ltd for Resource Consent RC11083.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Douglas made the following statement; "*on behalf of Te Runanga O Makaawhio, we would like to make it clear in regard to the Battle for the Birds campaign that is currently being conducted, that we condemn the campaign in the strongest possible terms, although we value and love our native birds we don't believe they should come before people*". J. Douglas stated that this is the statement from the runanga.

Cr Ewen stated that he cannot reconcile why the complaint about foam in the Hokitika River is not in the compliance report. J. Adams advised that the report on this matter came in after his compliance report was prepared. J. Adams stated that staff visited the site, there is monitoring in place, nothing was found coming from Westland Milk Products site and all results have come back clear. J. Adams advised that one possibility is due to the dry period during this time, there was a lot of algae in the river at this time. Cr Ewen stated that this has happened during the whitebait season before. J. Adams stated that he cannot guarantee that the discharge came from Westland Milk Products but nothing has been picked up at any of the monitoring points.

Cr Challenger asked if monitoring has picked up anything in Hau Hau Creek as it has been running dirty at times lately.

The meeting closed at 10.56 a.m.

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Chairman

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Date